

GODLY RELATIONSHIP: DAVID & JONATHAN

1 SAMUEL 18:1-4; 20

INTRODUCTION

- Definition of a friend:
 - a person on the same side in a struggle; one who is not an enemy or
 - foe; ally.
 - A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out.

BACKGROUND

Comparison between David & Jonathan:

DAVID	JONATHAN
Youngest son of Jesse	Son of Saul
Bright-eyed shepherd boy	Heir apparent to the throne of Israel
Ability to play the harp well that gave him favor with Saul	A young man of courage, strength & determination who looked to and relied on God
Eventually became a prince in Israel and brother-in-law to Jonathan through marriage with Saul's daughter	A mighty soldier and highly respected and trusted by the men he led

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES TO FORMING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

1. Be Aware

“After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family.” *1 Samuel 18:1-2*

- Despite their different backgrounds, it did not stop David and Jonathan from becoming best friends.
- A coming together, a unity of purpose, a resonance, a kind of inseparable pairing where you can't imagine the one without the other.

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES TO FORMING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

2. Be Intentional

“And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.” *1 Samuel 18:3-4*

- Jonathan took the initiative to be David’s best friend.
- Jonathan demonstrated through his actions to set aside power and prestige to be on par with David.

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES TO FORMING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

3. Be Available

“Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you want me to do, I’ll do for you.” *1 Samuel 20:4*

- Jonathan was the kind of friend that will be there no matter what the situation is.
- Jonathan helped David when Saul tried to kill him.

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES TO FORMING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

4. Be Honest

“ ‘Never!’ Jonathan said. ‘If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn’t I tell you?’ *1 Samuel 20:9*

- Jonathan loved David enough to tell him the difficult news.

CHARACTERISTIC OF INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP

- a) An intimate friend is willing to sacrifice.
 - Jonathan stripped himself of the robe he was wearing and gave to David along with his armor, his sword, his bow and his belt.
 - Jonathan sacrificed his future for David.
 - “No one has greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for a friend.” John 15:13

CHARACTERISTIC OF INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP

- b) An intimate friend is a loyal defense before others.
 - Jonathan went to his father, Saul and spoke well of David.
 - Jonathan not only defended David, but rebuked his father for his attitude towards David.
 - A true friend won't talk bad about you when you're not around. True friends stick up for each other and defend each other when others attack.

CHARACTERISTIC OF INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP

- c) Intimate friends give each other complete freedom to be themselves.
 - Jonathan had just given David the sign that things were not fine in the palace, that his dad was going to kill David, and David and Jonathan were forced to say goodbye as David would then take off to hide. And they wept together.
 - Intimate friends don't bale, they stay. Intimate friends allow you to be yourself no matter what self looks like.

CHARACTERISTIC OF INTIMATE FRIENDSHIP

- d) An intimate friend is a constant source of encouragement.
 - When the King's men discovered where David was and Saul went out to kill him, Jonathan went to David and encouraged him in God.
 - Intimate friends bring encouragement not negativity.

APPLICATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

- Jonathan formed with David a covenant bond of trust, love and respect over a 13 year period. The covenant implies relationship, promise and expectation.
- A distinguishing factor between covenant friendship and a typical friendship is that a covenant friendship is triadic. A covenant friendship is a three-way agreement between God and me concerning my friend.
- Discipleship is a covenant friendship. In a discipling relationship the discipler takes the initiative to reach out to his disciple. As a discipler, one cannot expect his/her disciple to understand biblical friendship.

HOW TO APPLY THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

1. Be Aware

- God might bring the very best friend you'll ever have from a different socioeconomic, ethnic, age, background that will blow your mind.
- We need to be open and acknowledge that God doesn't see things like how we would see things.

HOW TO APPLY THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

2. Be Intentional

- God orchestrates circumstances, God orchestrates chemistry, but we have to be intentional.
- Take the initiative to be a friend to that person.
- Do not just drift into friendships, instead make deep friendships (have intentional pursuit and intentional commitment).

HOW TO APPLY THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

3. Be Honest

- In a great friendship, we have to be completely honest.
- There is a tendency to not tell the truth where it could lead to rejection.

HOW TO APPLY THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

4. Be Available

- When crisis comes, friends arrive.
- A great friend will always be available and to listen.
- Proverbs 17:17 says, “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”
- Crisis often reveals who your true friends are.

HOW TO BUILD A GREAT FRIENDSHIP

TIME

No relationship—whether it's with a friend, spouse, or child—will flourish without the investment of our time in their lives.

TALKING

Every friendship is founded upon two-way communication.

TEARS AND LAUGHTER

A genuinely open relationship requires sharing of both our joys and sorrows.

HOW TO BUILD A GREAT FRIENDSHIP

TRIUMPHS

We should be as excited about our friends' accomplishments and victories as we are about our own. These are times to commend them for a job well done and rejoice with them.

TRIALS

Every relationship goes through trials and disappointments. However, troubles can be diminished when we learn to relate to others in a selfless, caring manner.

HOW TO BUILD A GREAT FRIENDSHIP

THANKFULNESS

Thank the Lord for blessing us with good friendships; however, we also need to express gratitude to our friends.

THOUGHTFULNESS

Being thoughtful requires that we think about the other person, not just about ourselves.

TOLERANCE

Being a genuine friend requires tolerance. We need patience when we'd prefer they change, forgiveness when we're wronged, and willingness to help in whatever way we can.

HOW TO BUILD A GREAT FRIENDSHIP

TOUCHING

When someone is hurting, a touch delivers comfort and encouragement. Never underestimate the power of a touch.

TRANSPARENCY

To build an intimate friendship, we must be willing to be honest and open.

TRUTHFULNESS

Without a foundation of truth, we cannot build a relationship. We must be confident that the other person is speaking truthfully, and he or she should be able to trust that we will do whatever we have said.

OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

Christ himself called his disciples “friends”.

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you” (John 15:13-15).

CONCLUSION

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES TO FORM AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

- Be aware
- Be intentional
- Be available
- Be honest

CONCLUSION

- a) When you are feeling alone, God can be your greatest source of encouragement because He is your friend.
- b) When you are troubled, God will deliver you because He cares for each of you.