

# The Vine

## Week Two: How would you define “Friend?”

May 18 – May 24, 2008

You may have lots of people who call you “friend,” but how would you define the word? We’re not talking about acquaintances or people whose names you know, but a *real* friend. Most of the dictionary definitions of “friend” have three parts. The first part of the definition is knowing and being known by someone; a two-way street of communication. This knowing is more than just superficial traits like the color of their hair. You know what they are like. You know your friend’s heart. The second piece of the definition is about the feeling of affection for your friend. You may know someone well, yet not care for them at all — this is not a friend. A friend is someone you want to see succeed and you are willing to step in and help them win. The third part of the definition is trust. Someone may exist in your life who you know well and care about, yet you are not sure of their intentions. While you might want to be their friend, you simply don’t trust them with friendship.

In The Vine this week, we are going to look at a classic friendship in the Bible, David and Jonathan. As we dive into scripture and look at who is a friend and who is a foe, we want to apply it to others. Let’s be careful to not only look at others, but to also look at ourselves. What kind of friend am I? What can I do to cultivate the depths of the friendships I have? Think and pray on these things as we look at David and Jonathan.

## First Encounter

### Read 1 Samuel 19

Quickly read 1 Samuel 19. You only have to look at the first verse to get the main idea (but it is interesting to see that the trick in verse 13 is actually used effectively in the Bible). How would you describe the relationship between David and his wife Michal?

What is clear in the relationship between Saul and David?

The Spirit of God seems to be protecting David at Naioth (19:23) Why did David leave Naioth?

What is Saul's attitude in 1 Samuel 16:22? What is responsible for the change in attitude? For a hint, look at 1 Samuel 18:6-9.

**Prayer Reflection:** Pray for your friends. Your one or two closest friends. What are their deepest needs? Pray through Proverbs 1:1-7.

## *Second Encounter*

**Read all of 1 Samuel 20. Learn all you can about Jonathan.**

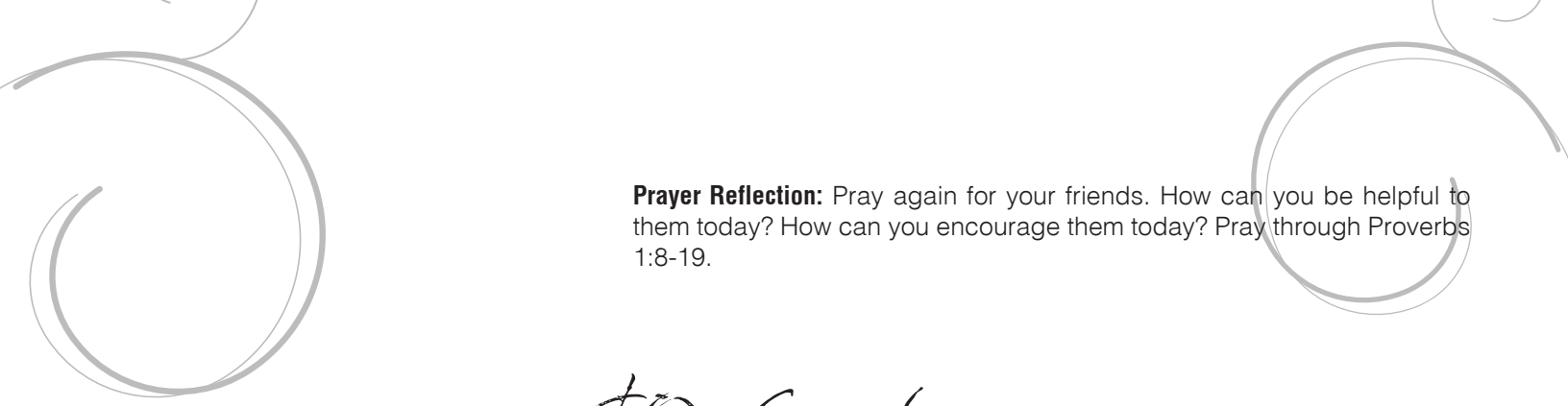
Who is Jonathan? What does his father want for his future? How does Jonathan feel about this?

How does Jonathan respond to David's explanation that Saul is going to kill him? In light of 1 Samuel 19:1, how can Jonathan respond this way?

How is Jonathan a good friend to David? What does he ask in return?

Think of Jonathan's response in verse four, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you." How do you feel reading that? Have you ever said that to someone and meant it? What emotions well up inside when you think of saying that to someone?





**Prayer Reflection:** Pray again for your friends. How can you be helpful to them today? How can you encourage them today? Pray through Proverbs 1:8-19.

## *Third Encounter*

**Read all of 1 Samuel 20. Learn all you can about David.**

Why did David flee and go to see Jonathan? The kingship could be a cause of strife for their relationship; why isn't it?

Why did they swear friendship to each other?

How did David feel as he left?

Where do you flee when you are in trouble?

**Prayer Reflection:** Pray for yourself as a friend. Ask the Lord to cultivate your heart so you will be a better friend. Pray through Proverbs 1:20-27.

## *Fourth Encounter*

**Read all of 1 Samuel 20. Learn all you can about Saul.**

What happens at the festival? Why is Saul so angry?



What does Saul call David? What does this say about his relationship with him?

What does Saul call Jonathan? What does this say about his relationship with him?

Is he right in verse 31? What is Jonathan's response?

**Prayer Reflection:** Thank the Lord for the friends that have lifted you up all through your life. Praise Him for His provision. Ask for more. Ask for someone who you can know and love and trust. Pray through Proverbs 1:28-33.


## *Fifth Encounter*

What are some things that keep us from having great friends?

How can you be a great friend?

How was Jonathan encouraging to his friend David? In what tangible ways are you encouraging your friends? Think of one specific way and try it today (even right now).






**Prayer Reflection:** Pray for the Lord to prepare your heart for the worship services this weekend. Pray through all of Proverbs 1.

## *Small Group Guide*

NOTE: This guide is provided to help Small Group Leaders take their groups through the passages. The following questions are suggestions. As you plan your group, you have flexibility to use this as you wish. Consider your group and may the Lord bless your time in scripture.

1. Describe as much as you can about the relationship between David and Saul. Are they friends? Why not?
  2. What unique dynamics are part of David and Jonathan's relationship?
  3. Jonathan says, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you." How different is this compared to when we sometimes say, "If you need anything, let me know."
  4. What does this chapter show about Jonathan's character? Would you want him as a friend? How about Saul?
  5. Discuss what keeps us from having one or two great friends. What can help us cultivate those one or two deep friendships?
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6. How do David and Jonathan test and recommit their relationship with each other? Is it wrong to test a friendship?
  
7. How much is Jonathan's friendship worth to David?
  
8. How much is a great friendship worth to you?
  
9. Discuss tangible next steps with your close friends. What should you do tomorrow?

Written by The Vine Team.  
Email [thevine@kcconline.org](mailto:thevine@kcconline.org)  
with comments or questions.  
We would love to hear what  
you think about it. We are also  
looking for people willing to  
help create The Vine. If this  
interests you, let us know.

