



Biblical Faithfulness: Being reliable, steadfast, loyal and devoted in what we believe and how we live towards God and others.

Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable? Proverbs 20:6

My enemies are not the ones who sneer and make fun. I could put up with that or even hide from them. But it was my closest friend, the one I trusted most. Psalm 55:12-13

A man with many friends may lose them. But there is a friend who is more faithful than a brother. Proverbs 18:24

Some friends play at friendship but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin. Proverbs 18:24 (NRSV)

Help, O Lord, for the godly are fast disappearing! The faithful have vanished from the earth! Psalm 12:1 (NLT)

Faithful friends are people of great **character**.

By the time David had finished reporting to Saul, Jonathan was deeply impressed with David—an immediate bond was forged between them. He became totally committed to David. From that point on he would be David's number-one advocate and friend. 1 Samuel 18:1-2 (Msg)

Jonathan, out of his deep love for David, made a covenant with him. He formalized it with solemn gifts: his own royal robe and weapons—armor, sword, bow, and belt. 1 Samuel 18:3-4

...this was their song: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands!" 1 Samuel 18:7 (TLB)

Of course Saul was very angry. "What's this?" he said to himself. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" So from that time on King Saul kept a jealous watch on David. 1 Samuel 18:8-9 (TLB)

Harbored jealousy will always turn to **hatred**.

When the king realized how much the Lord was with David and how immensely popular he was with all the people, he became even more afraid of him and grew to hate him more with every passing day. 1 Samuel 18:28-29

Faithfulness is important:

- We need someone who **stands up** for us when others try to harm us.

The next morning as Jonathan and his father were talking together, he (Jonathan) spoke well of David and begged him not to be against David. "He's never done anything to harm you," Jonathan pleaded. "He has always helped you in any way he could. Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill Goliath, and how the Lord brought a great victory to Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you now murder an innocent man? There is no reason for it at all!" 1 Samuel 19:4-5

- We need someone who will **sacrifice** for us when others are trying to take from us.

Jonathan, out of his deep love for David, made a covenant with him. He formalized it with solemn gifts: his own royal robe and weapons—armor, sword, bow, and belt. 1 Samuel 18:3-4

13 May the Lord be with you as he used to be with my father. 14 And remember, you must demonstrate the love and kindness of the Lord not only to me during my own lifetime, 15 but also to my children after the Lord has destroyed all of your enemies." 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the family of David, and David swore to it with a terrible curse against himself and his descendants, should he be unfaithful to his promise.

1 Samuel 20:13-16

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" 2 Samuel 9:1

- We need someone who **warns** us when others plot against us.

1 Samuel 19:1-13

- We need someone who **comes close** to us when others walk away from us.

- We need someone who **encourages us spiritually** when the words of others get to us.

16 Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. 1 Samuel 32:16 (NLT)

Action Steps for Faithful Friendships:

- Be a person of **integrity**.

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the unfaithful destroys them. Proverbs 11:3

- Choose your friends **wisely**.

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26

- Love **sacrificially**.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? (Someone you believed would be faithful to you)
- In your own words, why is faithfulness so important in a friendship?
- What does it mean to be people of great character? Why does this help us to be faithful friends?
- As you read through the story of Saul, David, and Jonathan is there anything that stands out to you?
- Is standing up for others something you practice? Can you speak for the character of others without them being there?
- What does sacrificial love look like to you in a friendship? Do you tend to be a short-term friend or a long-term friend? What does it say about David's character when he sought out and cared for Mephibosheth?
- Do you have friends who warn you when others are out to get you? Are you that kind of friend?
- Why is it important to have friends who come close to us when others walk away from us?
- Do you have friends who encourage you spiritually? What does that mean to you?
- Why is integrity important to developing faithful relationships?
- Do you choose your friends wisely? Why is this important?
- What does it mean to love sacrificially?

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Today's Talk..



What it means to be a Faithful Friend

Sunday, March 16th, 2025

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