



God Is Sovereign over Friendships

1 Samuel 18:1–11; 20:1–42



LESSON GOAL

Students will obey the Lord in all the relationships He gives them.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Describe how Saul, Jonathan, and Israel exalted David.
- Explain why Saul tried to kill David.
- Describe David and Jonathan's covenant.
- Describe David and Jonathan's plan to discover Saul's intentions.

KEY VERSE

"Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul" (1 Samuel 18:3).

APPLICATION

- Trust that God is sovereign and gives both close friendships and difficult relationships.
- Find ways you can love both those who love you and those who hate you.
- Examine areas where your conduct is not Christlike.
- Admit that it is impossible to obey without Christ's help.

NEXT WEEK

God Judges between David and Saul
Read 1 Samuel 24.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The Exaltation of David (1 Sam. 18:1–7)

Even before David defeated Goliath, his reputation had begun to grow. When Saul was being tormented by a distressing spirit, one of his servants recommended a youth who could play music for him. The servant told Saul about “a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him” (1 Sam. 16:18). After David played for Saul, Saul “loved him greatly, and [David] became his armorbearer” (16:21). God’s anointing of David was evidenced by His sovereign placement of David in the king’s presence. Even Saul unwittingly approved of the man whom God had chosen to replace him as king.

When the Philistines gathered to battle Israel, David alternated between shepherding and occasionally playing for Saul (1 Sam. 17:15). David would not stay in the background for long. After hearing Goliath “defy the armies of the living God” (17:26), David offered to fight the Philistine. The Lord honored Himself by giving victory to David, His anointed. Saul soon was busy finding out more about David (17:55). David’s family probably was important to Saul since Saul had promised that the defeater of Goliath would marry his daughter (17:25). After the dramatic battle, Saul took the new hero to stay with him and made David part of the royal household (18:2).

Saul’s son Jonathan also exalted David after the battle. After speaking with Saul, David formed a lasting friendship with Jonathan. Jonathan loved David “as his own soul” (1 Sam. 18:1). Their love was so deep that they made a covenant together (18:3). In stunning humility, Jonathan took off his princely robe, his armor, and his sword, bow, and belt and gave them to David. By clothing David in his own robes, Jonathan was sharing his status as prince with David.

Saul and Jonathan soon were joined by all Israel in their affection for David. Recognizing David’s abilities, Saul sent him out as a commander of the military. All the people, including Saul’s servants, were pleased with David’s leadership (1 Sam. 18:5). When Saul and David returned from battle, the women came “out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments” (18:6). Their song revealed a shift in the people’s evaluation of their king: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands” (18:7). The women were exalting David above their king!

The Resentment of Saul (1 Sam. 18:8–11)

Saul was both jealous and worried about the praise David received. Like a complaining child, Saul whined, “David has more than me!” If the people were already accrediting to David greater victories than Saul, Saul rightly reasoned that

soon the kingdom would also belong to David (1 Sam. 18:8). Saul's appreciation of David changed. Instead of looking on David with fondness, now Saul suspiciously "eyed David from that day forward" (18:9). Saul could hardly avoid deducing that David was the "neighbor" to whom God had given his kingdom (1 Sam. 15:28).

Saul's emotions of jealousy and fear quickly erupted into action. On the next day, Saul was again tormented by a demon (1 Sam. 18:10). As he had done before the death of Goliath, David played for the king in order to soothe him. While David held a musical instrument, Saul held a spear. With a shout of, "I will pin David to the wall!" Saul cast the spear at David twice but missed (18:11). The same God who had directed the stone of David against Goliath was protecting David from the spears flung by Saul.

Saul's Attempts to Kill David (1 Sam. 18:12–19:24)

Throwing spears was only the first of Saul's many attempts to kill David. Saul feared David because he knew that the Lord was with him (1 Sam. 18:12). In his fight against the Lord, Saul did everything he could to defeat David. First, he made David "a captain over a thousand" and sent him out on military campaigns ("he went out and came in before the people"; 18:13,16). But instead of getting killed in battle (or making a tactical mistake), David "behaved wisely in all his ways" (18:14). Saul's plan backfired, and "all Israel and Judah loved David" (18:16).

Second, Saul tried to get David killed fighting the Philistines (1 Sam. 18:17–27). Saul offered his daughter Michal in marriage (a reward which he had previously promised) if David would bring him proof of killing 100 Philistines. When David accomplished the task, Saul had to give David his daughter in marriage. Michal loved David (18:28). Saul became all the more opposed to David, while the people esteemed David more with every battle (18:29–30).

Saul's next attack was to command Jonathan and his servants to kill David (1 Sam. 19:1–8). But because Jonathan "delighted greatly in David" (19:1), he warned David to hide until he talked to his father. Jonathan pleaded with his father, arguing that David had not sinned against him, that the Lord had used David to deliver Israel, and that Saul would be guilty of innocent blood (19:4–5). Saul listened to his son, even swearing by the name of the Lord not to kill David (19:6). Jonathan thought that he had successfully reconciled David to Saul. David returned to Saul's presence (19:7).

Once again, Saul sought to kill David (1 Sam. 19:9–17). Believing the best, David again played for the troubled Saul (19:9). Not surprisingly, Saul's reward was another spear (19:10). With the help of his wife (Saul's daughter), David escaped and fled to Samuel (19:18). Saul continued his pursuit of David. The messengers who had been sent to capture David were controlled by God and prophesied instead (19:20–22). After three groups were controlled by the Holy Spirit, Saul himself went, only to be likewise controlled. God prophesied through him and had Saul take off his kingly robes (19:23–24). Even Saul could not stop himself from admitting that his kingdom was being taken away!

David's Plan to Reveal Saul's Heart (1 Sam. 20:1–7)

When the rift between Saul and David seemed permanent, David was anxious for his beloved friend Jonathan to know that he had done all he could to live peaceably with Saul. David risked meeting with Jonathan and asked why Saul was trying to kill him (1 Sam. 20:1). Jonathan didn't want to believe his father would again try to kill David. (Jonathan was unaware of the attempts on David's life in 1 Samuel 19:9–24, which occurred after the reconciliation in 1 Samuel 19:1–8). David was still willing to return if Saul passed a test. With Jonathan's help, David would inten-

tionally not come to the New Moon feast (1 Sam. 20:5–7). Jonathan was to say that he had allowed David to celebrate the feast with his brothers. If Saul was angry, both David and Jonathan could be assured that David’s life was not safe.

David and Jonathan’s Covenant (1 Sam. 20:8–23)

In 1 Samuel 20:8–17, David and Jonathan reminded each other of the covenant they had made (1 Sam. 18:3). David urged Jonathan to be loyal to him as he had promised. He even asked Jonathan to be the one to take his life if he had sinned against Saul (20:8). In response, Jonathan promised to let David know what he found out, whether good or bad (20:11–13). He would help David escape, if need be (20:13). Jonathan likewise reminded David to keep the covenant. Jonathan wanted David not only to spare his life but also to spare his descendants (20:14–15). Jonathan sought to ensure that when God had given David victory over his enemies (as he was sure God would), David would not follow the custom of destroying the previous king’s descendants in order to secure the throne. Both David and Jonathan affirmed the covenant because they loved each other (20:16–17). After explaining the signals through which he would inform David whether it was safe to return (20:18–22), Jonathan again reminded David that it was the Lord who had witnessed the covenant between them (20:23). Jonathan and David had a friendship sanctified unto the Lord and lived in the Lord’s presence.

Jonathan Discovers Saul’s Heart (1 Sam. 20:24–33)

Jonathan’s loyalty to David soon caused Saul to turn against his son. Perhaps Jonathan was relieved when on the first day of the New Moon feast Saul displayed no anger at David’s empty place (1 Sam. 20:24–26). Saul assumed that David missed because he was ceremonially unclean (Lev. 7:20–21). But when David was absent on the second day, Saul was infuriated by Jonathan’s explanation that he had given David permission to eat the feast with his brothers (1 Sam. 20:27–31). Saul ridiculed Jonathan by cursing his mother and accusing him of siding with David (20:30). It was unfathomable to Saul that Jonathan could befriend David; as long as David lived, neither Jonathan nor his sons would become king (20:31). Saul commanded Jonathan to bring him David. When Jonathan asked to know what David had done wrong, Saul threw a spear at his own son (20:32–33). From that time on, Jonathan knew that Saul was intent on killing David.

David and Jonathan’s Separation (1 Sam. 20:34–42)

Though their covenant loyalty to each other would continue, Jonathan knew that his companionship with David would be interrupted. Jonathan was now certain that his father had wrongly persecuted David. “He was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully” (1 Sam. 20:34). Just as Jonathan had promised, he followed the predetermined signals for telling David that Saul was committed to David’s demise (20:35–38). The boy fetching the arrows couldn’t have fully understood Jonathan’s secret instruction to David: “Make haste, hurry, do not delay!” (20:38). Showing both his trust and his good intentions, Jonathan sent his weapons back to the city with the boy and met David (20:40). David showed the greatest respect to the prince who would never reign by bowing three times (20:41). They affectionately kissed each other and “wept together,” David weeping more than Jonathan. God’s sovereignty over their separation did not result in a cold acceptance of their circumstances. Separation for these men would be painful. In light of the covenant binding both themselves and their families, Jonathan bid David to go in peace (20:42). The Lord had joined the two men in fellowship, and He would judge whether they kept the covenant they had made.

Conclusion

The Lord's direction of human relationships is an opportunity for the believer to obey. Like David and Jonathan, we must trust that God sovereignly directs human affairs, between both enemies and friends. The Lord's giving and taking of relationships, which at times may be grievous, is an opportunity for the believer to show the sufficiency of Christ. Regardless of how a believer is treated, he has been enabled by Christ to behave righteously. Whether the believer experiences the blessing of close friendships, the sadness of departures, or the disappointment of betrayal and jealousy, the Lord remains both sufficient and sovereign.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Who was Goliath?

Goliath was a giant and a champion in the Philistine army. He was between 9 and 10 feet tall.

What words did Goliath use to challenge the Israelites?

We can read what Goliath said in 1 Samuel 17:8–10. One of the things he said was, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

How did Saul and the Israelites respond to Goliath's challenge?

All the Israelites, including Saul, were afraid of Goliath. No one went out to fight him.

How did David respond to Goliath's challenge and mocking?

David was angry because Goliath was challenging not only the army of Israel, but also the God of Israel. David decided to go and fight Goliath.

What did Saul and the Israelites think of David's plan?

Saul did not think that David had much of a chance against Goliath. David was only a youth, and Goliath had been a warrior since his youth.

Why was David so confident that he could kill Goliath?

David was confident to fight against Goliath because he trusted that God was on his side and would help him kill Goliath.



1
2

The Signal

Use this before the lesson to review last week's lesson, or afterward to review this week's lesson. When a student answers a review question correctly, he gets to

throw a beanbag toward a target representing the stone Ezel in 1 Samuel 20:19. Comment based on where the beanbag lands, "Behold, the arrows are on this side of you," or "Behold, the arrows are beyond you." After playing this game, explain to the students that what they were doing was actually part of a signal that they will learn about in today's lesson.



A Good Friend, Part One

Materials: "A Good Friend" chart (photocopied on a transparency before the lesson)

Directions: Before the lesson, ask the students to list qualities they look for in a good friend. Summarize the qualities on the chart, in the left column.



Red Light, Green Light

To play, one student should stand as the "signal" at one end of the room, while all the other students stand at the other end of the room. When the "signal" faces the students and says, "Red light!" the students must freeze in place. When the signal turns his back to the students and says, "Green light!" the students can approach him. If a student moves during a red light, he must go back to the starting point. The first student to reach the signal wins the game. After playing, talk with the students about how signals work. Tell them that in today's lesson, they will learn about a signal between David and Jonathan. This signal helped David to know whether to go or stop.



Good for You

In today's lesson, the students will learn about both good and bad relationships. Bring some common medicines and vitamins to class. Ask the students which ones taste good and which ones taste bad. Explain that although some medicines taste better than others, they all are designed to make you healthy. In the same way, God brings some people into our lives who are fun to be with and others who are not very nice to us. God uses both good and bad relationships to help us become like Him. We have to learn to thank God for all the people He brings into our lives.



Late for Dinner

Before the lesson, have a few volunteers stand or sit in front of the class. If space permits, seat them at a table with a simple place setting (a paper plate and cup). Make sure you go over the names of each volunteer before asking the class to close their eyes while one of the volunteers hides. Have the class guess who is missing. In today's lesson, David misses dinner with King Saul twice. Have the students listen to see how Saul will react.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read portions of 1 Samuel 18:1–11 and 20:1–42.

After David had killed Goliath, he was brought to King Saul, who then spoke with him. Saul’s son Jonathan immediately took to David, loved him as himself, and made a covenant with him. This covenant was a promise to be loyal and loving to each other. Jonathan, the king’s son, even gave David his robe and his armor, which included his sword, bow and belt (1 Sam. 18:1–4).

For a while, everyone loved David. But when King Saul heard the women of Israel singing a song about him and David, Saul became very angry. Saul did not like that the women were praising David more than him. He was jealous that David would one day be king over Israel. From that time on, Saul was suspicious of David. He tried to kill him on many occasions. He even commanded Jonathan to kill David, but Jonathan did not. Jonathan continued to love David as himself.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: When David left Ramah, where did he go?

Answer: David fled from Ramah and went to his friend Jonathan.

LOQ: What did David say to Jonathan?

Answer: David believed that Saul wanted to kill him. He asked Jonathan what he had done to make Saul so angry that he would want to take his life.

LOQ: Why didn’t Jonathan think David was right?

Answer: Saul usually told Jonathan about important matters, and he had not said anything about wanting to kill David (1 Sam. 20:2). Some time before, Saul had commanded his servants and Jonathan to kill David. At that time, though, Jonathan had convinced Saul that killing wasn’t right (1 Sam. 19:1–7). As far as Jonathan knew, nothing had changed since then.

LOQ: What reason did David suggest for Saul keeping his intention to kill him a secret from Jonathan?

Answer: Since David and Jonathan were good friends, Saul probably did not say anything to Jonathan because he knew it would make him upset.

LOQ: Did Jonathan believe David’s explanation?

Answer: Jonathan still was not sure what to think, but since he loved David so

much, he was willing to help him. Jonathan said, “Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you” (1 Sam. 20:4).

LOQ: What did Jonathan say he would do after he had given Saul the test?

Answer: Jonathan reassured David by telling him that no matter what his father said, whether it was good news or bad news, he most certainly would tell him.

LOQ: What did Jonathan say should happen to him if he did not tell David how Saul responded?

Answer: Jonathan said that if Saul wanted to harm David and he did not tell him, then God should do to him whatever Saul wanted to do to David. This was Jonathan’s way of telling David he could trust him.

LOQ: Did the test that David suggested put Jonathan’s life in danger?

Answer: Yes. We can tell by what they said to each other that Jonathan’s life might have been in danger. In 1 Samuel 20:10, David asked, “Who will tell me, or what if your father answers you roughly?” David thought that Saul might kill Jonathan if he found out that Jonathan was helping David.

LOQ: Did Jonathan do what David asked, even though it might have been dangerous for him? Why?

Answer: Yes. Jonathan did as David asked because he loved David. Jonathan was concerned for David and wanted to help him, even if it endangered his life. What was going on was very serious—people could have been killed. Saul hated David and wanted him killed, and he was not above killing his own son if he got in the way. David was concerned for his own life, and now Jonathan was going to do something that might cost him his life, too.

LOQ: In 1 Samuel 20:15, what did Jonathan want David to promise him?

Answer: Jonathan wanted David to promise that no matter what happened, David would be kind to his family. Jonathan probably knew that David was ultimately going to be king of Israel. Jonathan knew that it was common for a new king to kill all the family of the former king so that he would not have to be afraid of those relatives trying to take back control. So Jonathan wanted David to be kind and merciful to his family when he became the king of Israel. David made the promise to Jonathan and later, after he became king, was kind to Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9).

LOQ: When Jonathan found out that Saul wanted to kill David, what did he do?

Answer: Jonathan kept his promise to David. As they had arranged, Jonathan gave David the signal that Saul wanted to kill him. Then, after Jonathan sent his helper back to the city, David came out of his hiding place to meet Jonathan. They knew that this was one of the last times they would be together. After they kissed each other and wept, Jonathan wished David safety and reminded him that God was witness to their covenant.

Summary

David believed that Saul wanted to kill him, and because David trusted Jonathan, he went to him for help. At first, Jonathan did not believe him, but then he decided to help him just in case David was right. David planned a test for Saul, and Jonathan agreed to help. Jonathan reassured David that whatever he found out, he

would tell him; and even though it might be dangerous, he did what David asked because he loved him. Although they already had made a covenant, Jonathan and David made another covenant that included their families. This meant that the families of Jonathan and David would be kind to one another. Then, when Jonathan learned that Saul really did want to kill David, he gave David a secret signal so that he would know. But before David left, he and Jonathan kissed and wept because they knew it was one of the last times they would see each other.

Application

Jonathan and David were good friends. They loved each other as themselves. Even though Saul wanted to kill David because he was afraid of him, Jonathan was not afraid of David. Even though Jonathan could have been jealous of David and afraid that David would be king instead of him, he continued to love David and be a great friend. David was not trying to become king, even though God had promised that he one day would be. Neither was Jonathan trying to prevent David from being successful and blessed by God. Each wanted what was best for the other. David was waiting on the Lord for what he had promised, and Jonathan was trying to be a good friend and obedient to God and not to stand in God's way.

When we have friends, we should always be careful that we do not become jealous and want what they have. We should never want them to get hurt or to hurt them ourselves. When they do better than us at sports or in school, we should never let that become a problem. If we really love someone, we will want what is best for him, even when it is better than what we have. No matter what, we should be obedient to God, trusting Him and helping others even when it means that they will do better than us or get something that we won't get.

When we look at David and Jonathan, we can see that they both were honest and trustworthy. If they made a promise, they kept it. We should do the same, not only with our friends, but with everyone.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



David's Relationships: Venn Diagram

Draw a copy of the Venn Diagram (at back of lesson) on the board. Teach each section of the lesson, guiding the students to compare and contrast David's relationships with Saul and Jonathan. In the parts of the diagram labeled with Saul and Jonathan's names, write short phrases that describe what was different about each relationship. In the overlapping part of the circles, write similarities between the two relationships. For younger students, wait until after the whole lesson is taught. Use the pre-written phrases from the appendix (cut out in advance). Read each phrase to the class, and have the students tell you where the phrase should be taped inside each part of the diagram.



Right and Wrong Actions

In today's story, David, Saul, and Jonathan demonstrate good and bad responses to the people God brings into their lives. The narrative itself doesn't always tell us which responses are good and which are bad, but the rest of the Bible does. Hand

out green and red cards, and as the story progresses, ask the students to vote as to whether a particular action was right or wrong. Read them a Bible verse to confirm their answer; for example:

1 Samuel 18:1–4—Jonathan loved David : righteous (1 John 3:11)

1 Samuel 18:6–11—Saul was jealous, angry: unrighteous (Eph. 4:26, 31–32)

1 Samuel 19:1–4—Saul wants to kill David: unrighteous (Ex. 20:13)



Pride

In today's lesson, Saul's pride is insulted when he hears the women singing, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David has killed his ten thousands." Have the students chant that together a few times when you come to this point in the story. Ask them how they think Saul might have felt about someone else being a bigger hero.

Praise and Worship

Change My Heart, Oh God

Cleanse Me

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Love, Love

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

This Is My Commandment

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



A Good Friend, Part Two

Materials: "A Good Friend" chart (photocopied on a transparency before the lesson)

Directions: After the lesson, guide the students in listing qualities of covenantal friendship that David and Jonathan demonstrated throughout the passages taught. Write these characteristics in the middle column of the chart. Use the cross-references provided from additional passages to reinforce God's instructions on friendship. Write the verses discussed in the right column of the chart.



Covenant of Love

Materials: photocopy of scroll, moon, house, heart, and arrow for each student; scissors, hole punch, string

Directions: Before class, photocopy the craft pages on cardstock. Pass out the craft pages to each student. Instruct the students to cut on the bold lines. Instruct students to punch four holes, evenly spaced, on the bottom of the scroll. Students must punch one hole in the top center of each shape: moon, house, heart, and arrow. Demonstrate how to tie each shape in the correct order on the bottom of the scroll. Use the scroll to review the important components of the covenant between David and Jonathan.



Who Did What?

Review today's lesson by asking the students to identify which person (David, Saul, or Jonathan) did each thing in the story. Students can hold up cards with pictures of each man (from the coloring page or "paper doll" stand-ups) or point to the man on a coloring page. Or you could have large pictures of the men at the front, and students could put stickers on the right man for each answer.

Variation: Make bingo cards with pictures of the men in each square. Students cover one picture for each answer until someone gets five in a row.

Whom did Jonathan love as himself? *David*

Which friends made a covenant? *David and Jonathan*

Who gave his clothes away? *Jonathan*

Whom did he give them to? *David*

Who went out with Saul to battle? *David*

Whom did Saul set over the men of war? *David*

Whom did the women of Israel sing about? *David and Saul*

In their song, who slayed thousands? *Saul*

Who slayed ten thousands? *David*

Who became jealous of David? *Saul*

Whom was Saul suspicious of? *David*

Who played the harp? *David*

Whom did he play it for? *Saul*

Whom did Saul throw a spear at? *David and Jonathan*

From whom did the Holy Spirit depart? *Saul*

Who was prospering during this time? *David*

Who asked Jonathan to exhort and admonish him? *David*

Who wanted to kill David? *Saul*

Who attended the feast of the new moon? *Saul and Jonathan*

Who did not attend? *David*

Who said, "If there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself" (20:8)? *David*

Whom did David ask to kill him if he had sinned? *Jonathan*

Who shot the arrows in the field? *Jonathan*

Who hid behind the stone Ezel? *David*

Who did not eat food on the second day of the new moon? *Jonathan*

Who bowed three times to Jonathan? *David*

Who wept together? *Jonathan and David*

"The Lord will be between me and you." Whom did "me and you" refer to?
Jonathan and David

Who were friends? *David and Jonathan*

Who became David's enemy? *Saul*

Whom did God want David to love? *Saul and Jonathan*



Class Picture Frame

Materials: a class picture for each student, cardstock, pens, crayons, glue, other decorations

Directions: At least one week before, take a picture of the whole class. Print out a class picture for each student to fit into a paper frame. Have each student write "God Gives Us Friends" at the top of the frame. At the bottom of the frame, have each student write Proverbs 17:17a. Students can decorate their frames by coloring or gluing on decorations. Talk to the students about how God gives us all relationships and wants us to love each person.



God Gives Relationships

Materials: copies of the "God Gives Relationships" craft page, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Talk to the students about the relationships God gave David and the relationships He has given them. Allow the students to color the page.



"God's Sovereignty in David's Friendships"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



Journal Page: "Friendship "

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

"Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul" (1 Samuel 18:3).

A Good Friend

1 Samuel 18–20

What qualities do you look for in a friend?	Qualities David & Jonathan demonstrated as friends	Biblical teaching on relationships

A Good Friend—Teacher Guide

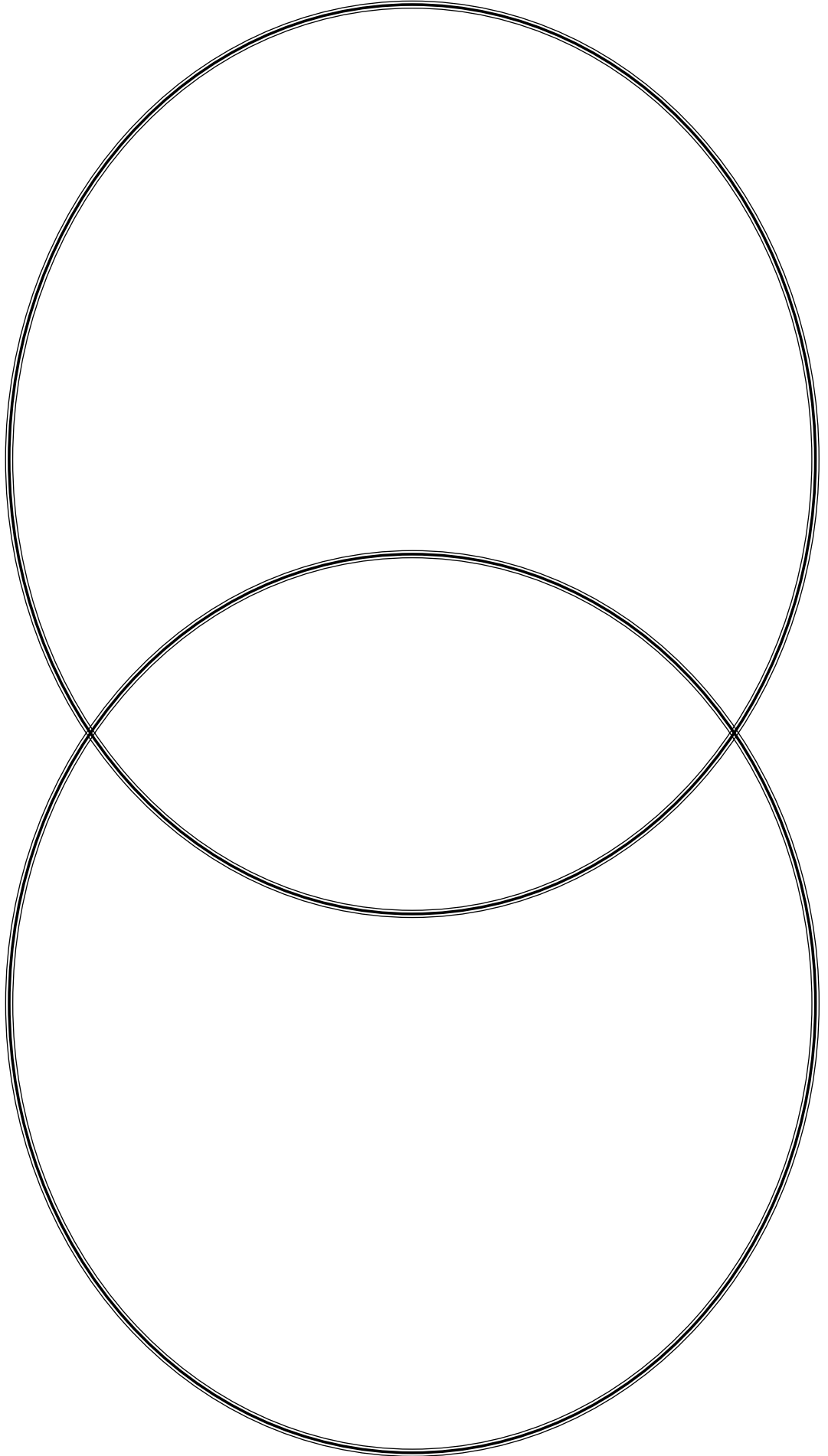
1 Samuel 18–20

What qualities do you look for in a friend?	Qualities David & Jonathan demonstrated as friends	Biblical teaching on relationships
	<p>loves others as self; deep affection (18:1–3; 20:17)</p> <p>keeps promises; faithfulness (18:3)</p> <p>submits to God’s will (18:4)</p> <p>honors others more than one’s own family (19:2)</p> <p>speaks well of friend (19:4–5)</p> <p>loyalty (20)</p> <p>believes the best (20:1–4)</p> <p>accountability for sin (20:14–15)</p> <p>kindness (20:14–15)</p> <p>humility (20:41)</p>	<p>Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:33; Romans 12:10</p> <p>1 Samuel 22:14; Proverbs 28:20</p> <p>Psalm 40:8</p> <p>Proverbs 18:24b; 27:10; Luke 14:26</p> <p>Proverbs 16:13</p> <p>Proverbs 17:17</p> <p>1 Corinthians 13:7</p> <p>Proverbs 27:6,9,17</p> <p>1 Corinthians 13:4; Galatians 5:22; 2 Peter 1:7</p> <p>1 Chronicles 29:14; Proverbs 15:33; 16:19; 18:12; 22:4; 29:23; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5</p>

David's Relationships

Saul

Jonathan



Compare & Contrast David's Relationships

1 Samuel 18–20

Use with Venn Diagram.

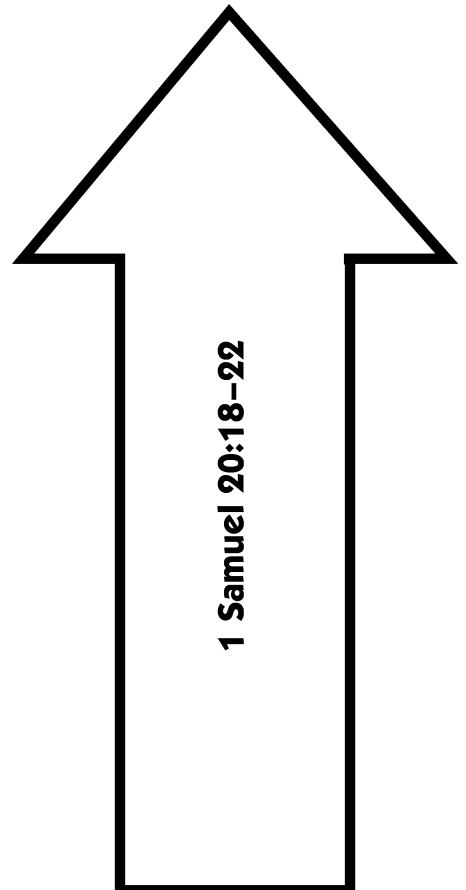
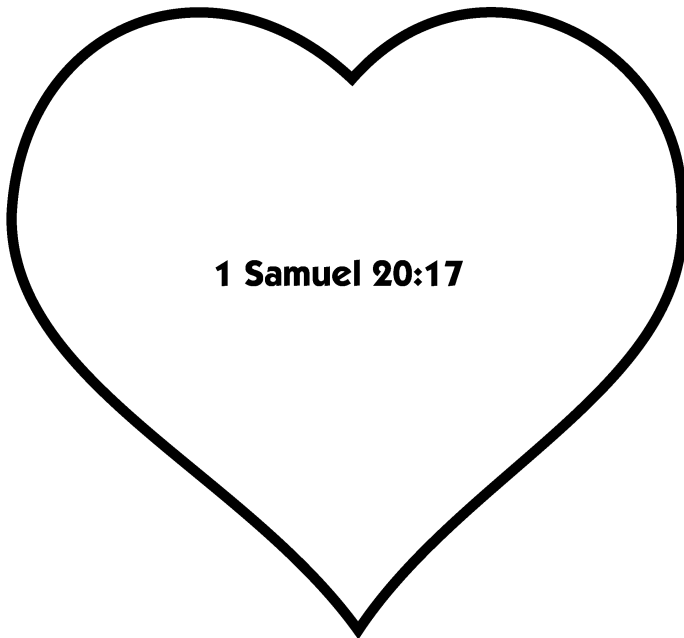
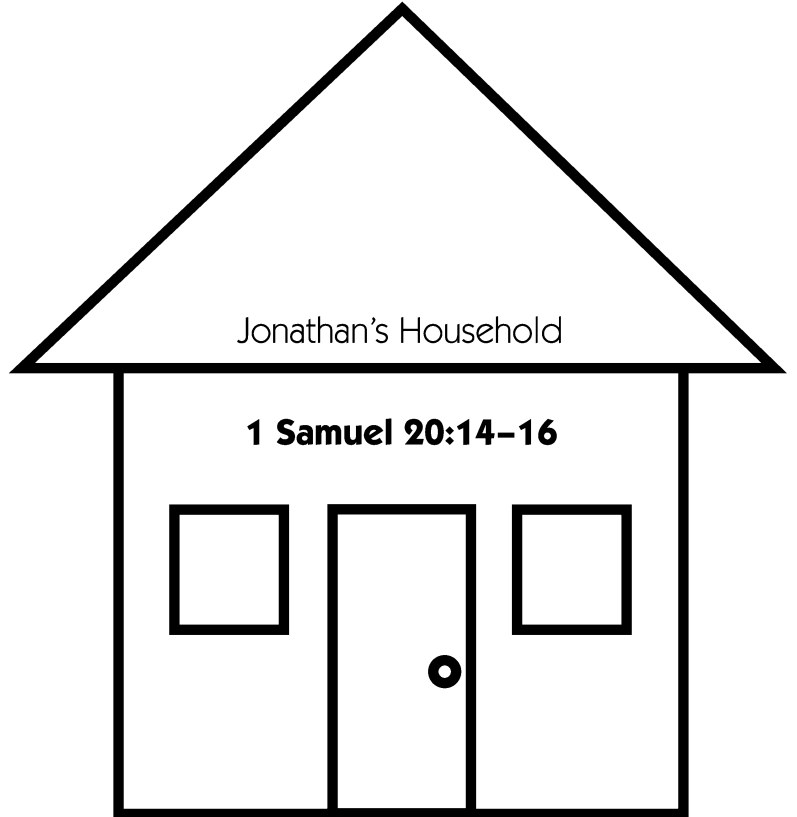
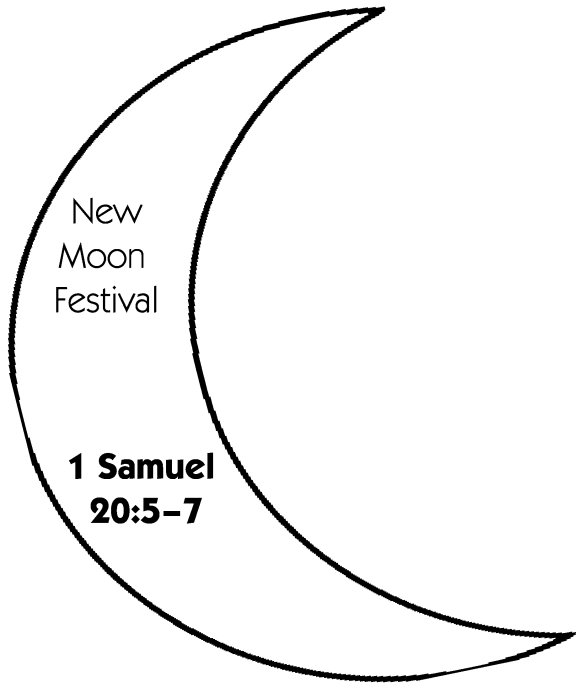
Saul	Jonathan	Saul & Jonathan
jealousy and envy (18:8–9)	selflessness (18:4)	acknowledged David's wise behavior (18:5, 14–15)
lies and deceit (20:3)	loyalty (20)	
afraid of David (18:15)	faithfulness (18:3)	
tried to kill David (18:11, 20:33)	loves others as self (18:1, 3; 20:17)	
anger and resentment (20:30–31)	kindness (20:14–15)	
treated him shamefully (20:34)	God's sovereign oversight (20:23, 42)	
	humility (20:41)	

Covenant of Love

Covenant of Love

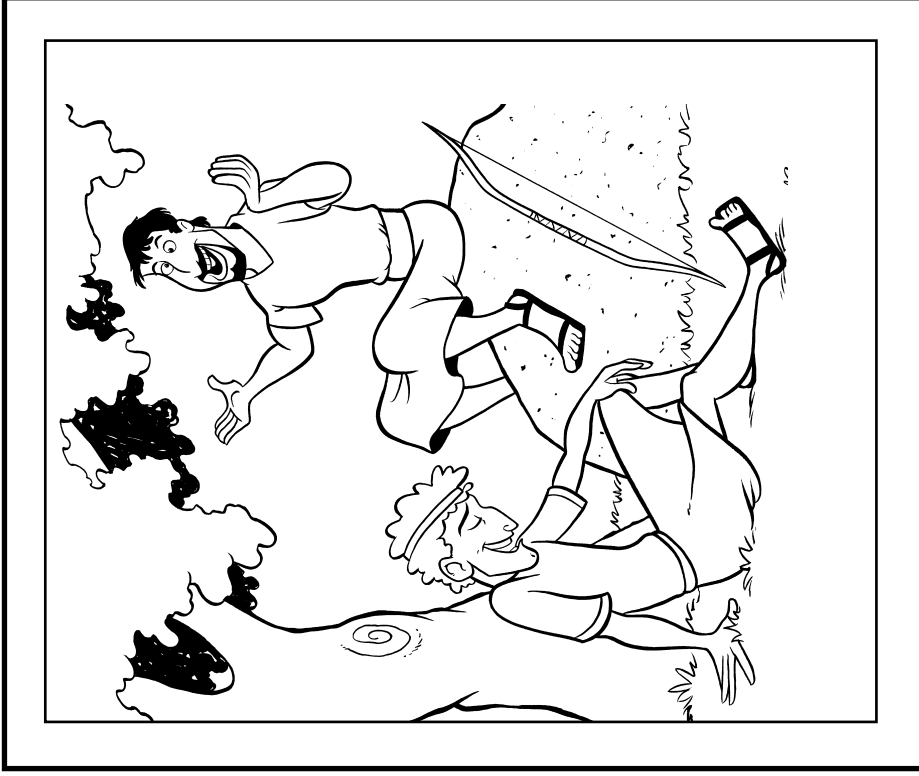
*“May the LORD be between
you and me, and between
your descendants and my
descendants forever”
(1 Samuel 20:42b).*

Covenant of Love



God Gives Relationships

God Gives Friends



Jonathan loved David as himself
(1 Sam. 18:16).

God Gives Enemies



Saul hated David and tried
to kill him (1 Sam. 18:9–11).

God's Sovereignty in David's Friendships



1 Samuel 18–20

Name _____

1. Jonathan loved David as his own _____ (1 Sam. 18:1).

2. List three items that Jonathan gave David in 1 Samuel 18:4.

3. True or False: David was not accepted by Saul or the people. _____

4. Whom did the women praise more, Saul or David? _____

5. Why was Saul afraid of David? See 1 Samuel 18:14–15.

6. Jonathan and David made a covenant before _____.

Saul

the Lord

Samuel

Moses

7. True or False: God used Jonathan to protect David from Saul. _____

Friendship

“May the Lord be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.” — 1 Samuel 20:42

I am sure you will agree that it is wonderful to have a close friend, but do you agree that it can be a blessing to have an enemy? Maybe you are thinking, “No way! How can an enemy, who does mean things, be a blessing?” By looking at the life of David and how God blessed him in his relationship with Saul, you can see God’s blessings. To discover God’s blessings on David through his relationship with Saul, mix and match the two columns below.

SAUL’S ACTIONS

Cast a spear at David twice

Sent David to be killed in battle

Sent his servants to kill David

GOD’S LOVINGKINDNESS

David’s wife helps him escape

The spear missed

David was esteemed more with each battle

Not only did God protect David, He also used David’s experiences to move David to write many of the Psalms. Each time you read a Psalm, God is still using David’s experiences to be a blessing—He is blessing you!

God is also sovereign in our friendships. For example God used Jonathan to warn David of Saul’s intent to kill him. Jonathan was a true friend. To see the characteristics of a true friend, unscramble Jonathan’s Christlike characteristics.

OEVL

SINDKESN

TFUNLSSIHAFE

Friendship

“May the Lord be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.” — 1 Samuel 20:42

I am sure you will agree that it is wonderful to have a close friend, but do you agree that it can be a blessing to have an enemy? Maybe you are thinking, “No way! How can an enemy, who does mean things, be a blessing?” By looking at the life of David and how God blessed him in his relationship with Saul, you can see God’s blessings. To discover God’s blessings on David through his relationship with Saul, mix and match the two columns below.

SAUL’S ACTIONS

Cast a spear at David twice

Sent David to be killed in battle

Sent his servants to kill David

GOD’S LOVINGKINDNESS

David’s wife helps him escape

The spear missed

David was esteemed more with each battle

Not only did God protect David, He also used David’s experiences to move David to write many of the Psalms. Each time you read a Psalm, God is still using David’s experiences to be a blessing—He is blessing you!

God is also sovereign in our friendships. For example God used Jonathan to warn David of Saul’s intent to kill him. Jonathan was a true friend. To see the characteristics of a true friend, unscramble Jonathan’s Christlike characteristics.

OEVL

SINDKESN

TFUNLSSIHAFE

Like David, when you have troubles, God is sovereign and when you turn to Him in your troubles, He is not only able to deliver you, but He can use your trouble to build your faith and make you a powerful Christian. Christ uses the troubles and joys in your life to strengthen the Christlike characteristics of friendship in you. He wants you to be like the friend who sticks closer than a brother. Do you know who that is? It is Christ.

In what ways has Christ taught you through your enemies?

In what ways has Christ taught you through your friends?

In these relationships, what characteristics has Christ been strengthening in you?

PRAYER

Thank Christ for being a friend that sticks closer than a brother and for using the people in your life to make you a stronger Christian. Thank Him, too, that He cares about your problems and joys and is making all things work together for good. Don't you agree that He is a wonderful friend?

Like David, when you have troubles, God is sovereign and when you turn to Him in your troubles, He is not only able to deliver you, but He can use your trouble to build your faith and make you a powerful Christian. Christ uses the troubles and joys in your life to strengthen the Christlike characteristics of friendship in you. He wants you to be like the friend who sticks closer than a brother. Do you know who that is? It is Christ.

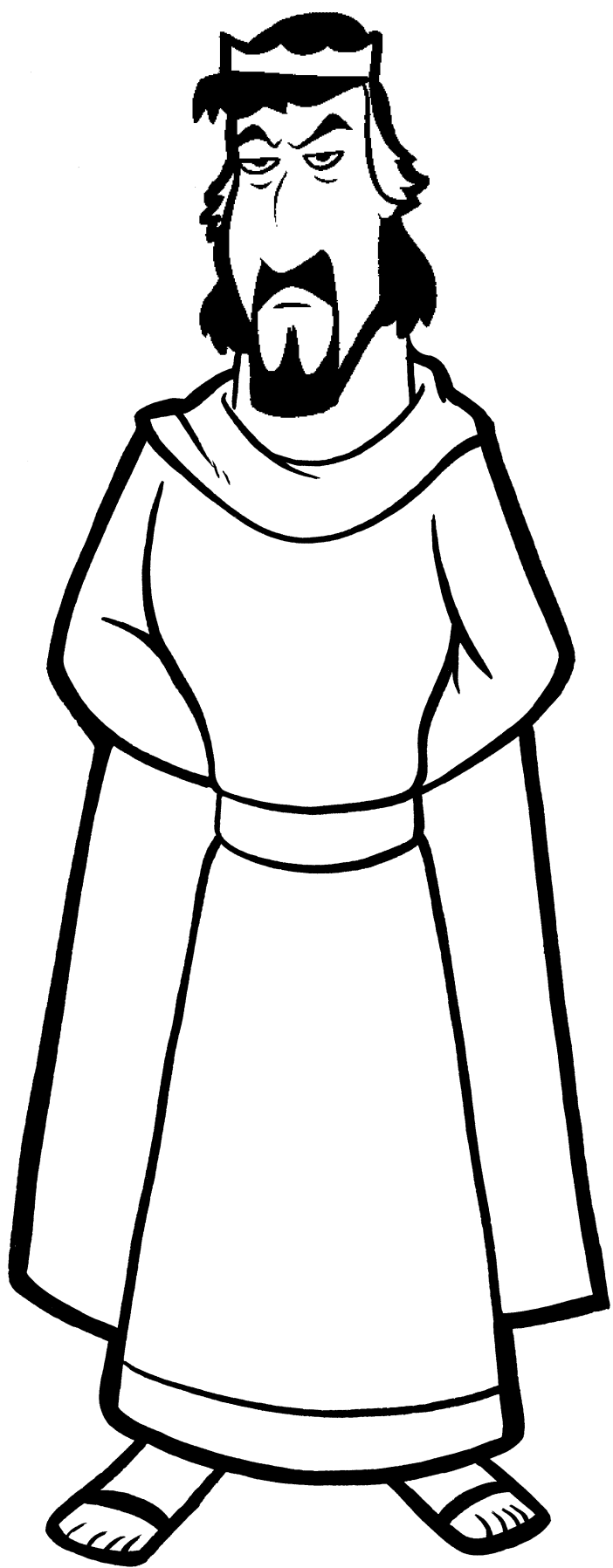
In what ways has Christ taught you through your enemies?

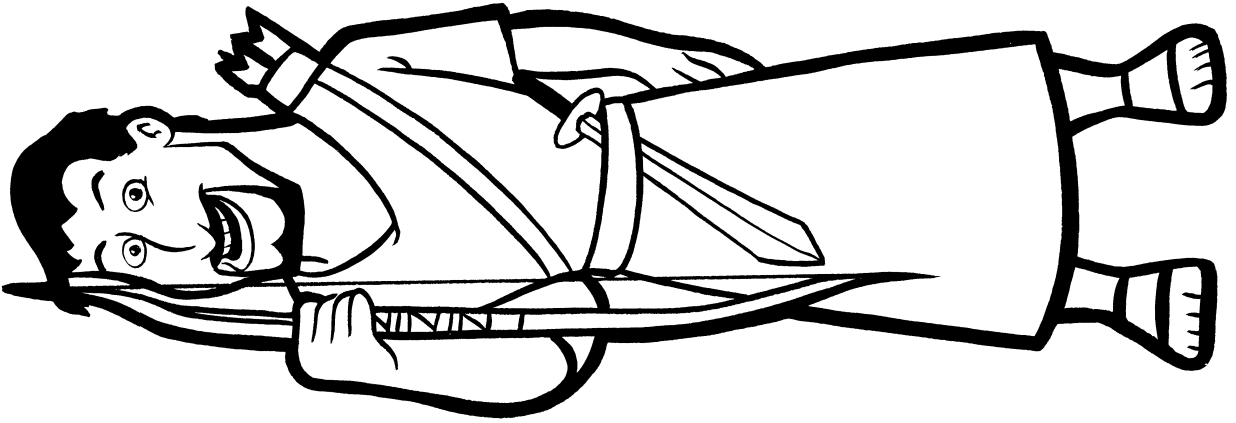
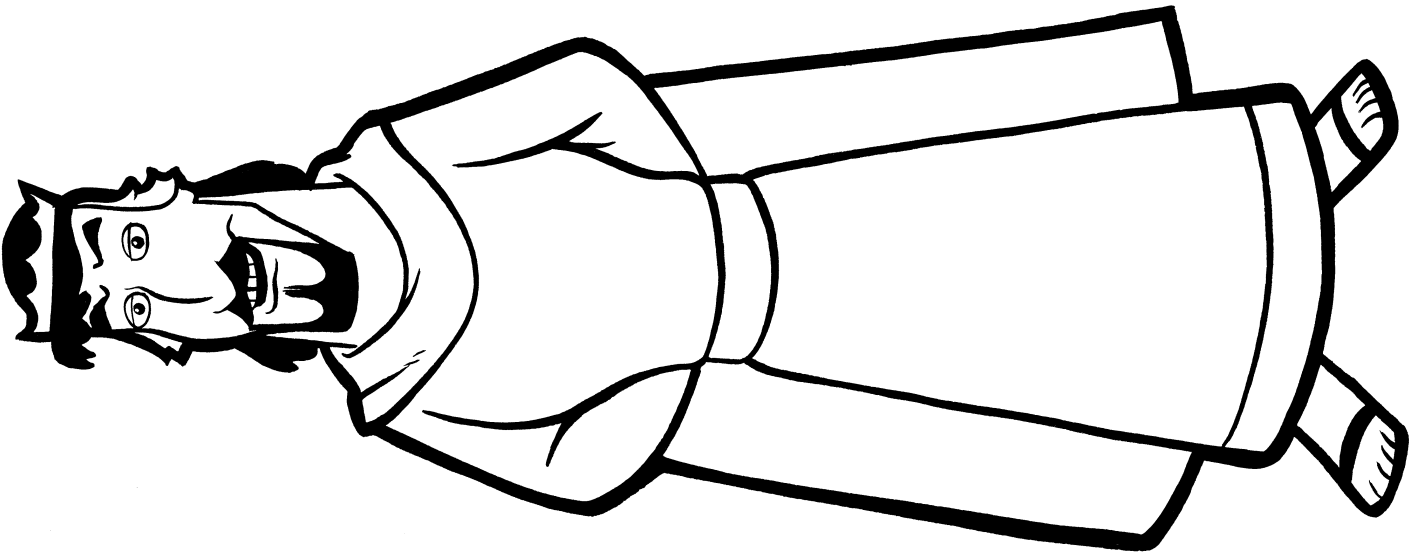
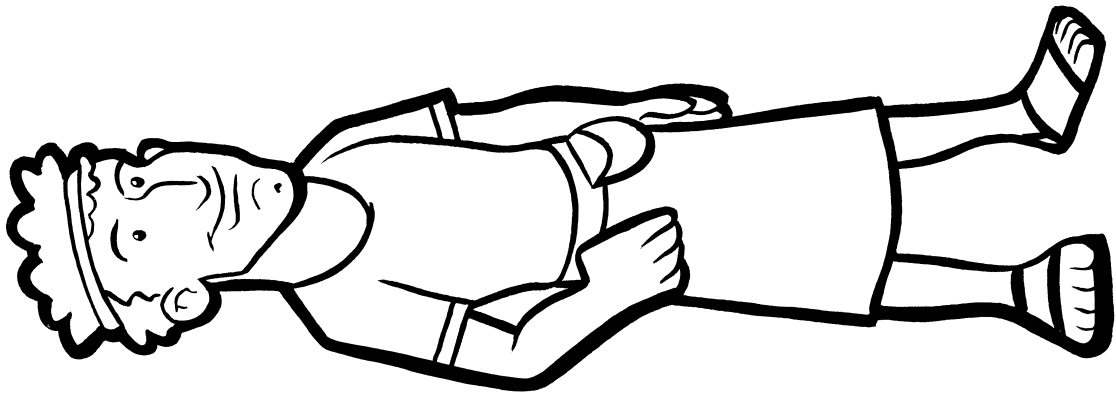
In what ways has Christ taught you through your friends?

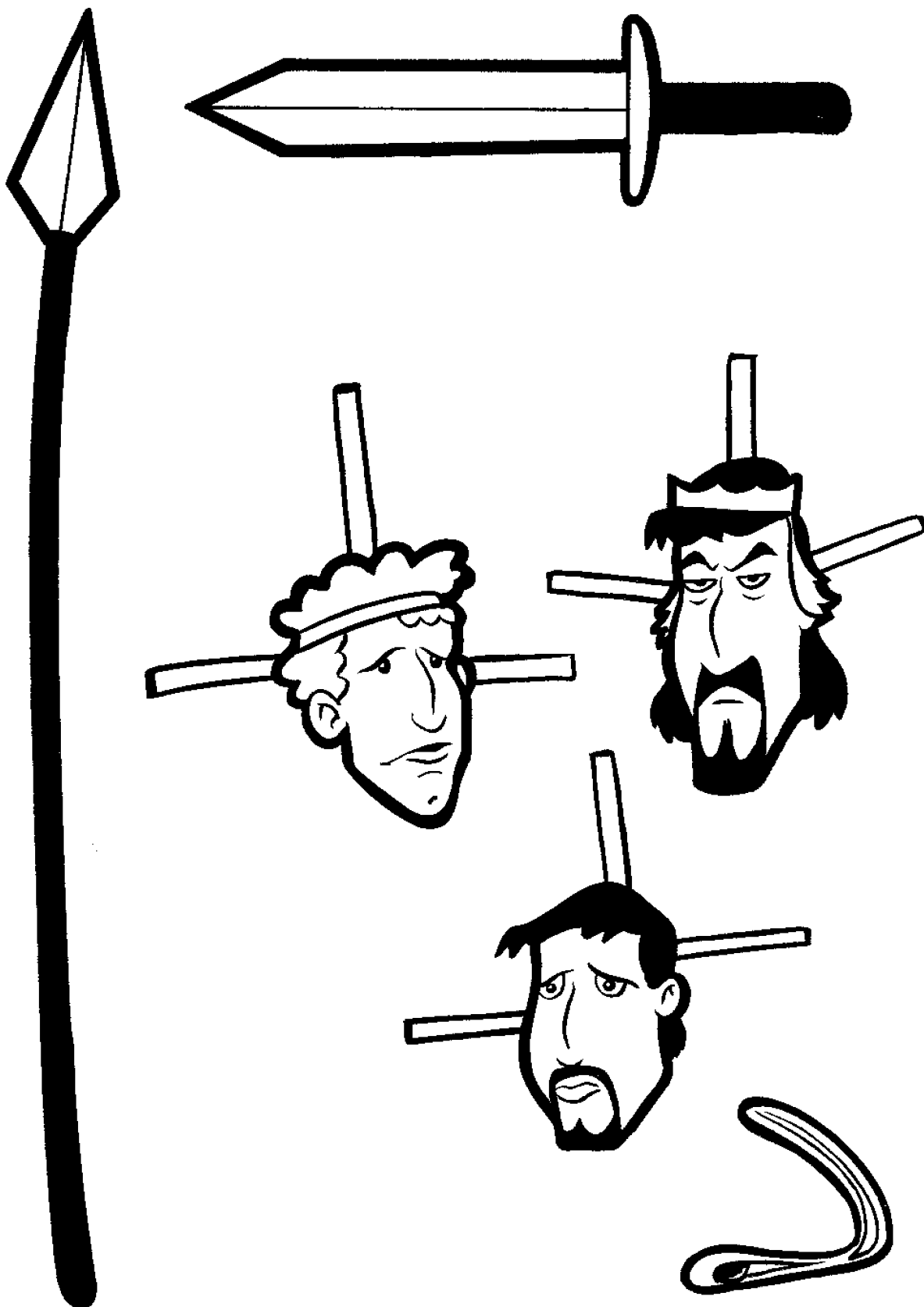
In these relationships, what characteristics has Christ been strengthening in you?

PRAYER

Thank Christ for being a friend that sticks closer than a brother and for using the people in your life to make you a stronger Christian. Thank Him, too, that He cares about your problems and joys and is making all things work together for good. Don't you agree that He is a wonderful friend?









“The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Samuel 18:1b).



“Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt” (1 Samuel 18:3–4).

