

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DAVID: A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

WEEK 3

SERMON RECAP

In his sermon, Aaron McClary took a moment to reflect on why we are studying David's life. In looking at a man after God's own heart, it is our goal to pursue God's heart in our own life. This week we looked at friendships because a heart after God's is a heart that loves others. Aaron prayed that God would bring someone to mind that He wants us to love better in light of the four marks of friendship; commitment, sacrifice, vulnerability, and loyalty. We see these reflected in David's friendship with Jonathan in 1 Samuel. God designed us with relational needs and Christ modeled that with his disciples. A heart after God's is a heart that loves others.

GET STARTED

- Aaron started the sermon with a game of "raise your hand if..." Some of the questions were tame, but others pointed to the crazy shenanigans we get into with our friends. **Share the craziest thing you've done with your friends. Were you the instigator? How did you get lured into the crazy? Does anyone else know about it?**

TAKE IT IN

- **What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?**

TALK IT OVER

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4

- God designed us for relationships. When David and Jonathan met, they instantly knew they were going to be the best of friends. God brings people into our life for a reason. **Have you ever had a friend where you met and instantly knew God had given them to you? How could you tell the friendship was different?**

Read 1 Samuel 19:1-7

- Jonathan sacrificed a lot for his friendship with David. In these verses we see him defying his father to defend his friend. Being a godly friend isn't always easy, but God's plans are always better than ours. **Have you ever had a friend sacrifice for you? How did that reveal not only theirs, but God's love for you? Have you ever sacrificed for a friend? What helped you obey the Spirit's call to love your friend in that way?**
- We see that Jonathan was putting everything on the line. He had to realize that God's anointing of David would lead to his abnegation of the throne, yet he still loved David without jealousy or resentment. **Is there something you have been unwilling to sacrifice? Take this time to pray as a group for God to help you let go and love others the way God designed.**

Read 1 Samuel 20:1-4

- In these verses, we see David and Jonathan in a little fight. David knows Saul is trying to kill him, but Jonathan doesn't believe him at first. David then takes an oath to convince Jonathan that he is telling the truth. From that point on, Jonathan believes David and asks how he can help. They were vulnerable with one another and didn't let this moment ruin their friendship. They worked through it and stuck by one another. **Has a friend ever been honest with you about something, but you didn't believe them at first? Have you ever had to convince a friend of your honesty? How can you depend on God to help you work through disagreements with your friends?**
- A heart that loves others needs to be loved by others. Vulnerability is not always easy, but it is a big mark of godly friendships. To be vulnerable we have to acknowledge our need, ask for what we need, and then allow someone to actually give it to you. **What step of vulnerability is hardest for you? We often want to be on the giving side of vulnerability and not the receiving end. What is one step you can take to be more vulnerable with your friends?**

Read John 15:12-17

- In these verses, Jesus talks about four marks of friendship: commitment, sacrifice, vulnerability, and loyalty, with the overarching trait of love. **Which mark of friendship is easiest for you? Which mark of friendship do you need to grow in? How can you hold each other accountable to grow in godly friendships?**

LIVE IT OUT

As a group, make a pact to pursue godly friendships. Make a commitment to your group that even when things get messy you won't run away. Be willing to sacrifice for one another. Work on being vulnerable and allowing others to help you. Remain loyal no matter what life brings your way. Take time to pray over this new season for your group and the godly friendships that will blossom when you love others the way God has first loved you.

Memorize:

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you." **John 15:12**