

**Parents:** The Bible tells us that Jonathan, King Saul's son, loved David as himself and even gave David the clothes off his back. What can we learn about this deep friendship between David and Jonathan? Let's take a look at 1 Samuel in the Old Testament.



**Read: 1 Samuel 18: 1-4, 1 Samuel 19:4-7, 1 Samuel 20: 34-42**

1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. 2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. 3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 4 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. 19 Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David 2 and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. 3 I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out."

**1 Samuel 19:4-7**

4 Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul, his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. 5 He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?"

6 Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be put to death."

7 So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.

**1 Samuel 20: 34-42**

34 Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the feast he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David.

35 In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him, 36 and he said to the boy, "Run and find the arrows I shoot." As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. 37 When the boy came to the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, "Isn't the arrow beyond you?" 38 Then he shouted, "Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!" The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master. 39 (The boy knew nothing about all this; only Jonathan and David knew.) 40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and said, "Go, carry them back to town."

41 After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.

42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

**Discuss:** We read that Jonathan *loved* or *disliked* David? That's right, Jonathan loved David! What did Jonathan give David? A promise as well as his robe, tunic, sword, bow, and belt. Jonathan's father, Saul, had a problem with David and wanted to end his life. What did Jonathan tell his father about David? *Jonathan reminded Saul that David had not wronged him; in fact, all that David had done was good for King Saul and the whole community.* What can we learn from this? *Friends defend and talk about us in a good way in front of others. We should build our friends up, not tear them down.*



Even though King Saul made an oath, or promise, not to try to harm David he broke it. Jonathan was upset and he warned David by shooting an arrow into a field. When Jonathan shot the arrow beyond his helper he said, "Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!" What do you think that meant? *Go David! Run away! Saul wants to harm you.* The two friends were able to say goodbye. They had a special friendship with each other in the name of the Lord. Good friends encourage us, build us up and point us to who? *Jesus.*

**Key Point: We Encourage One Another in Jesus**

We Encourage (Point to yourself and others, then, with both hands out pretend like waxing a car)  
One Another in Jesus (Point to others, next, tap finger in middle opposite palm)

**Family Activity:** Color the sheet included. Think of ways you can encourage your friends this week.

**Prayer:** Dear God, We praise You for giving us friends. Help us encourage, build up, and point our friends to You. We thank and love You. Amen.

**Next Steps:** Memorize 1 Samuel 20:42a - Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord."



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### **David and Jonathan**

Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord." 1 Samuel 20:42a