

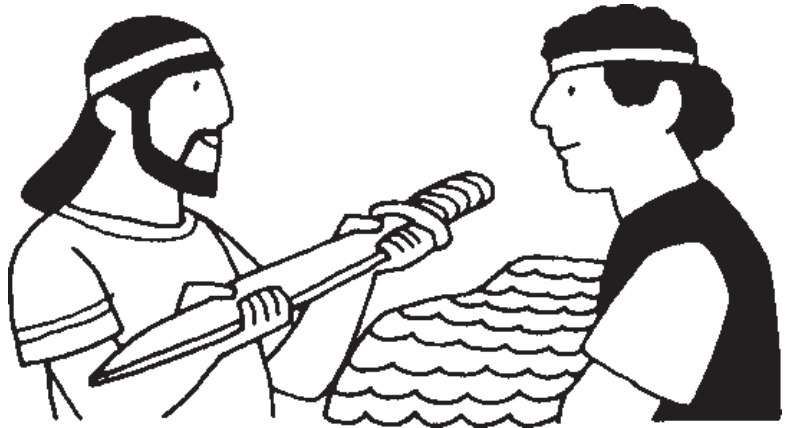
LOVE

LESSON 2

Loving our Friends

Perhaps you have a very close friend whom you enjoy spending time with and talking to. Friendship is a wonderful and necessary thing. But human relationships are not perfect and there will be times when even our closest friendships go through difficult times. This is where love comes in because love overlooks the hard parts and remembers the good and continues to be steadfast.

The story of David and Jonathan is an excellent example of a friendship that was loyal even though at times this loyalty was tested.



David was the youngest in a large family. He was the youngest of eight brothers and stayed at home looking after the sheep while some of his older brothers fought in the Israelite army. David seemed to enjoy being a shepherd however, and kept himself busy with his harp composing songs of praise to God.

One day, however, his life changed. The prophet Samuel came to his town and anointed David to be the next king of Israel. Saul, who was the present king, was not being faithful to God and would soon be removed. David was probably very surprised by the anointing. Saul had a son named Jonathan who should have been the next king if Saul was to be removed. By all we know of Jonathan, he appears to have been a faithful man. When Jonathan discovered that God had anointed David as the next king, he didn't get angry or jealous. Perhaps, once he saw what a strong and faithful leader David could be when he went out against the giant Goliath, he realized that David would be a great king.

When Saul had first met David, he had loved him and made him his armour-bearer. But when David showed himself to be a better man than Saul, his jealousy was aroused. He told Jonathan and all his servants that they should kill David. Jonathan warned David of this and he tried hard to reason with his father and speak well of David to him. For a time Saul listened to his son, but his jealousy was stronger. Finally, he even tried to kill Jonathan for this loyalty to David.

David had to leave and go into hiding. He was very sad to leave Jonathan who had become such a precious friend. Sadly, he never saw Jonathan again. Saul and his sons were killed in battle. But David did not forget his promise of friendship with Jonathan and when he became king he sought out and looked after Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son.

Student Name: _____

WORKSHEET 2: LOVING OUR FRIENDS

ANSWERS FROM THE BIBLE:

What did Jonathan give to David? (1 Samuel 18:4) _____

What promise did they make to each other? (1 Samuel 20:8,14,15,42) _____

WORD STUDY:

"charity"

This is just another word for love translated from the Greek word "agape". Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Make a list of everything that love does and does not do. Beside each concept, write down the opposite idea.

APPLICATION:

Friendships are usually a good thing. But they can be bad if the friendship encourages wrong behaviour. Think about Jezebel (1 Kings 21) and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). What went wrong in these relationships? What are signs that a friendship is a good one?
