

# A DEEPER FRIENDSHIP

Better Days | Family Devotion | Week 4

## The Passage

I Samuel 18:1-5, 20:1-42

## Questions

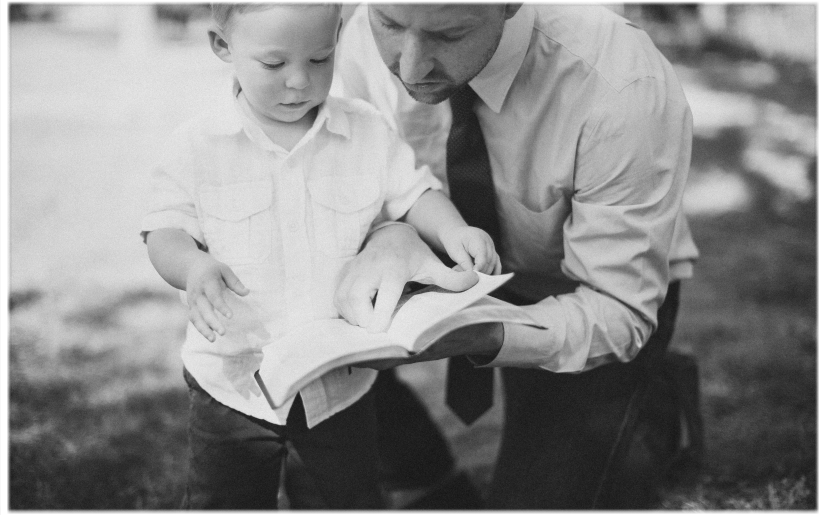
Who is your best friend?  
Tell us about them.

Why do you think  
Jonathan was so drawn  
to David?

How can our friendships  
begin to look more like  
that of Jonathan and  
David?

## Prayer

God... Thank you for  
Your sacrifice. You  
walked to the cross to  
save us as the greatest  
friend anyone could ever  
have. Show us how we  
can care for the people  
in our lives as You care  
for us. We want Your  
fingerprints all over our  
friendships. Help us to  
be a family that  
consistently serves those  
around us.



## The Story

David is the talk of the nation. Young, handsome, dashing, victorious in battle, talented.... everything anyone could want in a leader. He could do no wrong in the eyes of the people. But more importantly, the hand of God is visible on his life. King Saul, feeling David's popularity threatening his own prestige, held a growing resentment toward the young man, even as David served Saul daily in the palace. You can almost sense just how awkward that room must have felt! But from this tension, an unlikely friendship emerged. Jonathan, the prince of Israel and Saul's eldest son, felt himself drawn to David and they became close friends. But what makes this story all the more amazing is that David was actually taking Jonathan's throne. As the eldest son, he would have been the next king of Israel. But God had chosen David, leaving Jonathan out of the picture. Yet time and again throughout this story, we see Jonathan protecting and caring for David, even as his father tried to kill the young man. This relationship is a picture of true friendship. This passage shows two people who genuinely care for one another, no matter what the situation. But Jesus has been an even greater friend, a friend who gave His all so that we could be saved. A friend who cast aside His own life for our survival. Are you and I that type of friend? Do we genuinely care about those around us, placing their needs and goals ahead of our own? This is the standard we get of true friendship from 1 Samuel 20. How can we follow their lead in our own lives?