

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – July 24, 2022**

**Theme:** Lessons from the Life of David    **Topic:** The Strength of True and Loyal Friendship

**Main Text:** 1 Samuel 20:1-42

**Key verse:** 1 Samuel 20:17; *“Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.” (NKJV)*

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**INTRODUCTION:** Many would agree that truthfulness and loyalty are vital ingredients in relationships, however, these qualities are painfully hard to find, so much so that the average person might conclude that it is impossible to expect true and loyal friendships. At some point or the other, most of us have experienced disloyalty and/or have been disloyal ourselves. Today’s passage looks at the deep friendship that existed between two friends, Jonathan, and David. Their relationship teaches us what true loyal friendship looks like and that it is possible for sinful mortals to be true loyal friends.

1. **Read 1 Samuel 20: 8, 12-16,23,42; 23:16-18. (a) What do you see is the source of the strength of the friendship between Jonathan and David? (b) In what practical ways do you see this play out in their relationship? (c) What would a similar relationship look like in a city like Lagos?**

Jonathan’s loyalty to David was tested in virtually every way. Just imagine how painful it must have been for Jonathan to realize that the father he respected and adored wanted his best friend, David, dead. It was hard for him to come to terms with that fact. It put him in a tight spot, having to choose loyalty to his own family, or to his friend. In this fallen world, loyalty to one person can often require us to be disloyal to another, and it is especially painful when we must be disloyal to our own relatives. But Jonathan knew that God had left his father Saul (1 Samuel 20:13) and so was looking ahead to the future (1 Sam. 20:14–15). And in fact, many years later, David would make the famous statement, *“Is there anyone left from the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for the sake of Jonathan?”* (2 Samuel 9:1)

2. **(a) Read 1 Samuel 19:1-5; 20:4,30-33, 35-42 and identify some specific evidence of Jonathan’s loyalty to his friend, David (b) In 2 Samuel 9:1, David was ready to show kindness to anyone from the family of Saul for the sake of Jonathan. What does that teach us about the importance of loyalty to one’s friends? (c) Which of the qualities that you look for in a friend do you exemplify, and which do you need to grow in?**

Oaths and vows are employed to give extra reassurance of one’s commitment. In 1 Samuel 20, Jonathan reassures David of his commitment to their friendship with many oaths. Those vows must have served as anchors for David helping him to continue trusting during those tough days and years of fleeing from king Saul. Having vowed to protect David, Jonathan followed through on his commitment, even at great personal cost (1 Sam. 20:24–42). In their friendship, David and Jonathan teach us that true loyal friendship is sacrificing- putting the other’s interest above our own and keeping our promises even to our own hurt. (1 Samuel 20:30-38). And *“God also bound Himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that He would never change His mind.”* (Hebrews 6:17 NLT)

3. **(a) What parallels do you see in what Jonathan was willing to do, and did for his friend David with what God, in Christ did for sinful man? (b) If the vow Jonathan and David bound themselves with was so binding that David was ready to show God’s kindness to a descendant of Saul (2 Samuel 9:3), how binding do you think God’s oath is in our relationship with God and with fellow believers? (c) What evidence/attribute of this binding covenant would you like to see more of in the body of Christ?**

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**Prayer:** *Father, thank You for the example of Jonathan and David in showing us what true and loyal friendship looks like. Thank You that Your loyalty to us is even stronger than that between David and Jonathan. Help us to be true and loyal to You and to one another in the body of Christ so that all men may know that You are in our midst. In Jesus name, Amen.*