



ORDINARY.



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide

1 Samuel 18:1-4 | July 27, 2025

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I. Introduction to this Study

This week in our *Ordinary* series, we turn to **Jonathan**, the son of King Saul and one of the most loyal friends in the Bible. Jonathan's friendship with David is marked by humility, courage, and deep commitment to God's will. At great personal risk, Jonathan chooses to stand by David—God's chosen king—rather than cling to his own royal future. His life reflects the kind of sacrificial friendship Jesus calls us to live out. In Jonathan, we see a glimpse of the faithful love that ultimately points us to Christ, our truest friend.

II. Connecting with One Another

Think of one of the most meaningful friendships you've had—what made it special or lasting?

III. Study the Text

Read 1 Samuel 18:1–5

- *What stands out to you about Jonathan's immediate connection to David?*
- *What do Jonathan's gifts (robe, armor, weapons) represent?*
- *Why would this friendship have been surprising or risky, given Jonathan's role as the king's son?*

Read 1 Samuel 19:1–7 and 1 Samuel 20

- *How does Jonathan intercede for David with Saul?*
- *What does this reveal about Jonathan's character and loyalty?*
- *In chapter 20, what emotions and commitments do David and Jonathan express?*
- *How does Jonathan balance loyalty to his father and faithfulness to God's anointed?*

Read 1 Samuel 23:15–18

- *What does Jonathan do when he learns David is in danger?*
- *How does he encourage David spiritually ("strengthened his hand in God")?*
- *What do you admire about Jonathan's words and actions in this scene?*



Read John 15:12–17

- According to Jesus, what is the mark of true friendship?
- How does Jonathan exemplify the kind of love Jesus describes?
- How does Jesus go even further than Jonathan in his friendship with us?

Read 2 Samuel 9:1–13

- What does David's desire to show kindness "for Jonathan's sake" reveal about the depth of their friendship?
- What do you notice about Mephibosheth's situation and how David responds to him?
- In what ways does David extend grace beyond obligation?

Reflect and Respond

- In what relationships are you called to show more loyalty, humility, or sacrifice?
- Have you ever had to support someone even when it cost you something?
- How does Jonathan's friendship challenge our ideas of power, legacy, and self-interest?
- Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." How have you experienced the beauty of unity in friendship or community? What helps create that kind of bond among people of faith?
- Where is God inviting you to be a faithful friend—to stand by someone, speak truth, or offer encouragement?

IV. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Thank God for the gift of friendship and those who have encouraged your faith.
- Ask God to shape you into a friend like Jonathan—loyal, courageous, and humble.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to help you show the kind of love Jesus describes in John 15.
- Pray for any friends who are going through a difficult season and may need your support.

V. Digging Deeper

For additional reflection:

- **Proverbs 17:17** – What does this proverb say about the role of a friend in hard times?
- **Philippians 2:3-4** – How does humility strengthen friendships?
- **Romans 12:10** – How can we show honor in our relationships?

