

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"FRIENDSHIP DONE RIGHT: DAVID AND JONATHAN" AUGUST 7 & 8

SERIES OVERVIEW:

You are NOT disqualified from real life with God, even though life is messy. Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking we are beyond hope when we find ourselves battling the same sins and temptations. Having a clear understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus means that we are forgiven, walking in grace and NOT perfect. We are a work in progress, and so are the people around us. As we learn to know God better and better, He equips us with everything we need to live in His will and be pleasing in His sight. (Hebrews 13:21)

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

OPENING PRAYER:

About 2 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read

Proverbs 18:24 "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who stays closer than a brother." While certain friendships may feel like they'll last a lifetime, circumstances can strain relationships. What we see in Jonathon and David's friendship points us to the truth of Jesus words, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-13



August 7 & 8, 2021

Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God.
- 1 Samuel 23:16 NLT

Reflect 

Read the full passage in your Bible - 1 Samuel 23:7-18.
What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might God be calling you to repent of or realign in your life?

What would acting upon this or obeying God look like? Be curious...and then do it.

DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

3

INTRO QUESTION:

About 10 minutes

What attributes of a good friend are most desirable to you?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read the entire scripture passage aloud as a group and discuss the questions on the card above. Use the [Discussion Help sidebar](#) to encourage deeper discussion.

In what ways does Jonathan encourage David? (1 Samuel 23:16-17) Who encourages you in the Lord? How? In what specific circumstances do you need encouragement today?

See 1 Samuel 18:1, 20:17 and Matthew 22:39. Jonathan and David give us an example of loving your neighbor as yourself. Is there someone in your life with whom you provide this type of relationship? In what ways is it easy to live out Jesus' command? In what ways is it difficult?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 15 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps listed. Check in next time on how it went! What opportunities did God provide to you to try this out?

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out

Imagine what it might look like to be someone who helps others find strength in God! If this honestly does not feel like who you are, pray that God would transform you. But if you can imagine this, choose someone, make a plan and give it a go this week.

Pray

Invite God to show you the state of your friendships, including friendships that he might want to deepen.

Who is the friend in your life who needs encouragement? Ask God. Then pray for them and reach out.

Thank God for the friends he's given you who help you find strength in God.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 5 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Close with a time of popcorn prayer.