

DISCUSSION NOTES

MARCH 15, 2020

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Samuel 20:1-42. Make 5-7 observations. Who is present? What emotions are shown? What is surprising? What action takes place? What stands out most to you?
2. In his sermon, Pastor Jeff mentioned that variations of the Hebrew term *hesed* are used more than 250 times in the Old Testament. Based on his description, how would you describe the meaning and importance of the word *hesed*?

Read Exodus 34:4-8. How does God reveal himself to Moses? How does God use the phrase "steadfast love" (from the Hebrew term *hesed*) in this description? Why does this say about the nature of God?

3. In verses 12-17, why should we see Jonathan's actions as surprising and counter-cultural? What do his actions reveal about where he has placed his trust?
4. In verses 30-34, we see Saul's response to Jonathan. Why specifically do you think Saul is so upset (see verse 31)? How is Saul's reaction a demonstration of his rebellion against God (see also 1 Samuel 15:26-28)?
5. In verses 41-42, we see the climax of this story. What stirs your heart about this friendship and about their bond with one another?

LIVING IT OUT

6. Dale Davis wrote about this chapter, "Its message is: In confusion and trouble, you take yourself to the one person who has made a covenant with you. In David's disintegrating world there was yet a space of sanity, one refuge still intact — Jonathan. There was covenant; there David could expect *hesed*. There was kindness in a raw world." How do you feel about the statement above? How important is a friend you can count on in times of uncertainty?
7. Read Philippians 2:5-8. In what ways do the actions of Jonathan foreshadow the actions of Jesus? How is Jesus "greater" than Jonathan? Or, to say it another way, how is Jesus an even better friend to us than Jonathan was to David?
8. Sometimes we think of God as our friend, but how does the covenant promise of God to us go beyond even what we normally think of friendship?
9. In verse 42, Jonathan tells David, "Go in peace..." because of the covenant they share. Can you think of some New Testament verses that describe the peace we experience because of the covenant we share in Jesus?
10. How does God's steadfast love and grace give you strength and security to walk in uncertain times? How can we communicate this wonderful aspect of the gospel to others?
11. What is one lesson from this study that you want to remember and incorporate into your life?