



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Familiarize yourself with 1 Samuel 20 this week by reading it several times. What relational dynamics do you see playing out between Saul, David & Jonathan? Do you see any parallels to your relationships today?

Growing up, did you have any secret communication techniques or signals among your friends?

Whose situation do you most identify with: Saul, trying to preserve his own self interests? David, trying to escape personal danger along with an assortment of conflicts of interest? Or, Jonathan, caught in the middle, forced to choose between family & friend?

Read 1 Samuel 20:2 & Proverbs 27:6. Do you see Jonathan's reluctance to believe David's version of what's happening as a virtue, or lack of loyalty? Why? Have you ever been in a situation like this where it was difficult to believe your friend? What is your loyalty threshold limit with friends?

Read 1 Samuel 20:30-34. Do you think Jonathan was disloyal to his father by choosing David over him?

Have you ever had to walk through a time of uncertainty with a friend? Or, when did a friend do the same for you? How did you support one another during that season? What would you do differently next time?

Read Philippians 2:6-8. What questions do you have about Jesus' actions & motivations in regards to his sacrifice on the cross? Have you ever responded to the gospel? If not, what questions do you have for the group about "being a Christian"

How can Sunridge be a church that risks our own safety for those who find themselves in desperate situations? Conclude your meeting by praying about this as a group.



DAVID 1 Samuel 20

What did I do?

David is on the run from King Saul

20:1 Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father that he is trying to take my life?"

What did I do? A question we all ask. Used to it being less than genuine, as in, I'm thinking of my excuse on the fly! (kids) That is to say, it's not my fault.

But, this is legit. CONTEXT:

1 Samuel 18:7 And the women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." 9 And Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.

What did I do? What's packed into that question? Unfairness of the situation, how he's been treated. I deserve differently. Which says something about worldview - it should be fair. Or, says much about perspective of God - he's always fair, rewards right...

Don't know exactly what he was thinking, true - but what would you be thinking? I did the right thing, and I'm the one hiding in the field. The guy who did me wrong thing, sleeps in a palace. I left my family, I listened to some old prophet who filled my head with a bunch of dreams. I served the king, I cared for his needs - I risked my life, when no one else would. I'm in a field, he's in a feather-bed in the palace. I have anxiety, he has wine, women, comfort.

What did I do? What you did David is you did something heroic, something Saul was afraid to do, you did something for the sake of others - at your peril, & Saul knew it. Irony: What David did worked against him: skills, dedication, bravery...

What did I do? Have you ever asked a question like that? Maybe no one threw a spear at you, or tried to take your life. But, been good partner - blindsided by divorce. Your business partner cheated you. Your kids, are far from God - in spite of your nightly James Dobson family devotions. You've taken good care of yourself, now you have cancer. You're trying to do the whole dating thing right: purity, spirituality, - you sit at home. Fundamental unfairness to your situation? No good deed goes unpunished?

What did I do? Is there even a satisfactory answer to the question? Not really. We could come up with a lofty, 10,000' level answer. Our need for explanation: Disasters. We want to figure it out. Make sense of it all - frequently our answers are wrong. Aspire to have the answers - incredibly more so as a Pastor.

Not saying there aren't answers, just that we don't know them. Trusting God does not necessarily equal understanding God.

God does not offer David answers, but see what he does do:

20:1 Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan

David went. Guys, he asked for help. (Directions?) BTW: He doesn't have answers either. (I would have written the story Jonathan gives the answer, ah-hah.)



David had a wingman: broseph, bruthah from another muthah, gee-dog, pal, dude, companion, blood, home-slice, partner, homey, bestie, teammate, mate, bud, nizzle, comrade, amigo, my man, possie... and, female iterations of such as well?

Today, not seeking answers to the why question, and not necessarily solutions, but a way through life's inequities. Going to look unfairness right in the face, acknowledge & see what difference it makes to have one to travel with.

What can a wingman do for you? Stick with passage vs. rif?

PRAY

2 "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without confiding in me. Why should he hide this from me? It's not so!"

Not how I would have written the story. If I was David, I would want my friend to believe ME. Side with me.

1. A wingman will ask you hard questions.

Imagine how emotionally charged this conversation was? Sometimes, friendships don't survive this, which keeps our relationships shallow.

Pr 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted

Jonathan requires convincing. (Jonathan may be unaware of Saul's recent attempt on David's life, 19:9-24, and believing his father's oath in 19:6.) Jonathan is caught in the middle, still trying to distinguish between what people do vs. what they say.

Truth & Time don't run on parallel rails. Ever notice you can't make somebody believe something?

3 But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."

4 Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."

2. A wingman will stand with you.

Even if it costs them something. The cost to Jonathan? While uncertain? What is blind loyalty?

Proverbs 18:24 there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

This is a real test for both of them. How do we stand with each other, while we seek to understand? Difficult: human beings are pack animals. Organizations. Labor-Mgmt.

SUMMARY 5-29: There is a festival with dinner party, at which, David will obviously not be attending. Jonathan will provide a plausible excuse as to why he's not there - and observe his father's response. He will relay the info to David (who is hiding in a field) by telling his "arrow retriever" where he is in proximity to the arrows.



30 Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you? 31 As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!"

30) Bible cussing. Saul calls for the "code red" (Colonel Jessup/A Few Good Men) Saul attempts to force Jonathan's loyalty: through family loyalty & personal loss. Have you ever felt bullied to take sides in an issue? That is not your friend.

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

We will find ourselves in position of conflicted loyalties, how do we choose? You have to admire Jonathan here. He is a discerning friend.

3. A wingman will defend you.

32 "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father. 33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.

Saul is cray-cray. (Jonathan has his ah-hah moment.) He sees it now. Can you imagine what this was like for him? How conflicted he must be. His own skin/future - compared to David. Jonathan is thoughtfully (prayerfully) loyal to the right thing.

SUMMARY OF 35-40: Jonathan communicates that indeed David's life is in danger. It's not good news.

41 After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together--but David wept the most.

(Women's Retreat?)

42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants for ever.'"

4. A wingman connects you to God.

Future king is hiding in a field. Falls in on face in complete desperation, he has nowhere to go. He can't go back. (Can you?) David, goes away - poignant moment. Taken from home, to palace, does the right thing & is punished for it.

The Lord is witness - which says that the actions they are taking, the posture of how "we" will deal with this, is saturated in their understanding of and commitment to God.

When we find ourselves in a pickle, with no real satisfactory answers, what can we do? What were his other options: Take over? War? Jonathan does what only can be done: I am with you, God is with you. The ministry of THE CHURCH? The answer is not in our friends, what the actions they take can connect us to God.

Two men, standing in a field, (one of his own volition/solidarity) both with insurmountable challenges - all they have is the bond between them. Neither can really change the situation, or the outcome. Neither has a satisfactory answer. What they can do, is lock arms & trust God.



Life can strip us down to this, there is nothing left. No bank account, no fall back plan, nothing lined up....just faith & friend. There is something precious about being in that place, really stripped down to the essentials. We have no place else to go...Are you there? God offers presence.

1. Do you find yourself identifying most with: David, I need a friend. Or, Jonathan, I need to be a friend today? Enjoying the palace or hiding in a field?

David: desperate? Or, Jonathan: what you have vs what God might be asking you to risk (offer presence)

Group life. Not join a group, but be connected. David had a pre-established relationship with Jonathan. Emergencies are not the time to test your equipment.

2. Jonathan & Jesus? I empathize with David, but admire Jonathan. The series is about David, but the stand out is Jonathan. He looks a lot like Jesus here, standing with us, in spite of the risk/loss.

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross!

3. Our faith is at risk during these seasons. 3 periods: Orientation – Disorientation - Reorientation (Walter Brueggemann) When we lose our faith.

LEFTOVERS:

Pr 19:4* Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.

Pr 19:6* Many curry favour with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts.

Pr 22:11* He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.

Pr 27:9* Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel. 10 Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you--better a neighbour nearby than a brother far away.

Pr 14:20* The poor are shunned even by their neighbours, but the rich have many friends.

Pr 17:9* He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Pr 19:4* Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.

Pr 19:7 A poor man is shunned by all his relatives--how much more do his friends avoid him! Though he pursues them with pleading, they are nowhere to be found.

Pr 22:24* Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered,

Othello or Mockingbird?

Ec 4:10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up.