

## **David and Jonathan**

MEMORY VERSE: There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

SCRIPTURES: I Samuel 20

AIM: To teach what godly friendship looks like.

King Saul was extremely jealous of David and he thought of ways to kill him. He tried to have David killed by making him a captain and sending him to war. But God always protected David. And with every battle he won, he became more popular with the people.

Jonathan and David were very good friends. One day they had a secret meeting. David did not know why Saul was angry at him. So he asked Jonathan, "Why is your father determined to kill me?"

Jonathan answered "He hasn't told me that he wants to kill you. But my father never does anything without telling me. It couldn't be true.

"He knows that we're best friends," replied David. "That's why he hasn't told you. But the truth is I'm only a step away from death."

Jonathan said, "Tell me what I can do to help."

David told Jonathan, "Tomorrow, instead of going to dinner with your father, I'll hide in the field. When he asks where I am, you tell him I went to visit my family. If he says, 'Fine!' you will know all is well. But if he is angry and loses his temper, you will know he is determined to kill me."

So Jonathan agreed to help David find out if he was still in danger. Then they promised each other that no matter what happened, they would always be friends.

The next day, when Jonathan was dining with the king, Saul saw that David's chair was empty and asked Jonathan, "Where is David?"

"He won't be having dinner with us," Jonathan answered. "I told him that he could go spend the celebration with his family instead."

Saul was very angry. He yelled at him, "As long as David is alive you will never be king. Now go and get him so I can kill him."

Jonathan stood up for his friend. "But what has he done?" he demanded. "Why should he be put to death?"

Trembling with rage, Saul seized his spear and threw it at his own son. But his aim was bad and Jonathan left the table very upset. The next morning he secretly got the message to David that Saul wanted to kill him. When the coast was clear, David came out of his hiding place. The two friends hugged each other and cried. They both knew that David must go away and they might never see each other again. They promised to stay friends for the rest of their lives.

Jonathan, who trusted in God's ways, was a true friend; he was willing to risk his own life and position for the sake of a friend. Jesus has called us His friends and he gave up His life for all who would put their faith in Him.