

“Choosing Friends that Help Your Walk with God”
I Samuel 18-20
Sept. 16, 2012

Dysfunctional Friends...

1. Have “control” issues. (18:2)
2. Continually compete for attention. (18:7-9, 12, 14, 28-29)
3. Fail to practice self-control. (18:10-11; 19:9-10; 20:33)
4. Cannot be trusted. (18:19, 21)

Healthy Friends...

1. They make a commitment to one another based on love. (18:13)
2. They take care of each other. (18:4)
3. They give clear words of support. (19:4)
4. The Lord is the center of the relationship. (19:20-23; 20:23, 42)

Application:

1. Evaluate the kinds of relationships you presently have. Are they Biblically healthy based on the examples found in this passage?
2. What needs to change to strengthen your relationships? How can the Lord be more in the center of your relationships?

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
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1. Though Christ-followers should love everyone and reach out to everyone, wisdom is needed in choosing friends. Was this a challenge when you were younger? Why do youth sometimes struggle in picking good friends?

2. Dysfunctional friends have certain common issues that can be identified. Saul's relationship with David is an example of an unhealthy friendship. Read I Sam. 18:2. What is the first problem in an unhealthy friendship? Have you ever experienced this problem? How did you handle it?
3. Something happens with the women of the area. What do they do that creates an unhealthy response from Saul? (I Sam. 18:7-9) Why do we tend to "compete" with one another?
4. Saul also had a quick temper. The Word of God says that God gave him a "harmful spirit." (I Sam. 18:10) Review the four Biblical principles in understanding this verse.
 - James 1:13 –
 - Rev. 5:13 –
 - Eph. 4:27; 2 Cor. 4:4 –
 - Job 1:12 –
5. What did Saul do twice toward David? (I Sam. 18:11; 19:9-10) What does Solomon say about having friends with an anger problem? (Prov. 22:24-25) What was Saul trying to do? (I Sam. 20:33)
6. Discuss how important "trust" is in healthy relationships. In I Sam 18:19-21 Saul makes what kind of promise to David. What does he do instead? Why do people who claim to be friends fail to keep promises?
7. Discuss the foundation of the friendship between David and Jonathan. (I Sam. 18:1) Why is this so important? Read Eph. 5:28 and share with one another the application of this principle in healthy marriages. What did Jonathan give to David? (I Sam. 18:4)
8. Healthy friendships speak well of one another, especially when one of the friends is not present. What does Jonathan say about David? (I Sam. 19:4) Evaluate this principle in your friendships. Review Eph. 4:29 and discuss the statement –"I know my name is safe in your mouth."
9. What is the unique element of a Christian relationship? (I Sam. 18:14) Discuss what it means "The Lord was with him." (Ps. 139:7; Col. 1:27; Gen. 39:2-5) Discuss the wisdom of Psalm 1:1. Is it possible to spiritually influence people without faith? (I Sam. 19:20-23; I Cor. 14:25) Discuss the necessity of having Christ at the center of your relationships. (I Sam. 20:23, 42) What does this mean? What has to change for this to be true in your relationships?