

Character Study: Jonathan
Part 2 – Jonathan Protects David
I Samuel 18-31

What's happening?

- Because of David's popularity, Jonathan saw his father (Saul) growing jealous toward David. (18:5-16)
- Jonathan warned David of Saul's desire to kill him and encouraged him to hide. Jonathan then spoke with his father, trying to convince him that there was no reason David should be killed. (19:1-7)
- To see if Saul still wanted to kill David, David hid in a field and missed a couple meals that he normally would have eaten with Saul. Noticing he was gone, Saul became very angry and said that David must die. Jonathan tipped David off and David escaped. (20:1-42)
- Jonathan met up with David, who was hiding in the wilderness. Jonathan encouraged him and made another covenant with him before leaving. This would be the last time the good friends would ever see each other. (23:14-18)
- Shortly later, Jonathan was killed, along with his brothers, during a battle with the Philistines. (31:1-2)

What's God doing?

- > God used Jonathan as a peacemaker, an encourager and a protector of David. God gave Jonathan a loyal and trusted friend.
- > God was preparing David to be the next king over Israel. God used Jonathan in a variety of ways to keep David away from the hand of Saul.

What's to learn?

→ When his good friend David was discouraged, Jonathan encouraged him and strengthened him (23:16). How has God used you to encourage or strengthen someone? Who do you know that needs a word of encouragement today?

→ Jonathan and David were the perfect examples of friends. They looked out for each other's interests, they went the extra mile for each other, and they were a means of strength for each other. Are these traits seen in how you treat your friends?