

Home Group study: week beginning 11th July 2021

Better Together — Friendship

Have you had really good friendships in your life? Describe some adventures you may have had with friends. What difference have those friendships made to you?

Read: 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 19:1-7

Understanding

What does it mean to be 'one in spirit' with someone? And what do you think it means when it says 'Jonathon... loved him (David) as himself'? Does this phrase remind you of anything Jesus said? How feasible is it to love someone 'as yourself'?

In 1 Samuel 18:4 Jonathan gives David his tunic, sword, bow and belt. What was the significance of this? What does it tell us about the way Jonathan regarded David?

What does 1 Samuel 19:1-7 tell us about the way Jonathan regards loyalty? How risky is his action in this passage? Are we prepared to take risks like that for our friends?

Read: John 15:9-17

How do we ensure we remain friends of Jesus? What is his command to us? How does Jesus tell us we have to love each other? What do you think Jesus means when he says to love each other 'as I have loved you'? Why is our friendship so important to Jesus that he makes it a specific command to love one another?

Application

These passages emphasise how important friendship is to God. What difference does it make to the building of Jesus' church if we in the church cultivate friendship? Conversely, what might be the consequences if we *don't* develop friendship?

What are the obstacles to friendship in the church? How can we overcome these obstacles?

Matt gave five things which are essential components of friendship:

1. Commitment
2. Risk
3. God
4. Love
5. Forgiveness

In the 1 Samuel passages, forgiveness is not an issue as no disagreement or falling out is recorded between David and Jonathan. But how are the other four items on the list demonstrated in those passages?

Discuss each of these five components. What do they mean to us in our own situations? How can we ensure they are included in our friendships in the church? What would our church look like if these were commonplace in our relationships? How prepared are we to sacrifice our own desires to ensure relationships are built which enable our church to flourish?