

# Life-Link

Topic: Interpersonal Relationship - True friends have something in common.

## Life- Link Study #43

### Introduction

***“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24) (Also Read: 1 Samuel 18: 1-4)***

An interpersonal relationship is a connection between two or more people which could either be brief or long lasting. This connection may be based on some form of association, whether business, love, common circle, or some other type of social commitment or interaction. Taking a step further, friendship is a relationship of mutual affection between people. Friendship is a stronger form of interpersonal bond than a connection or association. In this and subsequent studies, we will explore the ancient model for friendship, especially between the two biblical characters, David and Jonathan.

The David and Jonathan’s relationship is an example of an ideal friendship. We will trace their friendship, discover some facts and learn specific principles that will enable us build reasonable friendships with one another. We need to keep our hearts open to learn about and adjust our own friendships as we examine theirs.

It is important to understand their various positions and backgrounds. Jonathan's father, Saul, was king of Israel, and Jonathan was a general in the army and heir to the throne. David was a young shepherd boy, untrained in the army, who showed up from nowhere and showed confidence and braveness, defeating Goliath the Philistine when he harassed and terrified Israel (1 Samuel 17:11). Jonathan liked his courage because it was a similar courage and initiative he displayed (a few chapters before) leading a troupe who won a battle for Israel at one time (1 Sam. 14:6-15, 20, 22-23). The story of David's victory over Goliath helps us understand an important aspect of David's friendship with Jonathan:

**They had a lot in common** (Read: 1 Sam. 14:6-15, 20, 22-23 and 1 Samuel 17)

From the two scriptures above, we learn that they both took the initiative to act, had great faith in God's power, had courage despite the odds against them, experienced God's deliverance in battle, inspired loyalty in others, were men of integrity, led others to victory, were loved by the people (1 Sam. 14:45; 18:16) and they were men who thought and acted alike. Read:

**Q1: What common attributes do you share with your friends? Do these attributes solidify your relationship?**

Jonathan saw himself in David, he knew there is something about this shepherd looking boy that was amazing and resonates with him. We can mentally rumble off the differences between both of them, but Jonathan and David made the choice to focus on the things that unite them - the common elements which build undeniable bond.

**Q2: Explore seven obvious differences between Jonathan and David and check how they stack up against the ones they had in common.** (E.g. Jonathan was a prince, heir to the throne, David was a shepherd [bush] boy who no one knew his father (1 Samuel 17:55-58).

**Q3: Why did the differences identified in Q2 not matter to Jonathan or David? What does this show about our own friendships?**

### Prayer

Thank you Lord for the friends you have brought into my life. With your help and my willingness, I can identify and appreciate the things that unite us. Amen.