

LIFE Group Leader Handout

October 14, 2018

Our Journey - "David & Jonathan: Lessons From Their Lives & Friendship"
Pastor Seth Kirschner

Scripture...

1 Samuel 18:1- 4 English Standard Version (ESV)

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. **2** And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. **3** Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. **4** And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

Main Idea - The Old Testament is constantly pointing people to Jesus the Messiah and Great Rescuer and that's what we see in the story of David and Jonathan. Jesus is the friend who sticks closer than a brother (**Proverbs 18:24**) & Jesus laid down his life for His friends...for us (**John 15:13**).

We we receive the free gift of salvation, Jesus is not only our Savior, not only is He our Lord and King, but He's our friend! You may or may not have a Jonathan in your life but you will always have Jesus! (**John 10:29**)

Application Questions...

- In the message we talked about some of the lessons we can learn from David and Jonathan's journey. Which point/ lesson stood out to you?
- **Charles Spurgeon** once said that, *"friendship is one of the sweetest joys of life. Many might have failed beneath the bitterness of their trial had they not found a friend.* Who was a friend to you during a hard season of your life? What made them such a good friend to you during that time?
- Let's talk about jealousy. It's sinful and destructive to us and those around us. Ultimately jealousy is not an issue we have with another person, it's an issue we have with God. In Saul and Jonathan we see 2 different responses to God's favor being on David. Why do you think they each responded the way they did? How has this played out in your life?

Accountable Application

By Mark Ingmire

Small group leaders often believe they have to possess the gift of teaching in order to produce a great lesson. This is far from accurate. The reality is that biblical truth is more caught than taught. The group leader's role is not to be the teacher. Rather, the leader is to be a guide. The leader should facilitate discussion, helping people discover biblical truth for themselves.

Ask Application Questions

Asking icebreaker and observation questions is easy. However, making the transition to interpretation and application questions is more difficult. I have been part of small groups where the leader launched the lesson well, followed the discussion plan, but ended just before the group got to discuss application because they ran out of time. Due to this experience, I always tell leaders never to skip over application questions. The leader needs to plan the lesson so that there is always time to ask application questions, even if adjustments need to be made during the lesson itself. Without application questions, group members may leave with some new information filling their heads but without any practical ways of applying that information to real life.

Don't Forget to Follow Up

It's tempting for small-group leaders to focus solely on each week's lesson and not go back to review what was discussed the session before—it can seem like "one more thing to do." But when a leader follows up with group members and asks how they have applied information from previous discussions, that leader is keeping the group accountable to what was taught and learned. And over time, that makes a huge difference in spiritual growth and life-change.

Application that sticks doesn't happen in just one meeting. Real change will only happen over time. This practice doesn't have to take much time on a week-to-week basis, though. It can take as little as two or three minutes to ask a few follow-up queries. But the group quickly learns they need to do the application steps during the week, because they know they will be held accountable to those steps at the next meeting. This is a simple practice, but one that provides both accountability and continuity.

Use the following scale to rate each statement.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Never Seldom Sometimes Often Always

At each meeting...

- ❖ We discuss possible application points from the discussion.
- ❖ I allow plenty of time for group members to consider possible personal application.
- ❖ Group members share specifically how they will apply what they've learned.
- ❖ Group members' personal application is concrete, measurable, realistic, and for a specific time frame.
- ❖ We pray that God will allow us to apply what we've learned.
- ❖ We take time to follow up on the application steps from the previous meeting.