

Discussion Questions for “October 18
“Real Friends Work through Painful Problems” I Samuel 20:1-42

1. In I Samuel 20:1-4, What strengths do you see in David’s communication? In Jonathan’s? Do you notice any weaknesses in either?
2. As the plan unfolds in v.5-11, what specific risks are David and Jonathan facing as individuals? Who do you think is facing the greater risk?
3. What character qualities and emotions do you see in David? In Jonathan? How are they alike? How are they different? What lessons can you learn about true friendship when you observe these two men?
4. Skim v.30-34. Why was this a defining moment in Jonathan’s life?

5. “The term *communitas* is a word that comes from cultural anthropology...It’s the kind of relationship you have with someone else when you’re both under tremendous pressure and you need each other to survive... you’ve got to depend on someone else for your physical and emotional survival.”

What are some biblical examples that illustrate *communitas*? What are modern examples of *communitas*?

How do we see this definition play out with David and Jonathan? What are the keys to a strong Kingdom-based relationship? I Samuel 20:16-17, 42; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 6:33

6. Why do healthy relationships have leadership that goes back and forth? Do you think that is a good thing? Why or why not? Can you give an example of how that has happened in your own life?
7. In what ways did Jonathan and David have to endure pain for the sake of their relationship? How have you had to endure pain for the sake of a relationship? What were the results?
8. What are your strengths as a friend? What are your weaknesses? What lessons from David and Jonathan’s friendship will you put into practice in order to strengthen your own friendships? What steps will you take to develop true kingdom-based relationships?