

"A Costly Friendship"

1 Samuel 19-20

July 26, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 19:4-5

"And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, 'Let not the king sin against his servant David... For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel.'"

1 Samuel 20:17

"And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul."

1 Samuel 20:42

"Then Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD... The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'"

John 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

MAIN THEME

Following God is often costly. Jonathan faced a decision that would shape the future of Israel. He could pursue the throne that was rightfully his, or he could surrender his own ambitions and support God's chosen king. Jonathan chose obedience over comfort, loyalty over self-interest, and God's purposes over his own.

His friendship with David reminds us that faithful obedience frequently requires courage, sacrifice, and trust in God's unseen plan. Ultimately, Jonathan points us to Jesus Christ, who gave up infinitely more than a throne so that God's enemies could become God's children.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION



1. Choose Costly Obedience over Comfortable Silence

1 Samuel 19:1–10

- Why do you think it would have been easier for Jonathan to remain silent instead of confronting Saul?
- Have you ever sensed God leading you to speak or act, but fear tempted you to remain quiet?
- Why is obedience sometimes more important than knowing how everything will turn out?
- What is one area of your life where God may be calling you to choose courage over comfort?

2. Choosing Comfort over Obedience Has Consequences

1 Samuel 19:11–24

- How did Saul's sinful choices affect the people closest to him?
- What does this passage teach us about the ripple effects of either obedience or disobedience?
- Jonathan and Michal both risked much to protect David. What can we learn from their willingness to sacrifice?
- How have you seen God use someone's obedience to bless or protect others?

3. The Enemy Will Notice When You Make Costly Decisions

1 Samuel 20:1–40

- Why do you think following God's will often brings spiritual opposition?
- What practical habits help prepare us for spiritual battles before they come?
- Which spiritual discipline—Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, or daily surrender—needs the most attention in your life right now?
- How does remembering God's sovereignty give us courage when we face opposition?

4. Jonathan's Friendship Points Us to Jesus

1 Samuel 20:41–42

- What emotions stand out to you in David and Jonathan's final farewell?
- Jonathan gave up a throne so God's anointed king could reign. How does that point us to Jesus?
- What does Christ's sacrifice teach us about the depth of God's love for us?



- How can you demonstrate Christ-like, sacrificial love to someone this week?

PRAY

Dear Father,

Thank you for Jonathan's example of humble obedience and sacrificial friendship. Help us to choose faithfulness over comfort, courage over fear, and your will over our own ambitions. Teach us to trust you even when we cannot see the outcome, knowing that you are always working behind the scenes for your glory and our good.

Most of all, thank you for Jesus, who willingly left heaven, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again so that we could become your children. Help us to follow him with wholehearted devotion and to love others with the same sacrificial love he has shown us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For Further Study:

- 1 Samuel 18:1–4
- 1 Samuel 23:15–18
- Proverbs 17:17
- John 15:12–17
- Philippians 2:3–11
- Hebrews 12:1–3

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Life in the Wilderness: David Becomes a Fugitive
1 Samuel 21–22

