

RISE UP, O MEN OF GOD

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

When talking about the topic of friendships, much too often in Bible classes we limit that study for young people. We use passages such as 1 Cor 15:33 as a case study to find good friends. As men, we do not talk much about the value of friendships.

According to the stats: 15% of men claim that they have **zero close** friends. The number is 20% among young single men. Why is this alarming?

- Younger men struggle to form lasting friendships
- Surveys show that most men rely on activity based friendships (golfing, fishing) which fade as circumstances change
- It is not uncommon for men in a large congregation to feel lonely and isolated.

A. There are various layers of friendships

1. C _____ friends
2. Friends from the _____
3. Deep _____ friendships
4. Powerful _____ friendships

How would you define a deep spiritual friendship?

A. **Proverbs has much to teach us about friendships:**

- 17:9 He who repeats a matter _____ intimate friends: **What does this reveal about friendships?**
- 18:24 A man of too _____ friends comes to ruin: **Why?**
- 18:24 (KJV) A man that hath friends must shew himself _____: **Implies what?**
- 27:6 Faithful are the _____ of a friend: **Means what?**
- 27:10 Do not _____ your own friend: **Implies responsibility**

B. **The story of David & Jonathan is a close look at loyalty, courage, dedication and spiritual friendship.**

1. Their relationship is something that many men do not have. Because it's missing, many men do not have the counsel from a dear friend and many carry things on the inside that burden them.

How valuable is it to have a great spiritual friend?

What does a Christian friend bring to the table that others may not?



My best male friend in the world is: _____.

He is my best friend because: _____

C. Building the background of David & Jonathan

1. 1 Sam 18:1-5

Soul of Jonathan was _____ to David's soul
Jonathan loved him as himself and made a _____ with David

Why was Jonathan drawn to David? Was it because David was famous?

Jonathan gave David _____ gifts

Test of their friendship:

1 Sam 18:9-14 Saul was suspicious of David
- Saul threw a spear at David
- Saul dreaded David

First Challenge:
Dad doesn't like my friend

Test two of their friendship:

1 Sam 19:1 (2-6) defended David and stood up to him
1 Sam 20:1-4 (17)

Two Challenges:
1. Could David trust Jonathan?
2. Would Jonathan go against his father?

Test Three of their friendship

1 Sam 23:13-18

Another Challenge:
1. Jonathan understands that he will not be the next king.

Consider: Does your closest friendships strengthen your faith or challenge it?

Friendship ends: 2 Sam 1

What brought David & Jonathan together?

1. They both shared a _____ in the Lord and a _____ to do what was right

2. They kept a _____ in the face of pressure

3. They remained devoted without _____

4. They _____ in dark moments

1 Sam 23:16 strengthened his hand in God (KJV)

Consider: Who strengthens your hand in God?

Consider: Whose hands are you strengthening?



Trademarks of Godly Friendship:

Godly men need godly friends

Godly friendship involves _____: Jonathan initiated a friendship

Godly friendship _____ the truth of God: true friends are anchors in our hearts

Godly friendships _____ the storms together

Rise Up, O Man

In I _____: be the person that others can depend upon and that your word is true

In c _____: stand up for what is right

In e _____: lift the soul of another

In h _____: don't envy positions or status

What fears keep men from forming deep spiritual friendships?

How can our congregation cultivate a culture of strong, godly men whose