

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

It's Not You, It's Me

Week 2: The Essence of Love

1 Samuel 18:1-4

Week of April 26, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Jonathan continues to demonstrate his relational skills by building a friendship for the ages. The bond between Jonathan and David inspires us all. They model a love that is very rare and desperately needed today. If we will study this selfless love and bring it to the people in our lives, beautiful relational growth will result.

Kicking it off: In a desperate attempt to remain positive, discuss the benefits that you see in this quarantine.

Discussion:

1. Read what happened after David's victory debrief with the king as found in *1 Samuel 18:1* After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David.

Why does victory over Goliath result in deep friendship between Jonathan and David?
2. What does it mean that Jonathan and David "became one in spirit" (from *1 Samuel 18:1*)?
3. Reread the latter part of *1 Samuel 18:1* Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.

This statement reminds us of Jesus' instructions to "Love your neighbor as yourself." How do we live out this command and consequently, follow Jonathan's example?
4. Reread *1 Samuel 18:2* From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family.

How does Jonathan's selfless love compare to the action of his father?
5. We have all met people who suck the life out of us. What do they do that has this draining effect?
6. Reread *1 Samuel 18:3* And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.

What makes verbalizing commitment to a friend feel so awkward?
7. Reread *1 Samuel 18:4* Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

How could we follow Jonathan's example in this verse?
8. Reread *1 John 3:16* This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ gave his life for us.

How can we follow Jesus' example in this verse?

Wrapping It Up: Christian community is to be known by its deep relationships. Pray for God to take the friendships in this group to deeper and more Christ-like levels.