



Icebreaker: What is your favorite, humorous “dad” story? What is your favorite “dad” memory?

Sermon Title – Imperfect: Life of David – Intentional Friendship – 1 Samuel 18

Group Discussion – Three questions to ask when considering who to bring into your small circle:

Read Psalm 1:1-2 & 1 Samuel 18:1 – **(1) Do they have a heart for the Lord?** David and Jonathan each had a heart full of humility, fidelity, courage, and godliness. How can evaluating whether someone has a heart for the Lord guide us in forming our inner circle? What practical steps can we take to identify and welcome people with a heart for the Lord into our lives in our efforts to develop intimate relationships?

Read Luke 15:2 – How can we ensure that we develop our faith inner circle while also **reaching out to unbelievers or those with different worldviews** to share Jesus’ love? For instance, we cannot reach people for Jesus without building relationships. So, how can we maintain a healthy balance between our inner circle while building genuine friendships with people who may be secular or unbelievers?

Read 1 Samuel 18:4 & Matthew 6:33 – **(2) Do they have a heart for the future?** Jonathan's act of giving his robe and armor to David symbolizes a deep commitment and recognition of David's future as a leader. How can we determine if someone has a forward-looking faith so that we can align our inner circle with people who encourage us to pursue Jesus’ kingdom and righteousness? What are some biblical traits or qualities we should look for in determining if someone truly has a Jesus-centered, eternity-focuses heart?

Read 1 Samuel 18:3 – **(3) Do they have a heart for me?** This verse describes the covenant between Jonathan and David, highlighting a profound and selfless friendship based on mutual love and loyalty. What are some ways we can determine if someone truly cares for us in this manner? What are some practical steps we can take to develop relationships where there is mutual love, loyalty, and unselfish dedication? For instance, we may need to work on our own attitudes and behaviors so that we can be in other people’s inner circle.

Spiritual Discipline:

Take time this week to review our additional sermon resources through *RightNow Media* or on our app at: *Church Center / Home / Sermon Resources*. These resources coincide with the weekly sermons.

Action Steps:

We cannot grow or lead or develop in isolation; we only grow in authentic community with others. When we connect our lives with others, we really can achieve together what we can never do apart; it is undeniable. It takes time; and it is okay to vet who you bring into your inner circle. If you currently have such friendships, consider ways to nurture even more depth. If you do not have a friend like this, pray for wisdom in taking practical steps toward finding one; it is so important.