



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 2, Issue 23

Today's Word: friendship

June 25, 2006

Lesson 23:

"The Lord Be Between Thee and Me For Ever"

Are You:

- Reading Scriptures Daily?
- Serving Others Wherever and/or Whenever Possible?
- Being a Good Example of the Restored Gospel?

Today's Scriptures

1 Samuel 18-20

1 Samuel 23-24

Next Week

Lesson 24:

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

2 Samuel 11-12

Psalms 51

Questions to Ponder

- What are some of the qualities you look for in a friend?
- What have you done to help your friends be better people?
- How are you true to your friends?

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland:

Aristotle said once that friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies. No definition of friendship could better describe the relationship of David and Jonathan in the Old Testament. Jonathan, the son of King Saul, was a valiant soldier in his own right and a worthy young prince in Israel. But when David came onto the scene fresh from his mighty victory over Goliath, having already been anointed by the prophet Samuel, it was he, not Jonathan, who would be successor to the increasingly disobedient Saul.

To a lesser man—or a lesser friend—than Jonathan, David would have been a terrible threat, a natural rival. But he wasn't. We don't know that Jonathan expected to succeed his father as king, but he certainly could have foreseen that possibility. What we do know is that "the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (1 Sam. 18:1). . . .

Although Saul continued to seek David's life, Jonathan secretly assisted David and gave him encouragement, promising that "the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee" (1 Sam. 23:17). And always they renewed their covenant of friendship and loyalty (see 1 Sam. 23:18) ("Real Friendship," *New Era*, June 1988, 62).



Elder Lynn A. Mickelson:

True friendship strives for unity of purpose, will, desire, heart, and mind. There must be complete trust and transparency, with no hidden agendas. True friendship transcends love as the world understands it. Based on charity, it is patient and kind. As David and Jonathan demonstrated so memorably, it does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It is not rude, selfish, or easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs; it does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth. It can bear anything; it always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. It never fails (see 1 Cor. 13:4-8; Moro. 7:45-47). ("Lessons from the Old Testament: True Friendship and Self-Respect," *Ensign*, June 2006, 30.)

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