



**1. Sunday Summary:** This morning we continued our series on *The Life of David*. Specifically, we explored the story of David and Jonathan’s friendship. We noted that David and Jonathan have a friendship unlike most of our friendships today. First, it was marked by a real intimacy and vulnerability, whereas many of our friendships today never get that deep. Next, we learned that their friendship was governed by a covenant, not at all unlike a marriage covenant. This is what allowed their intimacy and vulnerability to happen. But, their friendship was not an easy one. It cost each of them, and especially Jonathan. But, once again their friendship covenant held them fast. While we may or may not see similarities in our own friendship with the people around us, we can definitely see similarities in our friendship with Jesus. Being friends with Jesus can be fraught and difficult and it often costs us a lot. Sometimes friendship with Jesus makes life harder instead of easier for us. Why? Because friendship with Jesus means that we act in a way that pleases him, and we don’t follow our own whims and desires. And, sometimes that makes us ask the question, “is it really worth it?” If we’re really honest we recognize that there are times when we answer that question with a resounding “yes.” But there are other times that we go our own way in disobedience, which is a definitive “no.” Ultimately what we find out is that it’s not our successes or failings that will determine whether our friendship with Jesus remains intact, but rather his faithfulness, love and sacrifice. This, and this alone is what makes our friendship with and our obedience to Jesus possible, and it’s what allows us to truly risk friendship with others. It’s truly all we need. We’ve got a friend in him.

## **2. Important Words:**

**תָּוֶן (hesed) = : complete loyalty, utter faithfulness**

## **3. Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)**

- Think about your friends. Do you have any deep friendships that are marked by loyalty, vulnerability, and intimacy like David and Jonathan had? If so, how did you get there? If not, what’s keeping you from that?
- What, if anything, have you had to sacrifice, or give up, or not do, because of your friendship with Jesus? Is there anything in your life right now that you feel like he might be calling you to give up or sacrifice? If you’re feeling really courageous share it with your group.

- What does knowing that Jesus is the one who keeps your friendship with him together and intact do for you? Do you feel more or less like obediently following him? Does it open you up to risk the vulnerability and intimacy of true friendship with others? Why or why not?
- What insights from today's message were most helpful for you?

#### **4. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)**

- Read Galatians 6:1-5 together. How can the words of Paul here help us to live together as friends? What does friendship require according to this passage? What does it cost? What does Paul mean by carry each other's burdens?

#### **5. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)**

- What concrete steps can you make to sink the truth of the gospel deeper into your life this week? Specifically, what will you do to cultivate your friendship with others? With Jesus?
- Talk about something that you're feeling Jesus calling you to give up or sacrifice. How will you do that this week?

#### **6. Resources for Further Study:**

1. Peterson, Eugene H. *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians* (Harper Collins Publishers, New York, NY, 2011).

