

Week 2: David and Jonathan

Good morning. My name is Jeff and I am one of the pastors here at City Church. We are in the second week of a series we're looking at the life of David. So David is a prominent figure in the Old Testament of the Bible. And we're looking at a few different scenes and snapshots from David's life and learning how God interacts with David and the relationships in his life. We're taking some of the things that God does in David's life and pulling those into our lives here today. We've got a lot of work to do today so I want to just go ahead and hop right in and get straight to it. So if you would turn to 1 Samuel 17.

While you are getting 1 Samuel 17 ready in your Bible, let me give a little bit of setup for what we're talking about today. Today, we're going to see something that God does for David. Something that God provides for David, something without which, humanly speaking at least, David wouldn't make it. It is at a moment when David is at a low point in his life. He is being threatened by an increasingly unstable king named Saul. Every day his life is on the line. And God does something for David to preserve him in this season, to help him not only physically but also psychologically and emotionally to endure in a season where he is otherwise alone and abandoned. God provides David with something that would be easy to overlook or even dismissed. It's not flashy, it's not like when God provides in other ways in scripture where the Red Sea just parts and there's no doubt God is at work here. It's a little more subtle. But God does something for David that's absolutely critical for David to make it.

God gives David a friend. Right when he needs it, God gives him a friend. It's a friend named Jonathan, and a friend without whom David would not have been able to get through this season of his life. Proverbs 18:24 summarizes for us what we'll talk about today,

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24

There have been studies since the 1980's that have linked a lack of friends or loneliness to health risks. These studies have shown not having friends is similarly detrimental to your physical health as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day or not exercising.¹ Friendship is central, it's critical. And the reason why it's critical to our lives is because we are made in the image of God. God who is eternally existent as one God, yet three persons. So God Himself exists in relationship. Friendship is the very essence of God. Before there was a universe, there was a God who was eternally existent in relationship with himself.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/jan/11/is-having-no-social-life-as-bad-for-you-as-smoking>

And God created us in His image. When Genesis recounts how this happens, God puts the man in the garden, it's paradise. God is communing and relating perfectly to this man, and God looks at this man by himself and God says, "This is actually not good. He's alone. We're going to need to fix that." In paradise with God, and it's not enough. The first man is alone and God says, "this is outside of my creative design for people because I have designed people to need relationships with others."

So we're going to go in on that today. And at first, I would just love to encourage you that if you sense a deep need for friendship in your life, that is a good thing. I would even say that if you find yourself lonely sometimes because of how much you want deep, meaningful relationships with other people, that is not necessarily a sign that something is wrong with you. Now there could be something wrong with you and that's why you're alone. But, desiring deep, meaningful friendship is possibly that you are, in fact, made in God's image.

So we're going to zoom in today on aspects of David's friendship with Jonathan.

The snapshot of David's life at this point is he has been anointed as the future king. But he goes back to the pasture where he came from, and he waits on God to elevate him. And David's rise to fame comes a few years later when Israel is stuck in a battle with a nation and people group called the Philistines. And the Philistines send out their best warrior, a man named Goliath. Many of you have heard the story, and Goliath is going to represent them in one on one combat. Each nation sends their best fighter, winner takes all, and Goliath is taunting the people of God.

And David shows up to bring food to his older brothers. He's not a part of the military. He brings food to his older brothers and sees that everyone's scared of Goliath, and David is confused. David says I don't understand, why is everybody afraid of him? He's taunting the people of God which means he is opposed to God Himself. David says just go out there and fight. God will help you kill him. Just go take him out, and everyone stands back. No one is willing to step up. Not David's older brothers, not King Saul, who we found out last week was chosen as king in part because of his size and combat ability. So David steps up, does it himself, he kills Goliath. And quickly David will become a national hero, and we'll pick that story up and chapter 17 verse 56:

The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is." As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head. "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem." [Pick up in

chapter 18 verse 1] After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.

1 Samuel 17:56 - 18:1

This idea of being one in spirit, is actually used elsewhere in Scripture. Genesis 44 describes Jacob's relationship with his son, Benjamin, with this idea. So what's happening here is that Jonathan, Saul's son, sees something about David through this Goliath ordeal. He sees David's faith. Jonathan knows literally anybody should have stepped up before David to kill Goliath. Literally anybody. You got the whole army, you got the king, Jonathan himself, who is the prince is there, and no one steps up. David's just bringing food to his brothers. But David sees what's happening. He says enough is enough. And in faith, he steps out and he kills the giant. **Jonathan sees this and he recognizes the work of God in David's life.** And he says, "I'm with this guy." This is the beginning of their friendship. Verse 2:

From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family.

1 Samuel 18:2

So Saul actually sees something in David as well. We're going to find out later he doesn't see the whole picture, but he knows there's something special about this David guy.

After all of this, Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. So let's chat just real quick because there's some 3000 years of cultural distance here. Covenants are not something that we necessarily have the language for. Here's the concept: back then when people form a commitment that was binding, they would take an animal, they would kill it, they would cut it in half, and they would lay the two parts to the side. And they would walk a path between the pieces of the animal that had been cut in half. And when they stepped through, what they were saying to each other is, if I don't keep my end of my promises, then what happened to this animal would happen to me.

So they're literally saying to each other, I am committed to you and if I take that back, then you may kill me, just as this animal has been killed. This is a strong commitment that comes at a great cost.. Keep reading in Verse 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.

1 Samuel 18:4

So this is another thing that's symbolic and can get lost in some of the translation. Jonathan is the heir to the throne. He's the prince. He's Saul's son. And Jonathan takes the symbols of his royal position, his robe and his armor and his bow and his belt, and he gives him the David. So the clothes signify the person and his position.

And what he's doing is he's saying, I'm giving you what was supposed to be mine. As far as it's up to me, and it's not entirely up to Jonathan here, but what he's saying is as far as it is up to me, the throne is yours, not mine. You're the next king. I'm giving up my right to it. It's a symbolic way of him denying his own birthright. Absolutely no one would have done this. This is completely crazy talk for the son of the king to say, I sense and see what God is up to here. I'm going to set aside my right to the throne. I'm going to hand that over to you and allow you to step in because I think you are the man that God wants to be the king. So Jonathan is committed to David, he sees that God's doing something with David. He's willing to sacrifice himself to promote God's purposes in David's life.

And later 1 Samuel 18 it says David's fame grew among the nation of Israel. People in the streets were singing songs like "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands". Saul heard the song on the radio and began to realize, I'm going to lose my power, I'm going to lose my kingdom, and this guy is going to take it away from me. And this realization of what David is up to and what God is doing in David's life is starting to dawn on him. And this is where things begin to turn and go dark for David. And we see this in the next chapter.

In 1 Samuel 19 Saul at one point Saul actually tried to kill David with a spear while David was playing music for him. Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him and had departed from Saul. So Saul becomes deathly jealous of David and begins to plot against him. From this point forward, Saul comes up with some overt schemes to kill David, some more covert and subtle, but this one pretty obvious. You throw a spear at somebody, they tend to pick up on what you're trying to do.

And this right here begins a long back and forth between David and Saul that will eventually involve Saul and Jonathan, Saul's son. As the story moves forward, Jonathan attempts to be a mediator between his father and David. He steps in for his friend and tries to advocate on David's behalf. He tries to convince Saul that David is an honorable guy. He's trying to do the right thing. He's not against you. And Saul tells Jonathan that he'll leave David alone but then he secretly continues to try to kill him. And eventually, the whole thing comes to a head and Jonathan realizes that Saul is still trying to kill David. And Saul realizes that Jonathan knows what he's up to and Jonathan is actively

protecting David. And the situation explodes a couple of chapters later in chapter 20. So flip over to 1 Samuel 20. We'll pick it up in verse 30.

Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! ...

1 Samuel 20:30

Okay, potty mouth. The NIV pretties up the language a little bit, but you don't have to be a Hebrew scholar to pick up on what he's actually saying.

Saul continues on to say in chapter 20 you picked our enemy, our family's enemy, and I know it now. I know this guy's after our throne, our kingdom. He's trying to overthrow us and you're partnering with him. That's why Saul is popping off. He was outraged. He can't believe that Jonathan would forfeit his rights as the son of the king. He can't believe that Jonathan would trade his own kingdom to align with David. Saul then throws a spear at Jonathan.

Now how did Saul come after David earlier? A spear. Jonathan is so identified with David that the threat, the danger, the obstacle in David's life now becomes his own. Jonathan gets treated by his father the way that his father treated David. So David's troubles are now Jonathan's troubles quite literally. It was a very tragic moment for Jonathan when the full cost of his allegiance and friendship to David began to come to the surface. Because his loyalty to David and God's purposes are now starting to cost him in his relationship with his dad.

The story continues on with Saul continuing to try to kill David and Jonathan sends a secret message to David to warn him that Saul has not given up on his quest to kill him. And we pick up in the story where David again meets Jonathan after receiving the secret message in 1 Samuel 20:41

After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most. [because David knows all that is costing Jonathan for him to be his friend].

1 Samuel 20:41

Bowing in the ancient Near East was about reverence. For someone to bow three times is the highest superlative of reverence. This is David humbling himself in front of Jonathan. Just imagine if your best friend stuck with you, and it comes to a point where

you realize it's costing them everything that they previously cherished. That's that's the moment that we're seeing right here. Look at how Jonathan responds in the next verse.

Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

1 Samuel 20:42

So Jonathan says, "Hey, no matter what position my dad takes towards you, God is between us and our offspring. That's not changing." He calls David to trust God's promises. So David leaves. David then spends another portion of his life being chased down by Saul. Fast forward and we'll look at the last interaction that David and Jonathan have. This is another time where David is in trouble in chapter 23. So skip forward again, just a few chapters here. Look at verse 15:

While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

1 Samuel 23:15-18

So Jonathan goes out to encourage David and he reminds him of God's promises. He says, "I know it doesn't look like it right now. But God's gonna do what he promised. You keep your head." This was the last interaction in Scripture between David and Jonathan. From the very beginning when David's troubles start, all the way to the very end here, Jonathan steps in and he encourages David and strengthens him and gets him out of trouble. He goes between Saul and David as this sort of mediator to try to navigate their relationship. It really is a beautiful narrative picture of the gift of a friend and it is in part, at least humanly speaking, why David is able to make it through this season of his life.

And I just read over a part of it just to get the overall narrative arc of David and Jonathan's friendship. There are a lot of details we have to skip over because of time and I would encourage you to read through them. And I was just so struck by it even just this week, studying over it more and clarifying what I wanted to talk about today. There's something so moving about depictions of friendship. Think about some of the most moving friendships we have seen in movies or shows. Woody & Buzz. Kenan and Kel.

Dory and Marlin. Frodo and Sam. Timon & Pumba. Will and Carlton. Forrest Gump and Benjamin Buford "Bubba" Blue.

There's just something that grips us when we see beautiful pictures of friendship, when we see people committed to each other in it for the long haul, no matter what, having each other's back, people who go through the ups and downs of life. There's something very beautiful about it. Something in our heart aches for those kinds of friendships, we just connect to it. I was listening to a sermon recently and the pastor said:

"Because we have such a mobile society today, people come and go at a speed that outpaces our ability to forge friendships."

So he says people come and go so quickly, that it doesn't allow us the time to really build meaningful, deep, significant friendships. And goes on,

"So our hearts do not have all the friends that they need."

And he said that phrase and I'm just sitting there listening to him. And there's a part of me that's like, I don't have all the friends my heart needs. Part of being a pastor is I don't know who my friends are. Do the people in my life see me as a pastor or do they see me as Jeff, their friend. Are people in my life only in my life because I am useful to them? Or are they in my life because they care about me and want to be my friend. And when people leave our church, those relationships are gone. I don't know if I can count on them. So a lot of the time I feel like I am alone.

And I just got where I was just hosting a pity party for myself in my office this week, as I listened to this guy talk about how I don't have all the friendships that my heart needs. And you know, what's crazy is I actually have great friends. Like people that I've walked alongside for close to 15 years now. I helped start this church with some of my best friends. I actually have awesome friends. But there's just something about the topic that makes hosting a pity party for yourself incredibly easy.

Not to mention, some of us genuinely don't have all the friends that our hearts need. And so I was just thinking about this sermon and what I wanted to say to you guys. And just man the fact that even for those of us as you know, as you age, friendships get more difficult. You have kids and everything gets more complicated. I heard one guy say recently one of Jesus' most neglected miracles was that he had 12 close friends while he was in his 30s. A miracle.

I often wonder why people speak about highschool or college as the best time in their lives. There are probably a lot of factors here but I think a significant part is that for many, it is the only time in their lives the need for friendship is actually met. We move from an environment where we see the same people every day to completely isolated adult lives where we don't even know the names of our neighbors.

So here's what I don't want to happen. I'm disinterested in you weaponizing this sermon. And heading to LifeGroup this week, you walk in and you point your finger at everyone and you say you're not a good enough friend to me. You're no Jonathan. And you are no Jonathan. If for nothing else, because if you go in saying that they will rightly turn it back on you and say, and you are not David.

So what I would love to do with the last 10 to 15 minutes that we have, is instead of pointing our finger at other people and how they are probably not as good of friends as we need them to be, which I'm not even taking from you, they probably are not. I would instead rather do something a little more hopeful and definitely more productive. I would love for us to think about whether or not we are always the kinds of friends that other people need for us to be. Because that is something we can control. We cannot control how other people treat us, we can control how we treat them.

So here is what we are going to do: I am going to give you 5 observations we can glean from David and Jonathan's friendship. And we will use these 5 observations and do a little bit of self examination and see how we can grow and be good friends to others. I know there are tons more than just 5 from David and Jonathan's friendship because it's just loaded but we don't have time to cover all 6 chapters in one morning so we are going to just scratch the surface.

#1 Friendships require a foundation.

Friendships require a foundation, the best friendships come when it's about more than just friendship. One of the things the writer of Samuel wants it to stand out is that David and Jonathan are both committed to what God is doing in the world. That's their common ground. That's what their friendship is built around, is in some respects, the text is actually saying something about discipleship, not just friendship.

It's about what it looks like to follow God and align ourselves with his purposes over and above everything else. But if you remember what initially draws Jonathan to David is the work of God that he sees in David's life. And what Jonathan emphasizes over and over again, is the work of God in David's life and God's promises. What drives Jonathan's friendship with David is Jonathan's faith in God; their friendship is built around the foundation of God.

Pastor Tim Keller talks about this concept this way, this idea that friendships require some kind of a foundation. He says friends come from what you're in love with. They happen with people who are most in love with the same thing that you are in love with. As a result, that is one of the reasons why a lot of people have very few friends. He goes on to say that if you want nothing but approval, if you want nothing but friends, you'll never have any friends. Because friendship is always about something besides friends.

We should have learned this lesson when we were children on the playground. You go to another kid, you say you wanna play tag, you wanna play ball, tether ball. Best friends come from playing tetherball. It's always about something else, friends or people that you stand side by side with looking at the same thing, doing the same thing. This is why generally it's easier to form friendships around hobbies and interests. Oh, you like football? I do too. That's great. Oh, you pull for that team, me too. An affinity can certainly bring people together somewhat but usually it's not deep enough to root or anchor a friendship for the long haul because affinity changes, life stages shift. And when friendship is based off of those things, it tends to come and go.

But when it comes to David and Jonathan, they actually have a foundation that allows them to connect past surface and circumstance. Jonathan is royalty. David is a shepherd. Jonathan would actually be a good bit older than David based on the timeline of Saul's reign. Some scholars say Jonathan is at least 20 years older than David. Jonathan is the heir to the throne, David is his replacement. So in any respect they should have been enemies. If you expect anything of their friendship, it would be that they would actually be enemies and not friends. But God unites them. And that is the secret sauce of Christian friendship. There is no one who is off limits, no one where friendship can't possibly be formed. Because it's not just about affinity or life stage. It's not about Myers Briggs or any enneagram numbers or any personality test. When you align yourself with God's purposes in the world, it allows you to align with God's purposes in others, and now anyone can be a friend.

#2 Friendship is built through commitment

Friendship is built through commitment. So we talked about how David and Jonathan have this covenant with one another, how they continually express their commitment to each other. So here's the reality. Most people that you know and you want to know, you know them because they're useful to you. And most of the people who know you, know you because you are useful to them. Some other people are useful to you for having a good time. They're useful for making you feel better about yourself. They're useful for meeting other people. They're useful for getting things done. But friendship cannot thrive, when it only serves a utilitarian purpose, when it's only useful to you. Because when life

gets hard and things begin to cave in, people who you only know because they are useful will no longer be around for you because you are no longer useful to them.

A friend however, is there. Because a friend has not made you a means to an end, you are an end in yourself. A friend is someone you can count on who you know you can rely on even if your life falls apart. *That's a friend.*

Many of us have gone through something in our lives, where everything fell apart and the people we thought we would look up to and find standing around us, walking with us through it are nowhere to be found. Those were not real friendships. Many of you have experienced this.

And on the flipside, some of you are too unreliable and too inconsistent to be a true friend to others because we never know what we're going to get from you. One season, you're there, you're in it with us. We're encouraging each other. We're sharing life together, the next season, you're just gone. You don't communicate anymore. You're not around. We don't know what's going on. You're a total mystery to us. You're unreliable, you're inconsistent. Some of you just rotate friend groups, and every season of life, you've got a different group of friends that you're rotating through. Friendships are built through commitment. Let's keep moving.

#3 Friendships require unity

Friendships require unity. This is something that jumped out to me, and when I say unity, I mean friends actually know each other. They communicate what they're thinking and they're feeling to each other. They're not mysteries and they share life's experiences together; the ups and the downs. There's a unity there. There's a "we know each other and we're going through this together". Unity just pops off the page to me. We read it earlier in chapter 20. David just received the secret message from Jonathan that Saul is still after him. David walks up to him, he bows, remember, he bows three times, and it says, they kissed one another and wept with one another.

This actually happens elsewhere in Scripture, like in Acts chapter 20. Paul is meeting with the Ephesian elders and he knows this is the last time he's going to see them before he heads to Rome. He's going to get put in prison. And it says the exact same thing. It says that Paul meets with these men and it says they hug, they kiss, they cry. Sort of a pattern in the Bible of people who really care about each other hug, kiss and cry.

And I can't help to think as much as there is a high value in authenticity in our culture these days, this level of rawness is something I would say we still avoid. This idea of bearing your soul out to someone, to see you in the moment of hurt, sorrow, anger,

doubt. We may value authenticity, we are actually terrified of true authenticity where we can be this raw in front of others. To weep and hug one another.

David and Jonathan here, their expression of love for each other that honestly I think a lot of us would be uncomfortable with. Which I think speaks a lot about our culture because we think this level of love and intimacy can only happen in a romantic relationship. In fact a lot of people who read David and Jonathan's friendship assume there has to be a romantic component to it or else there's no way you can have this level of love and care. But the point to be drawn is that a friend is someone you let your guard down with, you don't dress up, not for a real friend. A friend is someone you can think out loud with, someone who's not a mystery to you. Someone you feel good about expressing what you're thinking and what you're feeling. Someone you go through life's ups and downs with. Somebody who you can rely on who will be there. Someone with whom the highs are even better and the lows are not quite as bad. Someone who will continuously point you to Jesus, to truth. And they will tell you the truth even when the truth would be difficult to hear because they also don't feel they need to dress up for you and they can also be honest with you. That is a deep friendship.

And I would just add as a tag, for those of you who are married. Just because you are married does not mean you are friends with your spouse. There are a lot of people who are married who are not actually friends with their spouse. I think it is one of the biggest undiagnosed problems with marriage in America. You think about all the different marriage books and they're all about how to get the romance back, how to spice up your sex life. This is going to fix what's wrong with your marriage.

And you know, romance is good and spicy sex sounds awesome. I don't know what that is but it sounds great. But part of what is missing in many people's marriages is you're not friends with your spouse, you're mysteries to each other. You're not actually going through life together. You're just parallel in the same house. You're not going through ups and downs in the same way you're not known by them and you're not unified. Let's keep going.

#4 Friendships are reciprocal

Friendships are reciprocal. You can look at this later. But in chapter 20:14-15, Jonathan actually asked David to protect his house when David becomes the king. Jonathan asked David, will you please protect my house?

Now, here's why that's such a huge deal. Because in ancient civilizations, when there was a regime change, the first thing the new regime did was kill everybody from the house of the old regime. You have to protect your place and anybody descended from

the old regime's family is a potential threat to rise up and lay claim to the throne. And David does in fact, protect Jonathan's family. And in doing so, he opens himself up to all kinds of danger and future consequences in this friendship. So it's not just Jonathan who is sacrificing for David. There's a reciprocity here, there's a give and take here.

I bring this up because some of you have relationships where you are always giving, you are always pouring in. There are people like this in your life where if y'all are hanging out it is because you asked if they would want to hang out. If someone gets encouraged it is because you are encouraging them. If someone gets served, it is because you are serving them. Those are called ministries. And ministry is a good thing. A one way relationship or someone is pouring into the other person is a ministry and you need to do ministry. The Bible says there's a blessing for those of us who are pouring out in ministry.

But that is a different kind of blessing than the blessing that comes through friendship, where there is a give and there is a take. You need both of them in your life. You need ministry where you are mostly the one pouring out. And you need friendship, where there's give and take, there's back and forth, there's reciprocity. Some of you only know how to give and you do not know how to receive from someone else and let them be a friend to you. Others of you, only know how to take and you do not know how to actually begin to pour back into someone else. For there to be a friendship, there's got to be reciprocity. And then here's the last thing.

#5 We need an eternal friend.

What we actually need is an eternal friend. So Jonathan, eventually at the end of the story here, he leaves David, he goes home. This is the last time that they see each other. The next time we hear from Jonathan, he actually dies alongside his father in battle. Jonathan is not the ultimate presence that David needs. He gets David through that season. He's a beautiful gift in David's life for a season. But for all the promises that Jonathan makes to David, he could not promise David that he would be with Him forever.

And that's what you need. You need a friend who will be with you forever. So there's this place in John 15. Jesus is headed to the cross. And he turns to His disciples in verse 15.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:15

Jesus invites them to consider him as their friend. Jesus is a friend to you, even when it costs him. In fact, it cost Jesus his life to be your friend, Jesus like Jonathan endured the

wrath of his father that was reserved for you. Jesus set aside his kingdom privileges, His divine rights as the eternal Son of God. He set all of it aside, to come to planet Earth, to humble himself to death on a cross. Jesus gives up his kingdom so that you can receive his inheritance.

He is the kind of friend that you truly need. Someone who gets you. Someone who really knows you, who knows what you're thinking and feeling even better than you know for yourself. Someone who's always for you and not just with you sometimes and not others. You need a friend you can weep with and celebrate with. Someone who experiences your ups and downs as if they were their own. You need a friend that's infinite. You need a friend that you can go to about anything, at any time. Who is always available. We need a friend that's willing to overcome all the difficulties that are associated with being in a relationship with us and never stop pursuing us in spite of our sin. You need an eternal friend who will never leave you, never forsake you, never let you down and Jesus is the eternal friend that we need.

I want to pray for us. But I want to give you one last encouragement before you head to the communion table. If there is a relationship in the room that is in need of repair, go grab that person, and talk to them. Be reconciled. If you need to go outside and apologize, ask for an apology. Deal with it so that you're reconciled so that you can come back into the room and step to the communion table, back in the right relationship with each other. Our family relationships in Christ are too valuable for us to allow things to remain between us. So let's deal with any relational issues we have in the room. Let's reflect and remember that Jesus is our friend. He's our Savior. He's our Lord. He's our God. He's our king. Yes, absolutely. And he's our friend.