

Living Out Our Christian Values with Friends

- I. Announcements and the handing out of journals.
 - a. All of you are **highly** encouraged to be a part of the Summer Coffeehouse.
 - b. Notes for this BDG are posted online at www.geocities.com/henrysckuo1
- II. **Today's main question: What is a good friend?**
- III. **Scripture: 1 Samuel 20 (yes, the entire chapter).** I strongly suggest reading from the Message transliteration of the Bible.
 - a. (vs. 1-11) **Why is King Saul so determined to kill David? Did Jonathan know about his father's desire to kill David? What is Jonathan's relationship with David?**
Read chapters 18-19 to get a more complete picture of what's going on.
 - b. (vs. 12-23) Jonathan, after explaining his plan to David, makes a covenant with David. **What does that mean?** *The best way to explain a covenant would be a really serious promise. Like, you can't break that promise without obviously bad consequences. So in a sense, Jonathan is promising David something. What is the covenant about?* *In essence, the promise is that even if all of David's allies are dead and King Saul's armies are ready to kill him, Jonathan himself will personally make sure his friend will live. What's Jonathan's plan?*
 - c. (vs. 24-27, 28-40) *The New Moon festival, held once a month, was mandated by the Old Testament laws. Its purpose was to consecrate the month to the Lord. You are not allowed to work. It's also customary to bring a sacrifice. Of course, if you're unclean, then you can't really participate in the festival. The fact that King Saul's first thought about David's absence was something negative (David must be unclean—what a sinner—so that's why he's not eating with us) is an indication of how just absolutely warped Saul has become.*
 - d. (vs. 41-42) **Why were the two guys just crying their eyes out?**
 - e. (interesting question) **Just as Jonathan made a promise never to harm David and his family, David made a promise never to harm Jonathan and his family (including King Saul). Did David follow up on this promise?** *Yes he did. In chapters 24 and 26, David had two very sweet opportunities to kill King Saul and never have him endanger his life again. However, he passed up those opportunities because (1) that'd be killing someone chosen by God in the first place to be king, and (2), he made a promise to David never to harm Jonathan and his family.*
- IV. Application
 - a. **From seeing the relationship between David and Jonathan, what is a good and godly friend?**
 - b. Several important points:
 - i. **A godly friend always puts his/her friends' well-being above his/her own.** *Friends are never take advantage of friends for personal gain.*
 - ii. **A godly friend wants the best for his/her friend.**

- iii. **A godly friend keeps his/her promises.** *Remember Jesus' words: no need to swear in God's name, Jesus' name, or the name of your ancestor in China. Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No' be 'No'.*
 - iv. BASICALLY, here's the summary: **A godly friend is someone who you should be able to call at 3:00 AM in the morning and talk for 5 hours about some problem without expecting a, "Go back to bed!" as a response.**
- c. **Why is Jesus our best friend?**