



## LIFE LESSONS FROM OLD TESTAMENT HEROES WEEK #10 JONATHAN

After looking at some of the Old Testament Heroes, we may get the impression people who practice courageous faith get the spotlight. But, this is often not the case. Jonathan was at least equally courageous as Abraham, Moses, Gideon and even David himself; yet we mistakenly see him as someone who is insignificant. Ironically, Jonathan's allegiance to God and sacrificial love for David changed the course of history. His life demonstrates the epitome of true friendship. He teaches the necessity, results, blessings, and characteristics of what it means to have a friend who stands by your side through the ups and downs of life. Courageous faith is greatly enhanced by friends who surrender their life to God and to each other.

*Greater love has no one than this:  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.*  
*John 15:13*

## A TRUE FRIEND - JONATHAN

*1 Samuel 18:1-4      John 15:13      Proverbs 18:4*

Jonathan truly kept the command to "love thy neighbor" as yourself. Most people would have considered David to be Jonathan's enemy. Jonathan was heir to the throne, but God appointed David instead. Saul fought against this with all his might, but Jonathan was willing to forget his own self-interest in his love for David. Jonathan and David represent a picture of true friendship. Not only did Jonathan not bear animosity towards David, but he made a lasting covenant with him! In giving his robe, sword, bow, and belt, he was giving up his right to the throne. Later, we discover Jonathan went so far as to protect his future rival for the throne. It is of no wonder Jonathan's name, in Hebrew, means "God gives". The Lord gave the throne to David through Jonathan's sacrificial love.

Learning from Jonathan, we discover four characteristics.

- A true friend practices unconditional love.
- A true friend practices unwavering love.
- A true friend is honest and truthful.
- A true friend is sacrificial.

### Questions

1. List three ways Jonathan's life was similar to Jesus' life? How did Jonathan's life fulfill God's purpose?
2. In 1 Samuel 8:1-4, Jonathan's friendship was intentional. Is it necessary for us to do the same today? Why and how?
3. Explain how true friendship can develop you to be a courageous person for God.
4. Identify three of your very best friends. What qualities do you admire in them and how have they helped you to be who you are today? Would you be willing to contact them in the next two weeks to express your gratitude?
5. How can Aldersgate Church encourage and develop true friendship for the current members and new friends within the 'Body of Christ'?