



Qualities of Friendship

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch *David and Jonathan* online at bit.ly/DavidAndJonathan (1min 06sec)

2. Discuss

Why was Jonathan and David's friendship special?

3. Read

The Word gives laws about relationships with the Lord and with others.

4. Activity

Do an activity about friendship. Discuss your answers.

New Church Concept Friendship

I have told spirits recently arrived from the world that the Lord alone rules heaven, that the kingdom which they are now in is the Lord's kingdom, and that the laws of this kingdom are based on the law that they are to love the Lord supremely and the neighbor as themselves. Indeed if they wished to be as the angels, they must now go beyond that and love the neighbor more than themselves. In the next life all goods increase without limit, whereas in the world they cannot progress beyond the point of loving their neighbor as themselves, because they have worldly interests. See *Arcana Coelestia* 548

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Watch a Video

Watch a brief student-created video of *David and Jonathan* (1min 6sec) at bit.ly/DavidAndJonathan. (Enter link in web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion. For more complete information on this story see *1 Samuel 18-20*.

1. What important position did Saul hold? (King of Israel)
2. What was David's job in Saul's house? (Comfort him by playing harp)
3. How were Saul and Jonathan related? (Father and son)
4. What was the relationship between Jonathan and David? (Good friends)
5. Give examples of ways in which Jonathan showed his friendship with David.
6. Why might Jonathan have had reason to be worried about being friends with David? (Jonathan was heir to the throne; the people loved David (he had killed Goliath). David posed a threat to Jonathan's claim to the throne.)

Read

The Word gives clear guidelines or laws for relationships. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) in the Old Testament put the Lord first. The first table of the commandments states that we are to treat the Lord with respect, to set aside time for Him, and to honor Him in word and action. The second table states that we are to respect the lives of others—to honor covenant relationships, and not to steal others' property, or their reputations. Ultimately we are not even to *wish* to take what others have for ourselves.

When the Lord came on earth he renewed these laws through the Two Great Commandments.

A lawyer, asked Him a question, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Luke 10: 26-27

Loving the Lord and loving others depends on having good relationships with them. The Lord had friends when He was in the world—for example Lazarus, who he raised from the dead, and his sisters. The Lord even told us to "lay down our lives" for our friends—to value their lives more than our own life.

Qualities of Friendship Activities

The Word contains many stories about friendship. Some of the friendships are healthy, while others are not healthy. 1 Corinthians 13 describes attitudes and behaviors belonging to healthy friendships.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

The Writings give us more insight into what lies behind different kinds of friendship.

Identify Qualities of Friendship

In the chart below, mark healthy friendship qualities with a ✓ and unhealthy qualities with an ✗. Put a ? next to statements that you are not sure about. When you have finished, discuss your responses.

Friends are people who...			
will do you a favor when you ask them to	agree with everything their friends say	abandon you when they disagree with you	
need to be right all the time	love others no matter how they behave	do whatever others want to do	
are happy when others are successful	interrupt frequently when others are talking	complain about people who don't agree with them	
speak their mind	give an honest opinion	are always ready to give advice	
talk about themselves a lot	listen without judging	put a good interpretation on criticisms they hear	
repeat everything they hear about others	make up their own mind about other people	are affirming	
don't listen to what other people say	look people in the eye	don't repeat hurtful things they hear about other people	

Kinds of Friendship

The chart below explains four kinds of friendship described in the Writings.

1. Having Things in Common	2. Spiritual Friendship	3. Selfish Friendship	4. Destructive Friendship
Sharing friendship only in the context of a common interest or workplace.	Loves what is true and good in other people.	Befriends people only because of the advantages the friendship offers.	Loving the personality of someone who appears to be acting from self-centered and worldly motives.

Looking at the chart that describes qualities of friendship, which qualities characterize true friendship? Which qualities might alert you to a destructive friendship?