

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE WORD OF GOD

for Children



Psalm 119:105
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

Summer 2015

Prince Jonathan & David — BFF

1 Samuel 20

Saul was anointed by the prophet Samuel as the first king of Israel. During his reign, Saul turned away from God and disobeyed His commands. God sent Samuel to the king to say: “Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you from being king.” Instead of Saul’s son Jonathan, God chose the shepherd boy David to be the next king. And though it seems an unlikely friendship, Jonathan and David were the best of friends.

Prince Jonathan, first-born son and heir apparent, was a mighty warrior, fast and strong. He fought with the armies of Israel against the Philistines. All alone, Jonathan and his armor-bearer attacked an enemy garrison. Jonathan trusted God to give him the victory.

David was the eighth son of a shepherd from Bethlehem. He was a man after God’s own heart, and a skilled musician. When David was young, a lion and a bear tried to take a lamb from his father’s flock, and he killed them both. When Goliath, a Philistine giant, challenged the armies of Israel, David ran out to meet him with just a sling and five stones. David trusted God to give him the victory.

After David had killed Goliath, he was taken to King Saul. Then David, the real heir to the throne of Israel—chosen by God and anointed by Samuel—spoke with the king. Maybe David told how he killed Goliath. Maybe he spoke of his faith in the God who had delivered him from the paw of the lion and the bear, and the paw of the Philistine giant.

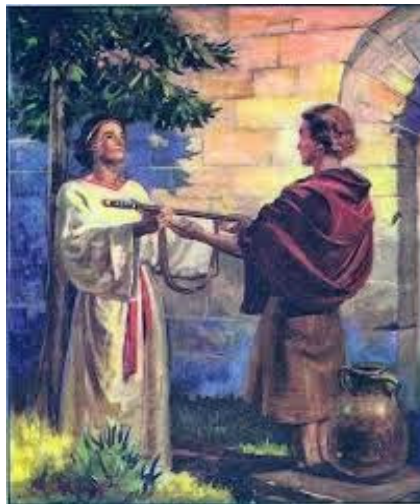
Jonathan listened as David spoke with the king. When David finished talking, Jonathan’s soul was knit to David’s, and Jonathan loved David as his own soul. In that instant, Jonathan loved David more than a brother or a friend. He made a covenant with David. He took off his princely robe and put it on the shepherd boy. He gave David his own armor, his sword, his bow and his belt.

David served King Saul for many years, doing successfully whatever he was sent to do, for God was with him. David was a strong, brave warrior for Israel, and the people praised him. King Saul was jealous and tried to kill him more than once, but each time David escaped. Saul grew more and more angry with David, and David had to run away and hide.

Jonathan and David renewed their covenant. Jonathan asked David for mercy for his family when God gave him the throne of Israel, and David swore an oath on his love for Jonathan. They made a secret plan to help David escape. Jonathan said: “I will shoot arrows at a target. You hide and listen. I will take a boy with me to fetch the arrows. If I tell the boy, ‘Look! The arrows are on this side of you,’ then it is safe to come out and there is no danger. If I tell the boy, ‘Look! The arrows are beyond you!’ then run away to safety.”

Jonathan begged his father to save David, but King Saul grew very angry. Saul knew that Jonathan would never be king as long as David was alive. He screamed at Jonathan and threw a spear at him. Finally, Jonathan realized that his father really meant to kill his friend. Jonathan didn’t eat any food that day because he was angry at his father and sad for David.

So they carried out the plan. David hid in the field. Jonathan shot an arrow, and sent the young boy to fetch it. He shouted, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you?” Then Jonathan sent the boy back to the city with his weapons, and David came out of hiding. He bowed to Jonathan three times, and they both cried and kissed each other goodbye. Jonathan said, “Go in peace! The Lord will be between me and you, and my family and yours, forever!” David left, and Jonathan went back to the city.



Later, David became king. He gave Jonathan’s only living son, a crippled boy named Mephibosheth, all the land that belonged to Saul’s family. Because of David’s promise and his love for Jonathan, Mephibosheth always ate at the king’s table, like one of David’s own sons.

Toddlers

Through Three Years



First Friendships

The Apostle Paul writes that all the Law is fulfilled in this: love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus said that all people will know we are His disciples if we love one another.

Some of the first friends your baby makes—maybe cousins or siblings—could be the closest friends he has through the rest of his life. Many first friends turn into lifelong friends.

Encourage your baby in these early friendships. Learning to share, learning to be gracious, forgiving when you've been wronged... these are things that will help your child learn to love. Teach your toddler to love his neighbor as himself. And teach your child that Jesus forgives him when he fails to love as he should.

John 13:34: A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Sweeter Than Honey

Honey is drippy and sticky and sweet. You may eat honey often, but when Jesus was a boy, honey was a rare treat.



At about six years old, Hebrew boys started their first day of school at the *synagogue* (church) school. The *rabbi* (teacher) would give each boy a small bowl of honey. Imagine Jesus as a little boy with His very own bowl of honey! Sometimes the rabbi would pour some honey on the student's writing slate instead.

The students would dip their fingers in the bowl and lick the sticky, sweet honey from their fingers. While they ate the honey, their rabbi would read from the *Torah* (the books of Moses—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

The rabbi would tell the students, "May the Word of God be sweet to your taste, sweeter than honey in your mouth!" The students would lick the sweet honey and listen to the Word of God. When they grew older, they would always remember that the Word of God is sweet like honey.

Remember that God's Word is sweet—like honey! Learn the Word of God and hide it deep inside your heart.

**How sweet are thy words unto my taste!
yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103**

Tykes

Ages Seven-Ten

Your Best Friend Forever

Friends aren't always nice to each other. Sometimes friends fight and argue, or act in a mean way. Perhaps someone has been friendly to you when you're alone, but when other people come around, that person doesn't act like your friend. Friends can be fickle!

A friend loveth at all times... Proverbs 17:17

The Bible says that a friend loves at all times. A person who has friends must show himself to be friendly. In order to have true friends, you must be a true friend. Even if you love at all times—which you can't really do because you're a sinner!—that doesn't mean that your friends will always be nice to you, because they are sinners, too. Sometimes even a true friend will hurt your feelings or do something unkind. But a true friend will also apologize when he does something to hurt you, and he will try to be a better friend in the future.

There is One Friend, though, who will never hurt you or be unkind to you. Jesus is the Best Friend of all! He is not a sinner and He doesn't ever do anything wrong. He doesn't act like your friend one minute and ignore you the next. He knows when you are hurt and He understands your pain.

Jesus is the Best Friend of sinners, because He died on the cross for all sinners. He paid for your sins and the sins of your friends. He wants you to love and trust in Him to save you. He will help you to be a true friend to others.



Tweens

Eleven-Twelve Years

David Spares King Saul's Life

After David had left Saul's royal court behind, he wandered about, staying a step ahead of King Saul who was trying to kill him. Many fighting men of Israel rallied around David. They lived in caves in the country, following their captain David into battle after battle with both the Philistine armies and King Saul's men.

Once when David was deep inside a cave with his men, King Saul entered the cave. The king didn't know that David was there. David's men said, "This day the Lord has delivered your enemy into your hand! Go and do what you want to him." David crept to the king. He unsheathed his sword and cut off a corner of the king's robe, then slipped away. Afterward, David felt terrible because Saul was the Lord's anointed, and David would not allow his men to attack Saul.

King Saul left the cave. A few minutes later, David went out and called, "My lord the king!" Saul looked back and David bowed to him. David asked, "Why do you listen to the people who say I want to hurt you? The Lord gave you into my hand today. I could have killed you, but I spared your life! See, my father, I only cut off a corner of your robe. I didn't sin against you, even though you're trying to kill me!"



King Saul called, "Is that your voice, my son David?" The king wept and said, "You are more righteous than I. May the Lord reward you for sparing my life. I know you will be king after me. Swear that you won't cut off my family." David promised and they parted ways.

But soon Saul was hunting David again! David had more than one chance to kill King Saul, but he never did. When the Philistines eventually killed King Saul and Jonathan, David mourned and wept. Though King Saul had tried to kill him, David loved the man who God had chosen as the first king of Israel.

No Frenemies Allowed!

According to wikipedia, a *frenemy* can be "either an enemy pretending to be a friend or someone who really is a friend but also a rival."

Teens



In these days of Facebook and Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram and Snapchat, and constant, instant communication by text, a common lament rises among teens. Someone they thought was a friend is unexpectedly unkind. This is not a new theme, though; it has been happening for years. It simply spreads much faster and farther in this high-tech age.

Maybe something like this has happened to you:

- *A friend snapchat's a very unflattering picture of you.
- *A friend posts a mean status about you.
- *A friend texts a confidence to all her contacts. On purpose.
- *A friend tweets a bad joke at your expense. Haha! LOL! jk ;)

Suddenly and without warning, your friend seems not to be your friend at all. In your eyes, she has turned against you, and she now looks more like an enemy than a friend. Suddenly you cannot trust that she cares for you, your feelings or your reputation. Maybe tomorrow or the next day, the friendship will resume, possibly without any explanation or any apology. And it will all be sort of ok. Until the next time.

Maybe you are the one who broke the confidence of a friend. Maybe you snapchat'ted that funny pic that wasn't really so funny. If you have hurt your friend, apologize sincerely and ask her to forgive you. Then prove yourself a true friend. Think before you post. Remember that ANYTHING you put online will be out there for a very long time!

Jesus gave the definition of true friendship. He said: "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Jesus showed His love for His friends (us) by laying down His life for us. He took our sin on Himself and died in our place. He made our peace with God the Father.

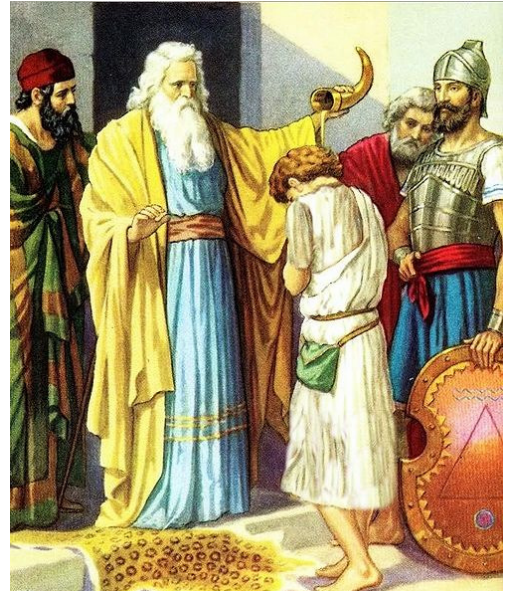
True friendship is sacrificial. It thinks of others before itself. Do you have true friends? Are you a true friend? Don't be a friend one day, and an enemy the next. Seek out true friends, and be a true friend. Jesus said: "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another." People will know you are a Christian by your love for others.

No frenemies allowed!

King David—A Man After God’s Own Heart

Shepherd—David was a handsome young shepherd boy. He cared for his father’s flock in Bethlehem. When a lion and a bear tried to take a lamb from the flock for their dinner, David killed each of them. One day, when David was taking care of the sheep, he was told that Samuel the prophet was waiting to see him! Samuel poured his horn of oil over David’s head in front of his brothers, anointing him the next king of Israel. It would be many years before David sat on his God-given throne.

Warrior—In the meantime, David became a warrior, trained with the sling, bow, sword and spear. After David defeated Goliath, the armies of Israel attacked the Philistines and returned to Israel. The women came out into the streets, making music and dancing. They joyfully sang, “Saul has killed thousands, but David has killed ten thousands!” This displeased Saul, and he kept his eye on David after that, because he knew that the Lord was with David. When David became a commander, he led his troops into many battles. Over the course of David’s life, the Lord gave him victory over the Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites, Philistines, and Syrians.



Musician—David was a musician and composer. He wrote many of the psalms (songs of the Hebrew people) in our Old Testament. David played the harp in King Saul’s court, where his music soothed the king’s troubled spirit. Later, when David learned that King Saul and Jonathan had been killed on Mount Gilboa in a battle with the Philistines, he tore his clothes and mourned, cried and fasted. That evening David wrote a song for his fallen king and his friend Jonathan, a song that David said should be taught to all the people of Judah. David chanted this lament:

The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places!

How are the mighty fallen!

Don’t tell it in Gath or publish it in the streets of Ashkelon,

Or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the uncircumcised will triumph.

You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, or fields of offerings,

For there was the shield of the mighty defiled, the shield of Saul, as if he had not been anointed with oil.

From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,

The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, and the sword of Saul did not return empty.

Saul and Jonathan, lovely and pleasant in life, and in death they were not divided.

They were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions.

You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul who clothed you in scarlet, who put gold ornaments on your apparel.

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of battle!

O Jonathan, you were slain on your high places.

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan!

Very pleasant you have been to me; your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women.

How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

King—After Saul’s death, David was made king, first over Judah and later over all Israel. King David brought the ark of the Lord back to Jerusalem with sacrifices and music and a grand ceremony. The ark of God was kept in a tent, and King David lived in a house of cedar. He wanted to build a temple for the Lord, but the king was a man of war. His hands were stained with the blood of his enemies, so much blood that the Lord would not allow David to build a temple. God promised that after David was dead, his son would build a temple for Him.

Sinner—One day, the king was walking on the flat roof of his house. He saw a beautiful woman bathing nearby. She was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, who served in the military. David sent for Bathsheba and was intimate with her, and she became pregnant. David then had Uriah killed so that he could marry Bathsheba. What a sorry state King David was in! God sent Nathan the prophet to speak to David, and he repented of his sin. The Lord forgave David but said that David and Bathsheba’s child would die because of David’s sin. This was a sad time in King David’s life. His first son died, as God had promised, and then David and Bathsheba had another son named Solomon. He became king of Israel after David died and he built the temple in Jerusalem.

A Man After God’s Own Heart—God said this about King David: *I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. (Acts 13:22)* Though David had sinned terribly, he was humble and repentant and acknowledged his sin when Nathan spoke to him about it. King David was a man after God’s own heart, beloved of the Lord and forgiven.

(1 Samuel) 20:42

START HERE

What did Jonathan say to David when they said goodbye?

To find out, march clockwise around the square, starting at the upper left corner. Cross out each letter that is in a **CIRCLE** and write it (in the same order) on the lines below the puzzle. When you've gone all the way around once, march around a second time, this time using each letter that is in a **SQUARE**.

G E O T I W N E P E E N A

R B E E V B E D R

M C E E A A N N D

R O O F L E E E H H T T D

Fly Jonathan's arrow through the maze to the target.

Jonathan said:

Word Search

R O I R R A W V O E E E
S H E P H E R D E C D S
N S D N E I R F N L A I
A R R O W S L I X U V M
R O M R A H R L Z O I O
L L B F W P C L C S D R
P H I L I S T I N E S P
M E P H I B O S H E T H
C O V E N A N T H V P A
S R E H T O R B T I N K
L U F H T I A F P R U L
Q B N A H T A N O J J R

ARMOR
ARROWS
BROTHERS
COVENANT
DAVID
FAITHFUL
FRIENDS
JONATHAN
KNIT
MEPHIBOSHETH
PHILISTINES
PRINCE
PROMISE
SHEPHERD
SOUL
WARRIOR

JON & DAVE Puzzle Fun

Look it up...

- ⇒ How old was David when he began to reign?
- ⇒ How many years did he reign in Hebron? In Jerusalem?
- ⇒ How many years was he king over all Israel and Judah?

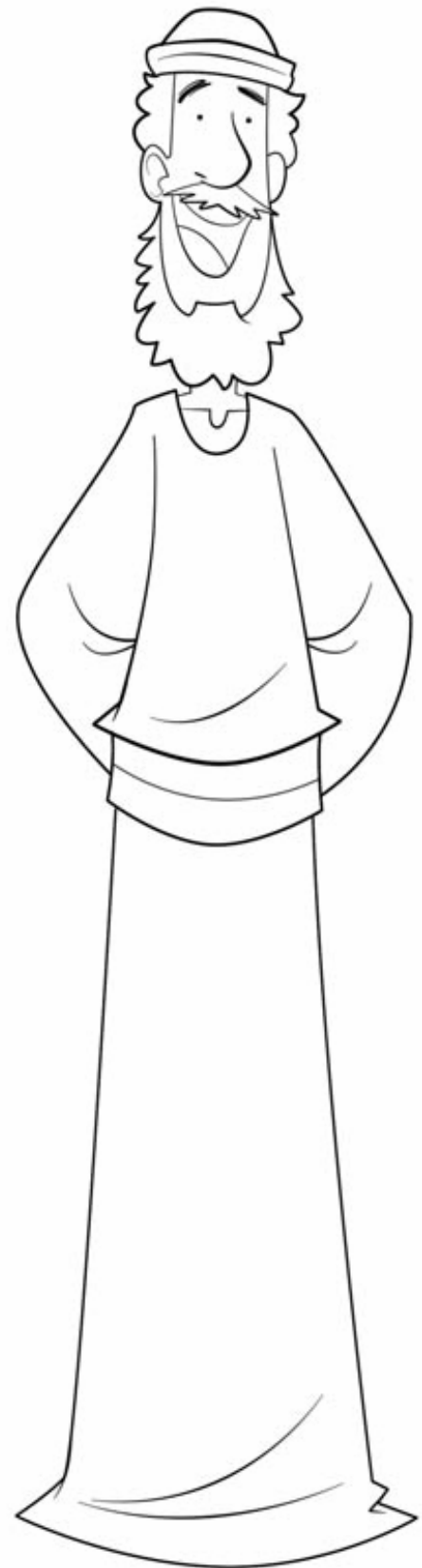
2 Samuel 5:4-5

How many

Arrows are on this page?



DAVID



JONATHAN

*...the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
1 Samuel 18:1*

True Friends

A handsome prince,
A shepherd boy,
How could these two be friends?
Their souls are knit—
Two hearts as one—
When God true friendship sends.

And David bold,
The giant-slayer
And keeper of the sheep,
With honest faith
And fervent love
The covenant will keep.

A covenant,
A solemn oath,
Spoken in simple love;
The Lord Himself
Will witness be
To friendship from above.

In later years
When Jonathan
Had died and gone away,
King David brought
His crippled son
Into his home to stay.

Brave Jonathan,
Son of a king,
Showed faith unto the other,
His robe, his sword,
His bow and belt,
He put upon his brother.

These two young men
In simple trust
Received the friendship given,
From God above
Who sends in love
True friendship down from heaven.

When King Saul tried
With might and main
To take young David's life,
Then Jonathan
As loyal friend
Protected him from strife.

May we in faith
Receive as they
Those whom the Lord will send
Into our lives
And, with His help,
Be a faithful and good friend.



Dear Father in heaven,

You are the Holy One, the Maker of heaven and earth. Thank You for the rain that waters the ground and the sunshine that makes the plants grow. You have given me life and kept me every day. Thank You for all that You provide, my family and friends, food, clothing and shelter. Thank You most of all for salvation in Jesus.

Thank You for Jonathan and David, examples of true friendship. Father, You have shown Your friendship to us by sending Your only Son to die for the sin of the world. You are the Friend of sinners! Give me faith to trust in Jesus, to believe that His perfect sacrifice was for me.

Help me to love as You have commanded, so others can see I am a Christian. Let me be a friend to those around me. Let me share the Good News of Jesus, and let me forgive when I've been wronged.

Your Word is living and powerful, sharper than a sword. Let Your Word be like honey on my tongue, sweet and precious to my heart. Preserve Your Word within me forever, most gracious Father,

For Jesus' name's sake, Amen.

Puzzle
Answer Key



page
arrows on the puzzle
There are 17
many?
How

R	O	I	R	A	W	V	O	E	E
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	E	C
N	S	D	N	E	I	R	E	N	L
A	R	O	M	W	S	I	L	I	X
M	V	U	X	I	L	I	X	I	M
O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
R	D	R	C	T	C	S	D	R	P
P	S	E	N	I	S	T	I	S	P
H	T	H	O	S	H	E	T	H	H
A	P	V	A	N	T	H	A	P	A
K	B	T	O	R	B	T	I	N	K
L	F	H	T	I	A	F	E	P	R
J	R	A	N	O	J	R	A	N	O

Jonathan
say?
Go in peace,
and the Lord
be between
me and thee
forever.

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For Parents:

...the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 1 Samuel 18:1

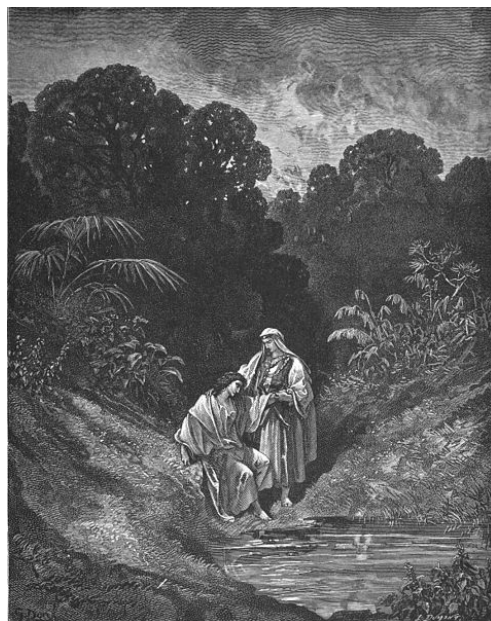
I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. 2 Samuel 1:26

Jonathan loved David as his own soul, and his soul was joined to David's. The same Hebrew verb that is here translated "knit" is used to describe Jacob's love for his son Benjamin (Genesis 44:30), whose name means "son of my right hand," the hand of blessing. Little Benny was blessed and beloved, and Jacob's life was "bound up" with Benjamin's life. The patriarch Jacob was joined in soul with his son, and theirs was a normal, loving relationship between father and son.

After Jonathan's death, David the musician composed a song in his deep grief over losing his brother-in-soul. His song of lament reveals that Jonathan's love to David was wonderful, like the love of a brother and even surpassing the love of women. Brothers can have a relationship that may be closer in some ways than a husband/wife relationship, simply because of the shared background and time spent growing up together. David and Jonathan's friendship was true and abiding, withstanding many tests and trials.

Jonathan made a covenant with David, and this covenant friendship was hallowed and blessed in the sight of God, and in the sight of the people of Israel and the servants of Saul. In today's sexually deviant, immoral society, some have tried to make David and Jonathan's relationship into an ungodly homosexual one. Some have used Jonathan and David's love for each other to try to promote a perverse lifestyle that the Bible would never condone. David and Jonathan were normal healthy males with normal male desires, and they both had wives and children. Certainly some of David's sexual sins are exposed in Scripture for all the world to see, but God's Word never indicates that David and Jonathan's love was in any way contrary to God's command.

Teach your children—age appropriately, of course—that marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman, that it is blessed by God and provided by Him for our protection and enjoyment. Stand against society's tolerance of immoral, ungodly behavior. And teach your children that true male friendship is possible.



David and Jonathan Gustave Doré
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