**LESSONS FROM DAVID WEEK 5 19 / 23 NOVEMBER DAVID’S FRIENDSHIP**

 **1 Samuel 18.** 1-4**; also 20; 23.** 15-18**; 2 Samuel 1.** 11-12, 17-27**; also 2 Samuel 23.** 13-17

**David and Jonathan - a legendary friendship**



**Lectio:** The passages in 1 Samuel tell the story of the friendship between King Saul’s son Jonathan and David, who is being hunted by Saul. The last chapter of 1 Samuel tells how Jonathan is killed in battle against the Philistines and Saul is so badly wounded he falls on his sword to avoid being captured. 2 Samuel chapter 1 contains David’s eloquent and heartfelt lament for both of them.

**Explore:**

* How important to you are your friendships? From your own experience, how does a strong friendship begin and how is it sustained. Search out the characteristics of the friendship in this story, and the ways in which it’s put to the test. Look at 1 Samuel 20, and 23. 15-18 Can you relate to any of its features? Should the story be called ‘Jonathan and David’?
* David obviously also inspired devotion in his men – read the story in 2 Samuel 23. 13-17
* David and Jonathan made a solemn promise to each other in the presence of God, and honoured it. How does a shared faith enrich a friendship? Does that mean friendships with non-Christians are less valuable?
* Look at Jesus’ words in John 15. 12-14. Do you think of Jesus as your friend?

**Worship:**

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|  | I’ve found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!  He loved me ere I knew Him;He drew me with the cords of love,  And thus He bound me to Him.And round my heart still closely twine  Those ties which naught can sever,For I am His, and He is mine,  Forever and forever. |
|  | I’ve found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!  He bled, He died to save me;And not alone the gift of life,  But His own self He gave me.Naught that I have my own I call,  I hold it for the Giver;My heart, my strength, my life, my all,  Are His, and His forever. |
|  | I’ve found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!  So kind, and true, and tender,So wise a Counsellor and Guide,  So mighty a Defender!From Him who loves me now so well,  What power my soul can sever?Shall life or death, or earth or hell?  No! I am His forever. |