



**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## A Covenant Between Friends 1 Sam 18:1-5; 19:1-7

### Lesson Background and Introduction

In the Christian arrangement of the books of the Old Testament, 1 and 2 Samuel are included with the historical books (Joshua–Esther). They record the transition from theocracy (being governed by the Lord) to monarchy (being governed by an earthly king). The books of 1 and 2 Samuel can be divided into these sections:

- The end of the period of the judges (1 Samuel 1–8)
- The Lord’s selection and rejection of Saul, Israel’s first king (1 Samuel 9–15)
- The Lord’s selection of David and the fall of Saul (1 Samuel 16–31)
- The establishment of David’s throne (2 Samuel 1–10)
- The sin of David and consequent flight from Jerusalem (2 Samuel 11–18)
- The reestablishment of David in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 19; 20)
- The legacy of David (2 Samuel 21–24)

Samuel is a pivotal figure in the history of Israel, being the last of the judges and the first of the prophets (see Acts 3:24; 13:20). The Israelites, tired of the abuses of Samuel’s sons, demanded that Samuel give them an earthly king “like all the other nations” (1 Samuel 8:20). This flew in the face of God’s desire for Israel to be a priestly, holy nation under his rule (Exodus 19:6; 1 Samuel 12:12–16). The Lord required Samuel to proclaim the negative consequences of becoming like the nations by having an earthly king (1 Samuel 8:11–18), but God still chose to grant their request. The Lord selected Saul, but Saul did not faithfully carry out the Lord’s commands (13:7–14; 15). Thus the Lord instructed Samuel to tell Saul of his rejection and then to anoint David to be Saul’s heir even while Saul still lived (13:14; 16:1).

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**A Committed Friendship** - David killed Goliath and gained great favor with the existing royal family, especially King Saul's son, Jonathan. The two young men both had a genuine relationship with God. They agreed early in their friendship to stick together no matter what. Everyone expected Jonathan to take the throne after his father's death. However, Jonathan realized God appointed David to be the next king. Jonathan wasted no time being jealous and envious of his friend. He and David committed themselves wholeheartedly to God's plans, and that greatly enhanced their friendship.

**Saul's Pride** - However, the king became increasingly resentful as David became more popular. Saul's envy toward David's favor with God got the best of him. Instead of taking this matter to the Lord, Saul began to deal with this situation his own way. He ordered Jonathan and his servants to put David to death.

**Coming to a Friend's Defense** - Because he loved David like a brother, Jonathan told him about his father's evil plan. After Jonathan reasoned with his father, the Lord touched Saul's heart, the king reversed the order to kill David, and allowed David to come back into the palace for a time.

**The Value of Christian Friendships** - When God brings two people together in Christian friendship, this can be a great benefit for both of them and the Body of Christ. The Christian life is designed to include the companionship of others. One sister describes an agreement she and other single women in her Bible study group made to each other: "We all were struggling in relationships and wanting very much to recommit to staying sexually pure as Christian women. We prayed for each other, kept each other accountable, and hung out together on those lonely Friday nights. All of us in the group agree our friendship helped us get through a very difficult and challenging time."

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

The depth of friendship isn't merely about doing the right thing. It's about sacrifice

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**

Jesus asked His disciples to show their friendship to Him by loving one another as He had loved them. Then, He raised the bar. In anticipation of His death on the cross, He said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13)

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you*

(John 15:15 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 09, 2009)*

**Series: Covenant in God**

**UNIT: A Personal Perspective**

**NEXT WEEK**

**A Mother-Daughter  
Covenant**

**(Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18)**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Covenant Made (1 Sam 18:1-5)**

#### *Made with friendship (1-2)*

- Friendship with God first (James 2:23)
- Friendship that comforts during grief (Gen 38:12)
- Friendship that loves at all times (Prov 17:17)
- Friendship that never forsakes (Prov 27:10)
- Friendship that provides earnest counsel (Prov 27:9)
- Friendship that provides strength (Eccl 4:9-12)

#### *Made with love (3)*

- Love because it is the only thing that counts in the Kingdom of God (Gal 5:6)
- Love because love comes from a pure heart and good conscience (1 Tim 1:5)
- Love because it prompts all to do good works (Heb 10:24)
- Love because love is commanded (Heb 13:1)
- Love because it means that we love God (1 John 4:21)
- Love because love compels us to edify others (John 21:15-18)

#### *Made with service (4-5)*

- Service with the motive it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)
- Service that bears the failings of the weak and tries to strengthen them (Rom 15:1-2)
- Service that carries other's burdens (Gal 6:2)
- Service that meets the needs of others (James 2:15-17)
- Service that has action, not just words (1 John 3:16-18)

### **Covenant Confirmed (1 Sam 19:1-7)**

#### *Confirmed through a plan (1-3)*

- A plan to fulfill by pressing on toward the goal (Phil 3:12-14)
- A plan to fulfill by not losing heart, but focusing on the eternal (2 Cor 4:16-18)
- A plan to fulfill by depending on the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 5:1-5)
- A plan to fulfill by keeping the faith (2 Tim 4:7-8)
- A plan to fulfill by committing oneself to God (Prov 16:3)

#### *Confirmed through a warning (4-5)*

- A warning that shouldn't be refused (Heb 12:25)
- A warning through God's word (Ex 19:23)
- A warning through leaders (Ps 2:10)
- A warning that if we repent God will relent and not bring on disaster (Jer 18:7-8)
- A warning that is responded to with faith (Heb 11:7)

#### *Confirmed through a deliverance (6-7)*

- Deliverance from deadly peril (2 Cor 1:10)
- Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)
- Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)
- Deliverance from temptations (1 Cor 10:13)
- Deliverance from evil attacks (2 Tim 4:18)