

Sunday School Lesson, June 21, 2026
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Lesson—A Forever Bond¹

Text: 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:16-17, 32-34, 42; 2 Samuel 1:26-27; 21:7

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Define how Jonathan and David's loyal love witnesses to God's love.
2. Develop a heart of loyalty to God.
3. Practice loyalty and love for God through loving our neighbors.

Why This Lesson Matters: How does a friend prove trustworthy in a difficult situation? Jonathan proved to be a trustworthy friend to David despite the paranoia of his father, King Saul, and David and his hall honored their friendship by providing for their son, Mephibosheth, after Jonathan's death.

Key Verse: *“And Jonathan said to David, go in peace, for as much as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed forever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.” (1 Samuel 20:42, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Covenantal Friendship Established (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:16-17, 32-34, 42)
3. Covenantal Friendship Fulfilled (2 Samuel 1:26-27; 21:7)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

David: the eighth son of Jesse, whose resume included shepherd, musician, soldier, and the second king of Israel.

Jonathan: The oldest son of King Saul and a devout friend to David.

King Saul: the first king of Israel after the transformation from the rulership of judges. He was a failed and ill-fated king who envied David and sought to kill him.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Armor

Covenant

Loved

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

First Samuel is the 9th book of the Old Testament, bridging the history of the nation of Israel from the chaotic era of the tribal leadership to a centralized monarchy under human kings, particularly Saul and David. First Samuel is part of Israel's Deuteronomistic history, which describes how Israel transitioned from a tribal confederation to a monarchy. First Samuel covers 4 main events: God raising Samuel as a prophet and judge (Ch. 1-7), Israel's misguided demand for a king (Ch. 8-15), David's anointing and rise to become Israel's second king (16-20), and Saul's relentless, jealous-fueled pursuit of David, including multiple attempts to kill him (Ch. 21-31).

The immediate context of this lesson's passage follows David's victory over Goliath, his growing popularity, and the close friendship between David and Jonathan, which leads to repeated loyalty tests amid Saul's increasing hostility toward David. Further into the book of Samuel, it offers a theological framing to the political and social issues that Israel faced. Even though a monarchy represents stability, it also means a reduction of freedom for the people and a shifting of loyalties from God to the king. It is the last of these that first Samuel is most concerned about: the people's rejection of Yahweh as king and their acceptance of a human monarch.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Proverbs 18:24 says, “¶ A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” The best of friends will do things sometimes that even flesh and blood won't. When you find a true friend, be as close to them and they are to you.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*