

# Running with the Big Dogs

*Experiencing success in life by following God's lead from 1 & 2 Samuel*

## God's Best Friend

Introduction to 1 Samuel 17-20

Dogs have long owned the reputation for being man's best friend. They are always faithful to be there when you need them, and have few, if any, expectations in return. Such loyalty is what defines them as man's best friend. In the same way, when we demonstrate such loyalty to God we, too, could be considered to be His best friend. In this week's study David, although it wasn't easy, showed in several situations that he was God's best friend, unlike Saul who preceded him. In the first situation he faced an overwhelming problem, by human standards, in that he had to battle 9' 6" Goliath. However, David didn't allow fear to overcome him, and he didn't resort to human tactics. He knew that God would defend Himself and all he had to do was allow God to

work through him. His loyalty to God led to the blessing of defeating the giant, an experience that would certainly fortify him for future problems. This victory led to acclaim for David, but also resulted in Saul's jealous suspicion and persecution of him. Although David had been anointed king by Samuel, he had to become a fugitive to escape death at the hands of Saul. He remained loyal, however, to God's call on his life, and God blessed him with protection. He used his wife, Michal, to cover for him, employed Samuel as protection, and even personally intervened by His Spirit three times to thwart Saul's pursuit of David. Finally, David demonstrated his loyalty to God by promising Saul's son,



**When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.**

Jonathan, that he would protect his offspring because of Jonathan's loyalty to him. This was a huge step for Jonathan, because he would have been king; but he, too, was loyal to God, and accepted His will that David was God's choice as Saul's successor. Both of them were blessed because of their loyalty, proving that God could count on them. They both acted like God's best friend.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Samuel 17-20

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

1. Read 17:1-30. Describe the problem Israel faced (v4-10), and Israel's reaction (v11, 24). How did David respond differently (v26), and why do you think he did (v26)? Apply this.

2. From 17:31-37 what did David tell Saul he would do (v32), and what was Saul's response (v33)? What were 2 reasons for David's confidence (v34-35, 36-37)?

3. In 17:38-49 what armor and weapons did David use to fight Goliath (v38-40, 49)? How did Goliath react (v42-44), and what was David's response (v45-47)? What does this teach?

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## I Samuel 17-20 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 17:49-58 what were the 3 results of the fight (v48-50, 51-54, 55-58)? In your opinion, what was the “secret” to David’s success, and how could you do the same thing?

5. Looking at 18:1-16, how did Jonathan relate to David (v1, 3-4), to Saul (v2), and to the people (v5)? What caused Saul’s relationship with David to change (v6-9), and what was the result (v10-16)? What can we learn from this?

6. From 18:17-30 what 2 things did Saul propose to get David killed (v17, 20-21, 25), and what was David’s response (v18, 26-27)? What was the result in Saul’s life (v28-29), and in David’s life (v30)?

7. Based on 19:1-7 how did Jonathan respond to Saul’s desire to kill David (v2-5), and how did this demonstrate his loyalty? What was the result (v6-7)?

8. Using 19:8-24 what was Saul’s next step and why (v8-10), and David’s response (v10, 18)? Who helped him (v11, 18, 20, 21, 23), and how (v11-18, 20-24)? What does this show about God?

9. Read 20:1-23. What did David do next (v1), how was Jonathan loyal (v2-11), and what was Jonathan’s request (13-17, 23)? What did it cost David and Jonathan to be loyal to God?

10. In 20:24-42 how did Saul respond to David’s absence (v24-26, 27), and how did he respond to Jonathan (v28-34)? To whom did Jonathan choose to be loyal (v34), what did he do (v34-42), and why (v42)?

11. Review the experiences David had in 1 Samuel 17-20. What do you think these experiences taught him about God, others, and himself?

### Scripture to Remember

*“And David was prospering  
in all his ways for the Lord  
was with him.”*

*1 Samuel 18:14*

### **Celebration Fellowship**

*Reaching—  
Restoring—Raising Up*

**We’re on the web**

**[www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com)**

### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. As a group kick around the idea of the difference between believing in God and believing God.
2. Share some things that reveal God as the Master Creator, and the Master Planner of everything...and how this has become personal to you.
3. Discuss the importance of believing that God can do what He says, and how this should affect our Bible study. Share how active God’s Word is in you.
4. Talk about which aspect of your identity in Christ means the most to you—that you are blessed, chosen, adopted, gifted, set free or forgiven - and why.
5. Which of Satan’s big weapons does he use most often on you—fear or discouragement? How can the truth that you can do anything through Him overcome this?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the worship service if you have time.