



### **Icebreaker:**

What are you looking forward to most this coming winter?

### **Announcements:**

Invite someone to join you for one of our three Sunday morning services.

### **Prayer Time:**

Pray for our upcoming Christmas outreaches and services. Invite a friend.

### **Study Questions:**

What qualities are found in solid friendships? In what ways do acquaintance level and casual friendships require less of us?

Read 1 Samuel 18:1–5. What do you think led to Jonathan and David’s relational bond? How does a common commitment to deepening faith impact a relationship? What happens when this is missing?

In what way does Jonathan put David first? How can we do the same for others? What does Paul say about the focus we should have in our relationship with others– see Philippians 2:3–4. How could this principle dramatically improve a relationship and revolutionize a marriage?

How does Jesus model the other centered life– see Philippians 2:5–8. In what ways does our culture make living for others’ interests so difficult? What are the results when people live a self focused life– see James 4:1–2.

Discuss the statement *“Nice thoughts, positive thoughts, unexpressed are a lost opportunity for good.”* How are they also a lost opportunity to deepen a relationship? Why are we too often stingy with affirmation and praise?

According to the following verses what kind of support should we give to others– to our friends... Ephesians 4:29–30; Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:15; Proverbs 11:25; John 15:12–15.

Read 1 Samuel 23:14–16. What role did Jonathan play in David’s spiritual life? Why is concern for our friends’ spiritual life so important? How can we be a spiritual encouragement to our spouse– our friends who know Jesus– our friends who don’t believe?

**Conversational Prayer:** Dear God show me...