

MEN'S TRAINING CAMP



"Iron sharpeneth iron;
so a man sharpeneth
the countenance
of his friend."
Proverbs 27:17

Studying the Life Principles of...

JONATHAN

APRIL 27-30, 2011

CAPPOQUIN, CO. WATERFORD

Studying the Life Principles of **Jonathan** *Being a Friend*

This Handbook belongs to: _____



Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig

Unit B, Enterprise Park, Innishmore,

Ballincollig, Cork

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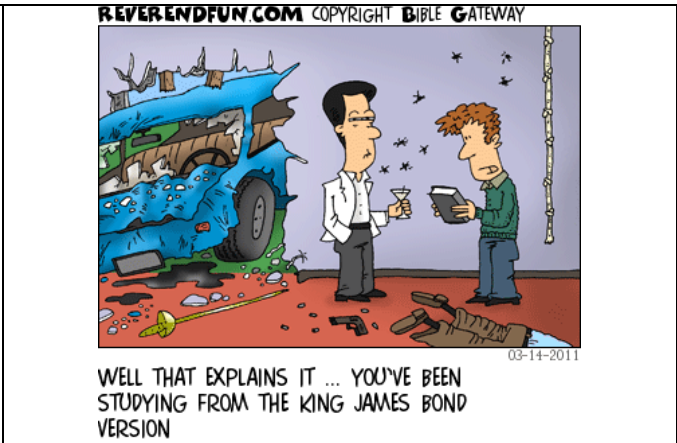
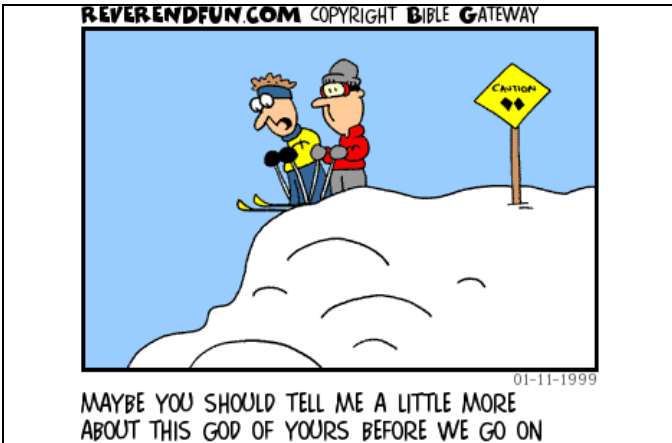
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**"A friend loveth at all times,
and a brother is born for adversity." Proverbs 17:17**



Men's Training Camp 2011

Schedule of Events

Time	Duration	Main Function	Support Function
WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL			
3:00pm		Arrive at Camp - Unpack and Start Dinner	
3:00pm	3 hrs	Sports Time	<i>Clean-up</i>
6:00pm	1:30 hr	Dinner (<i>Burgers & Chips</i>)	
7:30pm	1:30 hr	1st Session – Introduction	– Craig Ledbetter
9:00pm	1 hr	Snack (<i>Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches</i>)	
10:00pm	1:30 hr	2nd Session – Having a Change of Heart	– Dan Pero
11:30pm	1 hr	Fellowship Time	
12:30am	7:00hrs	Sleep	
THURSDAY 28TH APRIL			
7:30am	1 hr	Wake-Up and Shower	<i>Prepare Breakfast</i>
8:30am	45min	Quiet Time Devotions	
9:15am	1:45min	Prayer Breakfast - Men's Prayer Groups (<i>Cereal</i>)	
11:00am	30 min	Break	
11:30am	1:15 hr	3rd Session – Being a Man's Friend	– Jerome Pittman
12:45pm	45 min	Lunch	
1:30pm	4 hr	Hiking and Hill Walking and Sports	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
5:30pm	1 hr	Dinner (<i>Spaghetti, Garlic Bread</i>)	
6:30pm	30min	Worksheet: Thoughts on a Man's Anger	– Craig Ledbetter
7:00pm	1:15 hr	4th Session – Handling Conflicts	– Travis Snode
8:30pm	1 hr	Dessert, Tea and Coffee - Sports Time (Outdoor)	
9:30pm	1:30 hr	5th Session – Becoming a Man's Man	– Declan Flanagan
11:00pm	1:00 hr	Bonfire and Group Prayer Time	
12:00am	7:30hrs	Sleep	
FRIDAY 29TH APRIL			
7:30am	1 hr	Wake-Up and Shower	<i>Prepare Breakfast</i>
8:30am	45min	Quiet Time Devotions	
9:15am	45min	Breakfast (<i>Eggs, Sausage, and Cereal</i>)	
10:00am	1:15 hr	6th Session – Yielding to God's Will	– Dan Eberly
11:15am	30 min	Break	
11:45pm	1 hr	Lunch	
12:45pm	1 hr	7th - Married – Leading Your Home	– Gene McKinley
12:45pm	1 hr	7th - Single – Developing Your Leadership	– John Mahony
12:45pm	1 hr	7th - Young – Designed to Lead	– Keith Hamilton
1:45pm	3:45 hrs	Hiking and Hill Walking	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
5:30pm	30min	Break	
6:00pm	1.30 hr	Dinner (<i>BBQ Steak and Chicken</i>)	
7:30pm	1:30 hr	8th Session – There is Still a War On!	– Craig Ledbetter
9:00pm	45min	Dessert, Tea and Coffee - Sports Time (Outdoor)	
9:45pm	1:30 hr	Pop-Corn Preaching (<i>men preaching for 5 mins each</i>)	
11:15pm	45 min	Group Prayer Time	
12:00am	7:30hrs	Sleep	

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL

7:30am	45min	Wake-up, Read Bible & Take Showers	<i>Prepare Breakfast</i>
8:15am	45min	Breakfast (<i>Eggs, Porridge and Cereal</i>)	
9:00am	1:15 hrs	9th Session – Jonathan's Legacy	– Jim Voltenberg
10:15am	1 hr	Testimony Time and Final Pop-Corn Preaching	
11:15am	1 hr	Pack-up and clean-up	
12:00pm	30min	Lunch (<i>Sandwiches</i>)	
12:30pm		Final Clean-up, Leave for Home	

Thoughts on Friendship

Friendship is vitally important for men! We believed that truth when we were children, and we need to believe it more, now that we are adults! God says, "*Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not*" (Pro 27:10). Friendships are relationships that we as men should make carefully, and wholeheartedly.

- A friend is someone who is there when you need them (Prov 17:17)
- A real friend always speaks the truth "in love" (Prov 27:5,6)
- Real friends do not need to speak flattering words (Prov 29:5)
- Friends tell you what you need to hear, not what you might want to hear (Prov 27:9)
- If a man has more than two faithful friends, he is a rich man!
- Friends are people that God puts into your life "for such a time as this," that, when you look back, you realise that you couldn't have made it without them! So was it with Jonathan and David.
- One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives. ~ *Euripides*
- I went out to FIND a friend, but could not find one there; I went out to BE a friend, and friends were everywhere!
- Some people make enemies instead of friends, because it takes less effort!
- No man is useless while he is a friend! *Robert Lewis Stevenson*
- Friendship is one mind in two bodies. *Mencius*
- If you really want to know who your friends are, just make a mistake.
- A man is known by the company he keeps out of! *Alexander Craig*
- Nothing improves a man's hearing like a little praise!
- Correction does much, but encouragement does more!
- The only way to have a friend is to be one. ~*Ralph Waldo Emerson*
- Depth of friendship does not depend on length of acquaintance. ~ *Rabindranath Tagore*
- "Your friend is the man who knows all about you, and still likes you." -- *Elbert Hubbard*

If you have a best friend, and they love Jesus supremely, then they are worth everything, because they will love you unconditionally!

Retreat Room Layout Map



Special Songs

Faithful Men

I am looking to Jesus, giving all in the race,
pressing upward to gain the heavenly prize!
Faithful men are my witness,
who have struggled for Christ,
and they watch from the grandstands in the sky!

Chorus

Faithful men... have gone before us!
Faithful men... who fight and stand!
I want to fol-low in their footsteps!
Make me Lord... a faithful man!



Jacob joined with the faithful; Joseph followed behind;
Moses ran with the mighty men of old!
There was David and Daniel; Then came Peter and Paul.
Now they shout as they run on streets of gold!
(*To Chorus*)

End of the last Chorus

Make me Lord... a faithful man.
Make me Lord, a *faith-ful* man!

A Few Good Men

What this dying world could use, Is a willing man of God
Who dares to go against the grain, And work without applause
A man who'll raise the shield of faith, Protecting what is pure
Whose love is tough and gentle, A man whose word is sure

God doesn't need an orator, Who knows just what to say
He doesn't need authorities, To reason Him away
He doesn't need an army, To guarantee a win
He just needs a few good men!

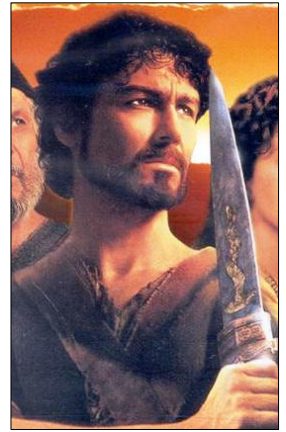
Chorus

Men full of love compassion, Who'll laugh and love and cry
Men who'll face eternity and aren't afraid to die
Men who'll fight for freedom and honour once again
He just needs a few good men

He calls the broken derelict whose life has been renewed
He calls the ones who know his Son to stand up for the truth
Enlistment lines are open and he wants you come in
He just needs a few good men

To Chorus

This Year's Theme Song
The Jonathan Song



Jonathan was a man of war, He fought for home and father.
He was in line to be the king, determined to rule with honour.
But God had other plans for him, to forge young David's heart.
To sharpen and encourage him, with the Word of God.

Chorus:

A sword... is meant for fighting, to defe...nd our life and home.
But unle...ss our sword is sharpened..., It's be...tter left alone.
God's Word is our best sharpener, It works against our flaws
And godly men en-cou-rage us..., and hone... us for his cause.

Jonathan fought to live by faith - his father made it hard.
Yet through each day he did what's right, even-though his name was marred.
And when he met young David, they found, strength in each other;
Their souls were knit, and hearts were made, closer than a brother.

A friend is like the iron, that sharpens fine a sword.
He works on every part of man, to hold him to his word.
He buffs at all that's fake and false, and only leaves what's true.
A cunning tool in the hand of God, a friend can make of you.

When God has a plan that sets you back, to not be number one,
It's time to trust His wisdom – make sure God's will gets done.
Like Jonathan, we must be sure, to hone each one his brother;
And love as men, like Christ loved us, a life lived for each other!

Chorus:

A sword... is meant for fighting, to defe...nd our life and home.
But unle...ss our sword is sharpened..., It's be...tter left alone.
God's Word is our best sharpener, It works against our flaws
But godly men en-cou-rage us..., and hone... us for his cause.



*Iron sharpeneth iron;
so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*
Proverbs 27:17

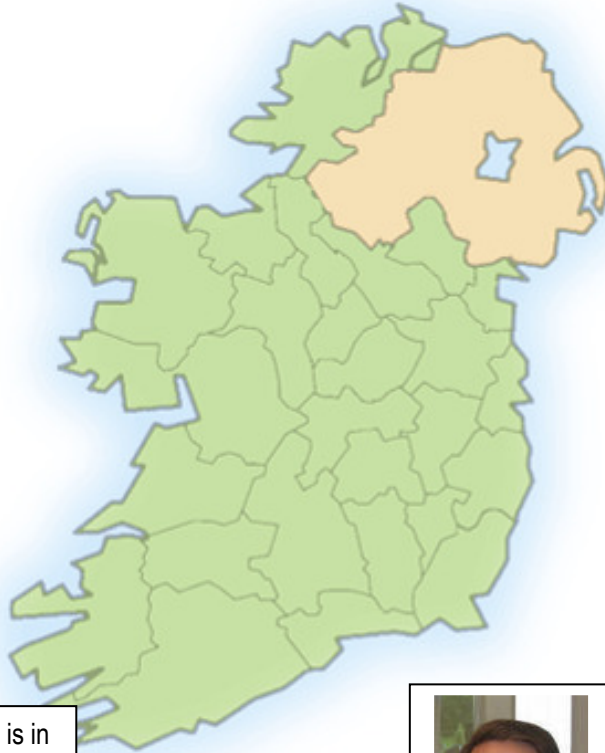
Scriptures to Memorize

Meditate on these throughout the Retreat for best effect on your mind and heart!

<p>Proverbs 27:17</p> <p><i>Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.</i></p>	
<p>Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.</p>	<p>Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:</p>
<p>Proverbs 27:21 As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.</p>	<p>1Samuel 18:1 The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.</p>
<p>Psalms 119:63 I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.</p>	<p>Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.</p>
<p>Hebrews 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.</p>	<p>Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.</p>
<p>Psalms 144:1 Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:</p>	<p>1Samuel 23:16 And Jonathan ... went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.</p>
<p>Proverbs 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.</p>	<p>Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.</p>
<p>2Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.</p>	<p>1Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.</p>
<p>Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.</p>	<p>1John 2:4 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.</p>

If You Believe the Bible... Then, You Are Not Alone!

These are many of the Bible believing Pastors and Churches here in Ireland
Thank God for these truly Faithful Men – God's Men!



- No one is in Tralee
- No one is in Tipperary
- No one is in Youghal
- No one is in Clonmel
- No one is in Wexford
- No one is in Port Laoise
- No one is in Sligo
- No one is in Ennis
- No one is in Castlebar
- No one is in Ballina



Pastor Ledbetter
Bible Baptist
Ballincollig, Cork



Pastor Finley
Redemption
Baptist
Athlone



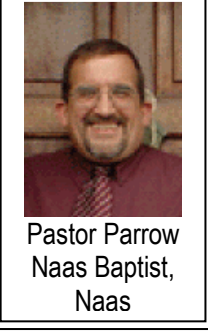
Pastor Hutton
Mallow Baptist
Church, Mallow



Pastor
O'Sullivan
Blanchardstown
Baptist



Pastor
McKinley
Good News
Baptist
Mullingar



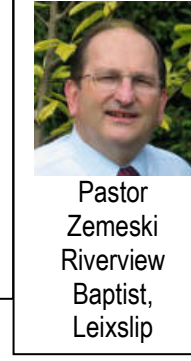
Pastor Parrow
Naas Baptist,
Naas



Pastor Hamilton
Limerick



Pastor
Canavan
Faith Baptist
Dundrum



Pastor
Zemeski
Riverview
Baptist,
Leixlip



Pastor Pero
Calvary Baptist
Bray



Pastor Smith
Calvary Baptist
Bishopstown,
Cork



Pastor Pittman
Lighthouse
Baptist, Swords



Pastor
O'Gorman
Lifegate Baptist
Tallaght



Pastor Hill
Gospel Light
Baptist, Lucan



Pastor Oriel
O'Gorman
Arklow

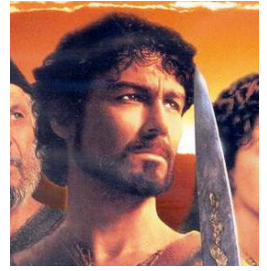


Pastor Thatcher
Anchor Baptist
Waterford

**Who will join up
to reach this
island?**

Introducing Jonathan

1 Samuel 13 - 31



The Home Life of Jonathan (1Samuel 13)

Jonathan was the first born son of King Saul (1Sam 13:2; 14:49, 50). He had two brothers (*Ishui* and *Melchishua*), and two sisters (*Merab* and *Michal*). By the time he appears in Scripture, Jonathan was already in his twenties, and an able leader, and fighter in his father's army – he was Captain of 1,000 soldiers, which is no easy task!

At first, Saul was Jonathan's biggest influence in life. It was most natural for Jonathan to look to his father for an example of how to be a man, a leader, and a worshipper of God. But Saul rarely influenced his son for good. Saul never gave credit to his men under him; he was always impatient with God, was impulsive in worship, only worried about appearances, and was very stubborn when rebuked. All of these characteristics could have ruined young Jonathan if it weren't for the preaching and influence of the prophet Samuel, and if David had not come along and showed Jonathan how to overcome all that "baggage"!

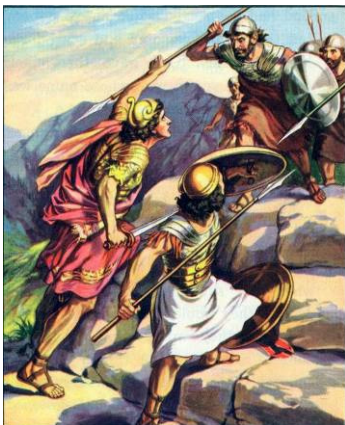
Jonathan Proves Himself a Great Leader (1Samuel 13)

The first battle mentioned in the Bible under King Saul's reign was fought and won completely by Jonathan, when he attacked and defeated a garrison of about 20 Philistine soldiers. Jonathan's successful actions were a great motivation for everyone to fight the Philistines anyway!

Up until this point, King Saul had been indecisive about how and when to attack and fight the Philistines, but Jonathan acted anyway! Jonathan's small victory encouraged the rest of Saul's army to fight and win against the entire army of the Philistines, even with only poles and pitchforks! At the end of the war, Saul attracted all the glory for the miraculous battle that was fought and won that day, while Jonathan was ignored. But that didn't bother Jonathan, because he, as a great leader, was constantly only focused on the fight, not on the glory.

Jonathan Fights By Faith (1Samuel 14)

By First Samuel Chapter 14, Jonathan is again faced with indecision by his father of when and how to attack and fight the enemies of Israel. King Saul always had to have everything perfectly under his control for him to feel confident enough to lead people. Jonathan was the opposite. When he saw what had to be done, he usually acted. So, instead of just waiting on Saul's command, Jonathan takes the initiative, and along with his faithful armourbearer, risked their lives and takes on another whole garrison of twenty Philistine soldiers. He tests the waters to see if God wanted him to attack, or just continue to wait. Jonathan had a great friend in his armourbearer who was willing to do whatever Jonathan felt should be done – he was with him to the death! It was this same attitude that Jonathan



had towards his father, and ultimately towards his best friend of all, David! Great men risk their lives for greater men!

Not only did Jonathan and his armourbearer defeat the small garrison easily, but God caused an earthquake to startle the entire Philistine army and get them overwhelmed with fear! The Philistines turned against each other, and when seen from the hill where Saul was, the Philistine army, once so rigid and strong, looked as if they were "melting away!"

Jonathan had started something great by his act of determined submission to God's will! Jonathan acted when God wanted him to act, and so God used him to win the battles. God always waits for someone to start something by faith! King Saul was never able to act because he was always controlled by fear.

Jonathan Sees His Father's Flaws (1Samuel 14-16)

Up until this point, Jonathan had surely seen flaws in his father's character, but always overlooked them. Yet for the next ten years, he is going to see only Saul go from bad to worse, because of pride.

In the middle of all the Philistine's fighting against themselves, instead of taking advantage of the battle opportunity, Saul decides to become "religious" and show off in front of his men, and distract

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them away from his failure to lead! When Saul finally calls for the war to start, all the fearful Jews started changing sides back to Israel, and were now easily chasing after the Philistines! In the end, God got the glory for this victory, and not Saul (14:23).

Before allowing the army to fight, Saul forced his troops to fast before the battle, which was wrong to do. They needed to eat to be ready to fight, but Saul always wanted to look spiritual, and do things like fasting so that people were impressed with HIM instead of just doing things God's way!

Now Jonathan did not know about the fasting oath that Saul had made everyone else swear by, and when he saw some honey, he ate it! When Jonathan was rebuked for eating against the king's commandment, he expresses great disappointment that such a command was issued, but he never called for rebellion. He just exposed the king's failure to take care of his people. He expressed that they could have had an even greater victory if Saul had just wanted to fight – which he never did! As a soldier, Jonathan seemed to always be very disappointed at his father's leadership.

At this point, Saul tries praying about what to do next, and God doesn't answer him. Instead of blaming himself, he looks for another person to blame. Saul becomes rash with his words, and is willing to condemn his own son for the sake of his own "image" in front of the people! Saul had to go through with his threat now and immediately divided the army away from himself and Jonathan. He prays for God to give a "perfect lot", which means asking God to vindicate Saul's method of determining guilt. Jonathan was taken and identified as the law breaker. Saul acts as holier than thou, and demands of Jonathan in front of everyone, "What have YOU done?" Jonathan explains himself sarcastically and questions Saul's reasoning for such an order. Saul then condemns his own first born son to death as a show of his authority! The army were shocked! It was at that point that ALL the army rose up and stopped Saul from forcing his way! Yet Saul has now determined his and his son's death! It will be some eight more years until the final fall of Saul and Jonathan, but Saul has sealed both their ruin, simply out of stubborn pride!

In Chapters 15 and 16 of 1st Samuel, Jonathan watches as Saul emotionally self destructs. He sees his father in CONSTANT disobedience to God – always rejecting the word of the Lord (15:26). But Saul's only worry was about his image before the people. It was in chapter 15 that Saul disobeys God for the last time and loses the whole kingdom to a better man, an actual neighbour of his – David.

From now on Saul will only ACT spiritual, but will grow darker and angrier against everything and even against his own son! From now on Saul will see everything as a threat to him!

Through all of this, Jonathan has been fiercely loyal to his father, but will ultimately change loyalties as he becomes aware that the kingdom has passed from his family, to another man.

It is then that Samuel secretly anoints young David to be the next king! Samuel had to do the anointing secretly because Saul's anger scared even Samuel.

King Saul becomes more and more demon possessed, and only spiritual music calms him down. So a young talented shepherd boy named David is called to play spiritual music to calm King Saul's troubled mind, but this was no accident. It was at this time that God actually moved David into Jonathan's home, so they both could begun influencing each other for good!

One note about spiritual music - calming music cannot save a man, only calm him. Saul has too much pride to allow God to change him.

Jonathan Learns Where Greater Courage Comes From (1Samuel 17)!

In Chapter 17 the Philistines once again threatens the nation of Israel, so Saul calls everyone together to fight against their enemy! Two massive armies gathered facing each other, but no one moved to fight! The Philistines decide to send out a giant named Goliath to challenge anyone to a fight to the death. But still no one moved – not even Jonathan – and especially not Saul (17:11). Young David accidentally arrives just at this time. 40 days have passed with Goliath mocking God and the army of Israel every day, and no one shows any bravery to fight! This upsets David! When David knows what is going on and how long it has gone on, he is flabbergasted. He yells, "There is a good reason to do SOMETHING for God right here and now!" And then David volunteers himself! That impresses Jonathan!



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King Saul tries to embarrass David, and stop David from having so much faith and confidence, but David just trusts God. David in one swift move is bold and aggressive and full of faith as he ran towards Goliath (17:48). He is unafraid of Goliath, and finishes what Saul had started! Saul was only ever a starter! That giant step of manly faith and action impresses Jonathan so much that it helps Jonathan to get back into the fight himself! As much as Jonathan had encouraged and motivated Israel to win, this young man named David had done it 1,000 times better! And it was THEN that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David (18:1)!

Jonathan's and David's Souls Were Knit Together (1Samuel 18)

Jonathan found the best of all friends in David! So much so, that he made a covenant, a solemn promise, to protect and honour David! From that moment on, Jonathan was ready to lay down his own life for David, just as Peter had wanted to do for his own Lord in Luke 22:33, and like WE Christians should be ready and willing to do for each other! It was then that Jonathan stripped himself of the royal robe that he wore as the son of the king, and gave it to David, as well as his trusted sword, and even his bow. Jonathan not only looked up to David, he actually loved him more than life itself. This is how Jesus loves us, and how we should love Him!

The connection Jonathan and David had was not physical, but a masculine emotion of love for one another that is not experienced much today. The Bible says that Jonathan loved David as the best of friends! We are commanded to love good men. Titus 1:8 says, "*But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men.*" 1John 3:14 says, "*We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*" Colossians 2:2 says, "*That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love.*" And Romans 12:10 commands us to, "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.*" We Christians need desperately to learn what it means to love someone as we do our own soul! Especially men!

Even King Saul could not ignore the impact that David's faith and courage had had on the men of Israel, and so he rewarded David with the position of head general over all the army! But Jonathan rewarded David with the promise of his life! He yielded his own position and future into the hands of this young shepherd boy, and honoured David as if DAVID was the next in line to be king after his father! Jonathan never saw David as a threat, only as the better man! Saul never could humble himself to accept that fact. But David's honour was short lived! From the moment that David returned to Jerusalem, his life was in danger from the worst of sources – from King Saul's own hand! Saul sets out to kill David with a spear, twice, before David decides that he has to run for his own life!

Jonathan Cannot Believe That Saul Hates David (1Samuel 19)

Jonathan has a hard time believing that his own father would so hate and fear David! To Jonathan,



David was the best thing that ever happened to Israel, but Saul's wrath could not be reasoned with. Jonathan warns David about Saul's orders to kill David, and tells him to hide until he can be absolutely sure about his father's anger. The next day, Jonathan attempted to reason with his father about all that David had done for the nation, and even for king Saul, and for a while, Saul calmed down and swore that David would not die now! And for a brief few days, Jonathan had reconciled David to his father, but only briefly, because at the next battle with the Philistines, Saul attempts to kill David once again, causing him to flee just as before! And as Saul

chases after David, Jonathan sees his father go to extremes from rage, to threatenings, to embarrassing nakedness and even demonic prophesying, all because of his neglect of God, and jealousy of David! Saul has lost his mind.

Jonathan Learns the Cost of Friendship (1Samuel 20)

Jonathan figures that even though his father is intent on killing David, he will do nothing before he tells him about it, and so Jonathan believes he will always be able to warn David of any danger - but David is not so certain! David knows that Saul has noticed the protective relationship that Jonathan has for David, and will not burden Jonathan with details of what his plans are any more concerning David. So David devises a plan to show him what to do now, and Jonathan is ever ready to do whatever David wanted done.

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David decides to stay completely away from king Saul at the official worship ceremonies of the monthly Sabbath, and Jonathan would tell his father that David had something more important to do than be with the king. David knew it would provoke Saul's anger, and all would be revealed in due course. It was at this point that David was not quite sure of Jonathan's deepest loyalties because he worried that Jonathan thought maybe he actually was wrong towards his father, and was planning on secretly killing him! But Jonathan was steadfast, and promised to reveal the most awful secrets of his father to David, should they be exposed over the next three days – which they were. It was at this time that Jonathan saw the worst in his father, and had to send David away, and protect him by never seeing him again! This was the highest price to pay for a friend. Jonathan was being forced to decide between his own father (who was a wicked man, and yet was the king), and his own best friend (David). And the outcome was that he chose both, which was very wise, and very costly to himself! He could not walk away from his father, and so to protect his friend, he had to never see David again! For David to stay alive, Jonathan had to say goodbye to David! It may seem unfair, but it was necessary so that David could survive.

Jonathan Strengthens David (1Samuel 23)

Even though Jonathan and David had sworn to go their separate ways, Jonathan knew that David still needed him. As David continued to fight the Philistines, and continued to attract men to follow him and fight with him, David never got encouragement from any other person like he did from Jonathan! Jonathan noticed time and again how that even though David could have killed Saul, he never would! All David could do was run! David even escaped capture by Saul's best men! And yet Jonathan knew that all the running and hiding would have a bad effect on David, and so, one day, he went to find David, and encouraged him! It was at that moment that Jonathan revealed that he finally knew his father was going to lose the throne, and that David would be Israel's next king, and Jonathan would be by his side! For David, hiding in some thick woods, trying not to be seen, heard or caught by Saul's army, this was a great encouragement, and helped him for the next few years as he continued to have to run from Saul's wrath.



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Jonathan Dies With His Father (1Samuel 31)

As you read of the life of Jonathan, you would wish that it had a happy ending, but it doesn't. Bible stories are true stories, and show both the good and the bad. And this ending was going to be very bad.

The constant enemies of Israel were the Philistines, and so king Saul was almost always having to lead the army against them. By this time, forty years have passed since Saul was anointed king, and Jonathan had a wife, and a son. For the past seven years, David has fled from Saul, with no end in sight of him having to stay in hiding.

Ever courageous, and ever ready to fight by his father's side, Jonathan valiantly fought for God and for Israel. To him, it did not matter that David was not there, or that his father had been so wrong about David – what mattered was defeating the Philistines, and so Jonathan fought on! Only, this time, the battle would not go so well.

The Philistines had gathered in mount Gilboa, and were defeating the Israelites rather badly. Saul and his three sons were on the retreat, with the Philistines following hard after them. While this battle raged, David was nowhere to be found – he was out fighting against the Amalekites at the time.

Jonathan and his brothers were the first to be shot and killed by the Philistine archers. And then an arrow struck Saul, wounding him badly. Still alive, Saul worried that the Philistines would torture him, and so he forced himself to fall on his own sword to make sure he was dead before the Philistines found him. In that brief span of minutes, Saul, and all his heirs to the throne of Israel were gone – even Jonathan!

It took three days before the news of Saul and Jonathan's death reached David. And the news greatly affected David, so much so that David grieved as if they were great heroes, and honoured the fact that this father and son were never divided, even in death, and that these two men were mighty men to be remembered and honoured by all. Which we as bible believers still do today!

Facts About Iron Sharpening Iron

Sharpening is referred to as “*whetting*” an edge (Eccl 10:10; Dt 32:41). It is the careful and determined application of the rough surface of an iron rod or iron plate across the surface of an iron tool to sharpen it for use. It involves two steps: Grinding and Honing. Grinding shapes the tool by removing metal back from the edge. Honing removes metal right at the edge.

While grinding does not directly affect the cutting edge, it is crucial to the sharpening process. Honing uses fine abrasives, removes only limited amounts of metal, and leaves a very smooth finish. Honing cannot remove enough metal to correct defects in the tool – that has to be part of the grinding process. Honing prepares the cutting edge by smoothing both faces at the edge and creating the desired angle between those faces.

Tools in the Bible that were made out of iron included: swords, knives, axe heads, spear heads (1Sam 17:17), saws, harrows, threshing or harvesting tools (Amos 1:3), and scythes.

The best way to sharpen a knife, or any piece of iron is with a stone – the same is true with men! Our best sharpening comes from our closeness to Jesus Christ, the stone of God! Yet, God gives us men in our lives also to sharpen us, encourage us and better us by teaching us from their own experiences in serving God.

FACTS ABOUT SHARPENING IRON:

- **Iron tools grow rusty by no use, become dull by misuse, and worn out by good use**, and so all need a good sharpening BEFORE use.
- **Even the toughest piece of iron needs to be sharpened from time to time**, especially the more it is used
- **All tools of iron need sharpening.** So do ALL Christians need improvement and maturity.
- **Iron should sharpen iron.** “*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise*” (Pro 13:20). Don't expect any sharpening from people who won't be honest and upfront with you about sin in your life, and who are not working in the same direction that God is working in your life!
- **It COSTS to be sharpened.** The piece of iron being sharpened loses something every time it is sharpened. Jesus refers to it as “pruning” in John 15. Men need to be ready to lose some things to become better men.
- **Some iron is tempered to be stronger through heat so that they can sharpen other tools** – so also are some people put through certain trials to forge stronger character so that they can better help other Christians.
- **Iron brightens as it is sharpened** – so is the inner man renewed by the sharpening work of the word of God (Rom 12:2; 2Cor 4:16), and of hearty counsel and advice (Prov 27:9).
- **Sharpening must be governed by an external hand** – the iron cannot sharpen itself, so neither can a man change or better himself on his own.
- **Sharpening requires careful strokes against the iron**, not blunt strokes that might mar, or ruin the edge. Christians should therefore be careful how they grind and sharpen other men, always considering themselves how THEY would like to be sharpened (Gal 6:1).
- **Every stroke of sharpening is to be in the same direction**, with the goal of *sharpening it*, not ruining it – so it cannot be applied in just any direction. So also is Christian encouragement: we cannot just say what people want to hear, but we must work on others in the same direction as God is working in their life.
- **Sharpening requires friction and pressure** – not ease and smoothness – we grow best in the trials of affliction (Isaiah 48:10; Psalm 119:67,71).
- **Every piece of iron that needs sharpening must yield to the pressure and friction of the other iron** (2Chron 30:8)
- The sharpening iron must focus on the other piece being sharpened, not on itself. The purpose of the sharpening iron is not its own betterment, but the sharpening of another – so it is with Christian men.



Session One – Introducing Jonathan

Pastor Craig Ledbetter – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig

“The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.” 1 Samuel 18:1

Welcome to our 16th Annual Men's Retreat!

I. What is the Goal of this Retreat? (Romans 15:4)

- A. As always, _____ – maturing – becoming mature in Christ
- B. Take a look at your Handbook
- C. Focus not just on information this weekend, but on Responsibility – on what YOU need to be, and what you need to do, to be like Jonathan.

II. Message

A. Jonathan Shows us the Need for _____

1. Many men are UN-aware of the need for GOOD friends – wise, godly friends
2. We need GODLY friends

B. Jonathan Shows us the _____ of Godly Friendship

C. What is a True Friend?

D. Where do Godly Friends Come From?

1. _____ (2Cor 6:14-17)
2. **Godly Friends come from _____** – God brings them into your life
3. **Make sure you _____ Godly friends!**
4. **It begins with YOU _____ how to be a godly friend** (Pr 18:24)

E. What will we learn from Jonathan? We will learn...

1. About _____
2. About _____
3. About handling _____ in our family
4. About taking _____ place
5. About fighting a _____ fight – the real war that is raging today
6. About _____ each other to win for God
7. About the importance of leaving something _____ behind
8. That to have friends, you first have to _____ –
be a Jonathan, and you might just end up along side a David!

III. Conclusion and Goals

A. Jonathan is a great _____!

B. Make sure you become friends with your _____ here, with your _____, and make sure you determine to become a Jonathan yourself

Session Two – Jonathan's Change of Heart

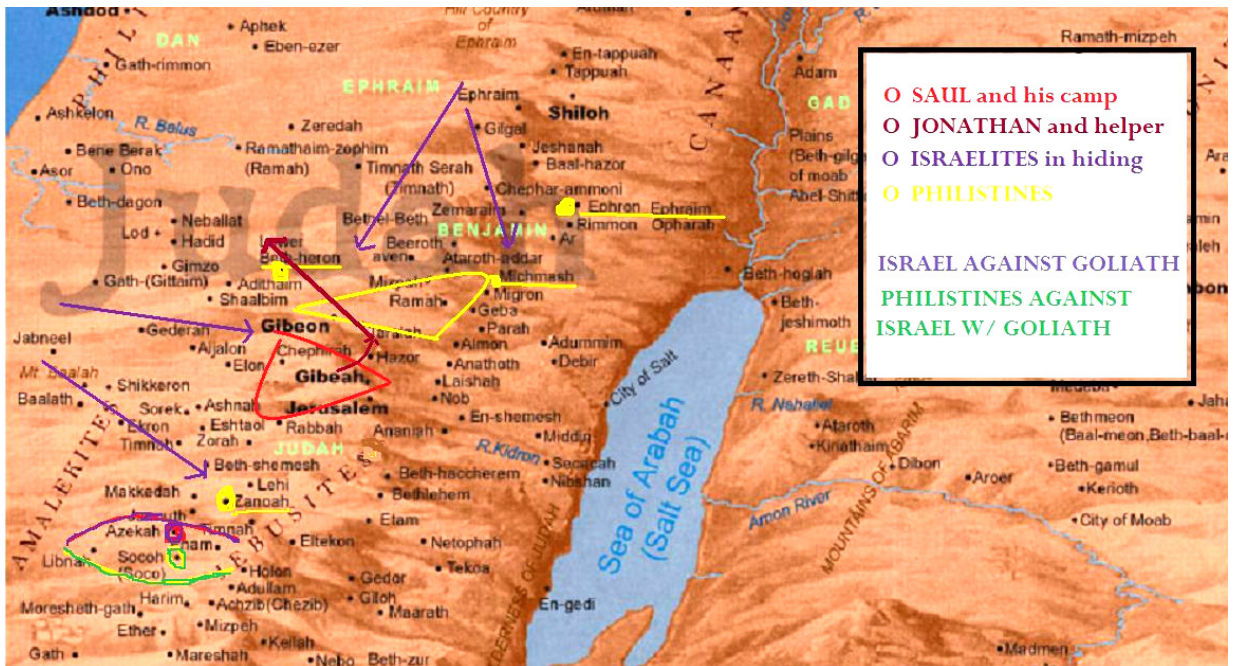
Pastor Dan Pero – Calvary Baptist Church, Bray, Co. Wicklow

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.” 2Chronicles 16:9

Eze 36:26,27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.



Sermon Notes



A Man's Quiet Time

How Does a Real man Walk with His God

Please read this simple explanation of how to prepare your heart for a daily serious time with God through His word. It will make all the difference in the world to come humbly before the throne of grace. **Heb 4:16.** We need God's help!

Start with Prayer! Find yourself a place every day to get alone with God. Remember **Matthew 6:6** "*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet...*" It is when we are *by ourselves* seeking the Lord that we hear His still, small voice. Start with opening your heart to God. Allow Him to do an inspection of what is in your thoughts and feelings. **Psalm 139:23** says, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.*" Be honest with yourself, and honest with God. Ask God to search your for any sins you have buried in your heart. **Psalm 139:24** says, "*And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" David, realizing he had sinned against God, asked for a cleansing. God wants us all very clean in our hearts! **Psalm 51:2** says, "*Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*" Let God cleans your life as you do the following three things: **1. Acknowledge** - admit the sins He reveals are there in your heart. **2. Confess** – admit that you have sinned before an all holy God. **3. Forsake** – leave each sin, abandoning everything that has separated you from God. Decide by God's power to quit doing the same sins that God reveals to you in your quiet time, and has already forgiven, and cleansed you from. Remember the Lord's promise - **1John 1:9** "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

Humble yourself. The Bible says in **Isaiah 57:15a**, "*For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit...*" We have a great need every day to humble ourselves as we prepare to walk with God. This means, there must be a **personal brokenness** to cause us to always depend upon the Lord. God wants to fully "dwell" in our hearts, but He will not force His way in, nor will He honour a sinful, wicked heart. Once your heart is clean, tell God you are coming under His perfect authority, and that you want to obey Him all day long. God desires to fellowship with you, but only with the right attitude!

Tell God what you need! Cast all your worries, and cares and every need upon Almighty God, who loves to answer our prayers! He delights to have our strength renewed in our daily walk with Him. Believe that God wants to give you a peace and strength far beyond what we used to. So, pray about everything! Real men don't fight, get angry, frustrated, and defeated when things don't work out, because real men, pray and trust God to

Read at least two chapters every day in your Bible from start to finish!

Finally, Thank Him for His Blessings – Read and meditate on these verses. **Philp 4:6** "*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*" **Col 4:2** "*Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.*" We have got a lot to be thankful for. Write some blessings on your heart and mind right now. Praise Him for His goodness to you!

Go now and have a great walk with the Lord... Every day

Personal Devotion – Thursday Morning

The Knitting of Men's Souls

1 Samuel 18

Young David Impresses Jonathan! Jonathan was an able warrior, and has seen a lot of different things in his life, and was not easily impressed. But in 1 Samuel 17, Jonathan watched as David steps forward, and single-handedly kills a giant that terrorised the entire army of Israel. And THAT impresses Jonathan!

Jonathan next watched as the entire army of Israel is rallied to fight once again, no longer afraid of the Philistines, all because of the faith and courage of this young man named David. And THAT also impressed Jonathan!

Then, when King Saul asks David who he really is in 1Sam 17:57,58, WHO does David honour? _____ And THAT really impresses Jonathan because Jonathan also believed in honouring his father. Jonathan has never seen any man like David, so Jonathan decided right then and there that he and David become the best of friends! They both loved God and trusted God (1Sam 14:6; 17:37), but they found great encouragement in each other! We Christians need desperately to learn what it means to love someone as we do our own soul! Especially men! Let's look at what it means for men to be the best of friends.

Love as men! How are men to love AS MEN?

- A. Make and KEEP your _____ to each other (18:3)
- B. _____ each other (18:4)
- C. _____ each other (23:16)
- D. Lay down your life for the other (John 15:13)
- E. All of these are how _____ loved us (John 15:12)
- F. Does the devil ever get us to do all of those things for the wrong kind of men? _____

We are commanded to love good men. Look up the following Scriptures about men loving men and fill in the missing words:

- A. Hebrews 13:1 *Let _____ love continue.*
- B. John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have _____*
- C. 1Jn 4:20 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his _____, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his _____ whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*
- D. 1Jn 4:21 *And this _____ have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*
- E. 1John 3:14 says, *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."*
- F. John 15:12 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as _____ have loved you.*
- G. Joh 15:13 *Greater _____ hath no man than this, that a _____ lay down his life for his _____.*
- H. Titus 1:8, *"But a lover of hospitality, a lover of _____ men."*
- I. Colossians 2:2, *"That their hearts might be comforted, being _____ together in love."*
- J. Romans 12:10 commands us to, *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with _____ love; in honour preferring one another."*
- K. 1Peter 2:17 *Honour all men. Love the _____.*

It's time the world met men who love each other as Jesus Christ loved us!

Session Three – Handling Conflicts

How to Handle Anger, and Rough Relationships

Pastor Travis Snode – Northwest Baptist Church, Derry, NI

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23

Sermon Notes



Session Four – How to be a Man's Friend

Pastor Jerome Pittman – Lighthouse Baptist Church, Swords

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” Proverbs 27:6

Sermon Notes



Worksheet One - Thoughts on Anger

Pastor Craig Ledbetter – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig
Learning Lessons from Jonathan's Father, King Saul

**“Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger
resteth in the bosom of fools.” Ecclesiastes 7:9**



I. Introduction (1 Samuel 18:10,11)

- A. _____ was angry. He hated David, and tried to kill him.
- B. He didn't get angry just _____ (1Sam 19:9,10; 20:33) – it became uncontrollable
- C. He didn't just get angry at David – he got furious at his _____ (1Sam 20:30)
- D. The worst part of it was that Saul's anger _____ Jonathan (1Sam 20:34)

II. Lesson

- A. What is Anger? _____
- B. Men are _____ to get angry at times (1Sam 11:5-7)
- C. _____ have a problem with anger and wrath (James 1:19,20)
- D. **The Result of Man's Anger** - You will reap what you sow!
 1. _____ (Prov 19:19)
 2. Loads of _____ (Prov 29:22)
 3. Rejection and hatred by _____ (Prov 14:17)
 4. Easily controlled by demonic & emotional _____ of your enemies (Pr 25:28)
 5. You will die by the very _____ you use (Mt 26:52)
 6. You will exalt and worship _____ (Eph 4:26,27; James 3:14-16)

E. God's Answer to Anger

1. First, _____ where your anger comes from:
 - a. It is in your _____ – your nature – it is wired into you! (Gal 5:19-20).
 - b. It is in your _____ (Lk 6:45).
2. Secondly. Once our heart is clean, we should _____ it with all sorts of good things. This is referred to as _____. The renewing of your mind (Rom 12:2). It makes it so there is NO ROOM for anger to take over again!
 - a. _____! (Col 3:5,6) He gets very upset when we try and act without HIM
 - b. Fear grieving the _____ (Eph 4:29,30)
 - c. Trust in _____
 - 1) Humble yourself before your enemy by the end of every day (Eph 4:26,27)
 - 2) Don't seek revenge at all (1Pet 3:9)!
 - 3) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).
 - 4) Be a blessing for those who hurt you (Mt 5:44).
 - 5) Replace every angry feeling with a blessing (Eph 4:31,32)
 - d. Allow _____ good words to come out of your mouth (Pr 15:1; Eph 4:29; Jam 1:19,20)
 - e. _____ the anger and feelings of hurt (Col 3:5-8) – Because God told you to!

Session Five – Becoming a Man's Man

Declan Flanagan – *Lighthouse Baptist Church, Swords*
Jonathan Teaches Men How to be Men Again!

“Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight.” Psalm 144:1

Sermon Notes



Personal Devotion – Friday Morning

1 Samuel 20 & 23

When David believed he was going to die at the hand of King Saul, how did Jonathan encourage him? It was at this time that David did not know what to do, because no matter what David had tried, Saul had only become more of his enemy. So Jonathan ministered to David and helped him prepare for the next seven years of running. How did he do that?

- A. Jonathan made himself _____ to do whatever David wanted done (20:4). Friends don't always have to tell each other what to do – but should just be helpers when someone else is struggling. David asks Jonathan to test Saul one final time, to see if they both misunderstood Saul's thinking about David (20:5-7). David held out hope that maybe this was all just a bad dream.
- B. Jonathan devised a way to tell David whether he could come back home, or would have to finally run for his life (20:6-13; 18-22). What did he determine to use to convey his father's attitude towards David?
1. If Jonathan shot an arrow and David could come back, what would Jonathan say about the arrow to his servant? _____
 2. If David could not come back home, what would Jonathan say to the servant?

- C. Jonathan believed that David was destined for _____ (20:14-16)
- D. How much did Jonathan love David (20:17)? _____
- E. Jonathan stuck up for David, and tried to _____ with his father in David's favour (20:24-32).
1. Did Saul agree with Jonathan about David? **Yes** or **No**
 2. What did King Saul try to do to Jonathan? _____
- F. Jonathan _____ about how Saul's hatred was ruining David's life (20:33,34), so much so that he _____ when we went to shoot the arrow and tell David he had to go away (20:35-41)
- G. What was Saul forcing Jonathan to do against David (20:42)? _____

- H. What did Jonathan give up in order to protect David from his father (20:42)?

After several years of running from Saul's men, David and Jonathan meet one more time (23:15-18). Jonathan is with his father Saul and many men who were out specifically seeking to find and kill David. It was then that Jonathan breaks away from the assassins to find David, and encourage him in the following ways:

- A. He encouraged him in his _____ in God, and not in their friendship (23:16)! Up until 1 Samuel 20, Jonathan and David had drawn great strength from each other, but now, they both needed to find their strength in God!
- B. Jonathan promised David to keep his father from ever _____ him (23:17)
- C. Jonathan encouraged David to believe in _____ will for his life, and not in the present circumstances (23:17)
- D. And finally, Jonathan committed himself to always supporting and _____ with David (23:17) when David became king!

Philp 2:3 *...in lowliness of mind let each _____ other _____ than themselves.*

Session Six – Yielding to God's Will

Dan Eberly – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig

**“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”
Hebrews 10:9**



Introduction

The greatest Christian is the one who does the will of God from the heart. When the passion of your soul is to please the Lord and obey His word at any cost you are in a good place. Are you allowing God to accomplish His will in your life?

I. **In order to do God's will our will must be _____.** 1Sam.23:16,17

- A. Saul's anger and jealousy - Saul fights against God's will
- B. Jonathan's brotherly love - Jonathan yields

II. **Prepare for the future by doing God's will _____!** – 1Sam. 20:11-17

- A. Husbands and Father's
- B. Single Men
- C. Young people

III. **To do God's will you must _____** - 2Sam.1:23-27

- A. Being a Mighty man of God
- B. Staying Faithful in the Fight

IV. Conclusion:

Don't be too _____ to _____ to God's will for your life!



Session Seven – Leading Your Home

Pastor Gene McKinley – Good News Baptist Church, Mullingar
For Married Men – Determined to Lead

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”

Genesis 18:19



Sermon Notes



Session Seven – Developing Into Leaders

John Mahony – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig
For Single Men – Developing Into Leaders

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:1-4

Sermon Notes

Session Seven – You Are Designed to Lead

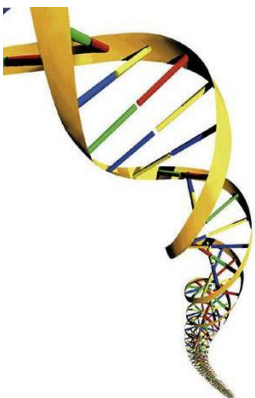
Pastor Keith Hamilton – Limerick

For The Young Men and Boys – Designed to Lead

“I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”

1 John 2:14

Sermon Notes



Session Eight – There is Still a War Going On!

Pastor Craig Ledbetter – Bible Baptist Church, Ballincollig, Cork
How to Overcome In-Fighting and Diversions from the Real Battle

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” 1Timothy 6:12



I. Introduction (1 Samuel 31:1,2)

- A. An Amazing Scripture!
- B. Just like with Jonathan, for us there is a huge _____ going on (1 Timothy 6:12)
- C. _____ started this fight
- D. God intends to _____ it (Gen 3:15) – declared war on Satan and his seed!

II. Message

A. Jonathan's _____

B. What We Are _____ – the same thing that Jonathan faced

1. _____ Activity
2. _____ from the real fight
3. _____ amongst ourselves (3John 1:9)
4. _____ at the very heart of our ministries
5. _____ on every side (Jn 10:10) – devouring (1Pet 5:8)

C. What is at stake if we lose the fight?

D. What We Have

1. We Have All the _____ We Need (2Cor 10:3,4)
2. We Have All the _____ that We Need

E. But There are Some Big Things That We Are Lacking

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
 - a. To FIGHT
 - b. To ENDURE (2Tim 2:3; Phil 4:12,13; 2Cor 11:21-33; Luke 14:26)
 - c. To STAY OUT of entanglements – yokes of bondage
 - d. To FINISH with joy, and not with grief or regret
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

III. Conclusion

Session Nine – Jonathan's Legacy

Pastor Jim van Voltenberg – Bible Baptist Church, Dundee, Scotland

What Will You Leave Behind You?

**“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children
are blessed after him.” Proverbs 20:7**

Sermon Notes



Pop-Corn Preaching

This is a blank page dedicated for YOU to write a quick Bible message so you can preach it when called upon during the Pop-Corn preaching session!

Prayer List

“Men ought always to pray, and not to faint” Luke 18:1

This list can be used every time we get together to pray, and should be added to as we learn of individual needs and requests.

For Salvation (2 Pet 3:9) *“God is not willing that any should perish...”*

For Christian Growth (2 Pet 3:18) *“but grow in grace”*

For Special Needs (Health, Family concerns)

For Your Church Needs

Anything Else – list your own needs to pray about
