

Three MARKS of True Friendship

John 15:12-17 NIV

Mark One: **A COMMON CORD**

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 1 Samuel 18:1 ESV

“Knit” - Hebrew QASHAR means to bind, tie together

1 Samuel 14:6

Mark Two: **THE CUTTING OF A COVENANT**

1 Samuel 18:3 ESV

“made a covenant” - Hebrew phrase “**karayth bëriyth**” means to make a cut

Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel. 1 Samuel 23:16-17a ESV

Mark Three: **THE COST OF A CONFESSION**

1 Samuel 18:4-5 ESV

HIS ROBE - ROYALTY
HIS ARMOR - RANK
HIS SWORD - RIGHT
HIS BOW - RICHES
HIS BELT - REGARD

PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF:

1. Purges your pride
2. Eliminates your envy.
3. Fortifies your faithfulness.

START TALKING. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What friend has significantly impacted your life?
- What are some things you remember about that friendship?

START THINKING. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What are characteristics of a great friendship?
- What are things keep you from having truly authentic friendships?
- Pastor spoke about the mark of “a common cord”. What binds godly friendships together?
- Pastor mentioned the cutting of a covenant and how Jonathan and David made a lasting covenant with each other. What might it look like to “cut a covenant” with each other when it comes to your friendships?
- Jonathan’s friendship with David cost him. What might a godly friendship cost you?

START SHARING.

- When you think of your friendships, do you see yourself as a David or a Jonathan?
- Describe a time in your life when a friend showed you the unconditional love of Christ.

START PRAYING. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, I pray for deep friendships that draw me closer to you. Help me be the kind of friend that I desire to have.

Making new friends can be tough, and I believe that the most intimate friendships are the ones that You introduce. Would You introduce new friends to me, and will You place me in the heart of those people?

Not every person in my life should be a friend for life. Some people are my friends for a short time while others weren't supposed to be mine in the first place. Please remove the people from my life that draw me from You instead of pulling me to You. Give me wisdom to make the right decisions. Help me be a true friend. Amen.