

Hey ClubE!

Good Morning! What a wild few weeks it's been either preparing to go to school, or completing your first week. We are learning and growing each day, not only in knowledge but also in our ability to show others the love of Jesus. What an honor!

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: What makes someone your best friend?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#).) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do activity/game!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

What's up, friends? We're continuing to talk about friendship by looking at two of the best friends in all of the Bible. Some pretty wild things happened to these two guys. Let's see if they were able to stay friends through all those ups and downs.

We start our story in the book of 1 Samuel. We see that God had given His people, the Israelites, a bunch of different judges and prophets to be their leaders. These judges and prophets listened to God and shared His words with the people. What did the Israelite people think about the judges and prophets? Even though the Israelites had people in charge who listened to God, it wasn't enough for them. They begged God over and over for a king. God told the prophet Samuel to choose someone for the job.

The first king's name was Saul. Unfortunately, Saul was NOT a great king. But then Samuel chose another young man to be king after Saul, and his name was David. Yes—David—as in David and Goliath. But David didn't become king right away. King Saul was still the ruler of Israel for a long time.

Now, King Saul had a son named Jonathan. Usually, the person next in line in the family was supposed to be the future king. That would have been Jonathan. But remember, God had chosen David to be the next king over Israel. Meanwhile, King Saul had chosen David to lead his armies into battle. David kept winning battle after battle, and he was becoming very popular with the people. So, King Saul was extremely jealous of David. But what about Jonathan? Did he feel the same way? After all, he was supposed to be the next king. Jonathan was happy for David. He wasn't jealous, not even in the slightest. Jonathan and David became good friends. In fact, Jonathan wanted to honor David. So he gave David a gift. Jonathan honored his friend

David by giving him his robe, belt, sword, and bow! King Saul saw how David got more and more popular. This made him MAD! He was so mad that he threw something at David. What do you think he threw? King Saul got so angry at David that he threw a spear at him. Scary, right? And he didn't stop there. Later, King Saul told Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Jonathan was a good friend. He told David to hide while he talked to his dad. King Saul calmed down and promised not to hurt David, but do you think he kept that promise? Nope. AGAIN, King Saul tried to kill David . . . and when that didn't work, he sent other men to try. Whew! Poor David! I'm exhausted just thinking about how scared he must have been!

Well, Jonathan was DETERMINED to protect David. He wasn't going to let anything bad happen to his friend! So he and David came up with a super-detailed plan. I'll give you the quick version. David was supposed to go to a feast to eat with King Saul. But instead, he told Jonathan that he would go and hide . . . where? David planned to hide in a field. He asked Jonathan to make up a story about why he was gone. That way they could find out what King Saul had to say about it. If Saul was like, 'Sure, that's cool,' then that meant David was safe. If Saul got angry, that meant Saul was out to get him.

Jonathan asked David to make him a promise. 1 Samuel 20:14-15 (NIRV) says, "Always be kind to me, just as the Lord is. Be kind to me as long as I live. Then I won't be killed. And never stop being kind to my family. Of course, Jonathan would need a way to TELL David what happened at the feast. But instead of going to talk to David about it, he was going to do something else—kind of like a secret message. What was their idea for a secret message? Jonathan planned to either shoot arrows close or far from where David hid. It would be a secret message to show David if he should stick around . . . or run far, far, away. Well . . . long story short, things didn't go well at the feast with King Saul. On the second day of the feast, Saul even threw a spear at Jonathan—his own son! Jonathan hurried to the field and shot arrows to send his secret message to David. He shot the arrows far, far away—which was his way of telling David to run far, far, away. But that wasn't the end. Jonathan told David that their friendship would continue—even though David had to leave. Here's what he said, 1 Samuel 20:42 (NIRV), "Go in peace. In the name of the Lord we've promised to be friends. We have said, 'The Lord is a witness between you and me. He's a witness between your children and my children forever.' David left . . . and Jonathan went back to the city.

It's pretty amazing when you think about how Jonathan and David stayed friends—even with everything that was going on around them. Everyone expected Jonathan to be the next king over Israel. But God chose David instead! I mean, put yourself in Jonathan's shoes. Imagine that you could be one of the most powerful people in the world . . . then some random person comes up and takes that away from you. Jonathan could have been mad and refused to be friends with David—but he chose friendship instead. Instead of getting angry, he shared his things with David. Instead of turning against David when his father was angry, Jonathan kept David safe. Jonathan was a good friend to David. And David kept his promise. He showed kindness to Jonathan's family throughout his life. "That's what friendship looks like. Really, that's what love looks like. It's about loving our friends the way God loves us.

Let's talk about it!

- What does being a “best friend” mean?
- David and Jonathan were best friends. How did they show love to each other?
- Are you only supposed to protect and love your best friends?
- I want a friendship like Jonathan and David! What are some words that you could use to describe their friendship?

Pray

God, it's so cool to see how David and Jonathan stuck together—even in some pretty crazy situations. Please, help us have strong friendships like they did. Help us be willing to share with each other and defend each other when times get tough. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus for us. Help us share Your love with our friends every day. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Game time!

P O M P O M B U D D I E S

WHAT YOU NEED: Pom poms, googly eyes, white school glue, foam heart stickers, small envelopes or paper, clear tape

WHAT YOU DO: [Pom Pom Buddies](#)

- Make two pom pom buddies—one to keep and one to give away.
- Apply two glue dots to the large pom pom then stick the googly eyes on the glue.
- Glue a mini pom pom as the nose underneath

the two eyes.

- Then, they place a foam heart sticker on the bottom of the pom pom for the feet.
- Repeat for the second large pom pom.

I want you to pick a friend and give one of your pom pom buddies away. What is one way you can show love to that friend this week? Once you've followed through, give your pom pom buddy to your friend. You can keep the other as a reminder that friends love one another.”

