

# 20/20 Small Group Study Guide April/May 2007



## **Ocean Hills Covenant Church**

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## Introduction:

Friendships. They are a huge part of what makes our lives rich. Some of our greatest memories are times we've shared with great friends. God created us with a need to love and be loved, to serve and be served, to celebrate and be celebrated. These are the qualities of true friendship.

This series will take us on an in depth study of the key biblical qualities that move a friendship from good to great. It will not only invite you to take a look at the kind of friends you want to have- but the kind of friend you want to be.

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
2007 Important Dates.....	5
Week 1: Land Mines that Kill Friendships.....	6
Week 2: No Strings Attached-Generous Love.....	11
Week 3: Who's Back are you Watching?.....	15
Week 4: Handling Misunderstandings.....	19
Week 5: How to Spiritually Walk Together.....	23
Week 6: Building Blocks of a Great Friendship.....	27
Prayer Requests.....	32

## 2007 Important Dates

### April

- 6 Good Friday
- 8 Easter
- 21 Ladies Night Out
- 27-29 Jr. High Urban Plunge

### May

- 6 Dedication Party for the LOFT
- 13 Mother's Day
- 18-20 Ohana Camp (All Church Retreat)

### June

- 3-10 Team Haiti Mission Trip
- 17 Father's Day with Dr. Laura
- 24-30 Summer Camp for 5th & 6th
- 29-July 1 Guys Golf Weekend

### July

- 9-13 Surf Camp for kids
- 22-27 Jr. High Houseboat Camp

### August

- 6-13 Team Ecuador (High School) Mission Trip

\*For more details about events, check the Ocean Hills website calendar. Go to [www.oceanhills.org](http://www.oceanhills.org) and click on "Monthly Calendar" on the left side of the page. Then click on the specific event for more details.

# The Friendship Factor

## Week 1: April 15, 2007

### Land Mines That Kill Friendships

#### Relate:

1. What qualities do you value most when it comes to friendship? (some examples: loyalty, generosity, spiritual connection, common interests, fun to be with, similar personality, etc.)
2. In your opinion, what can break up (or badly damage) a friendship? Have you ever experienced a friendship that was broken?
3. Have you ever gone through a hard time with a friend and ended up stronger in your friendship? If so, how did it happen?

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Read it a second time substituting "love" with "friendship".

#### Reflect:

1. What do you think it means to be a patient friend? Have you ever had to exercise patience in a friendship? Have you ever experienced a friend being patient with you? If so, when?









**The Friendship Factor**  
**Week 2: April 22, 2007**  
**No Strings Attached- Generous Love**

**Relate:**

1. Have you ever had a best friend? Do you have one now?  
What is it that makes him/her your "best friend"?
2. What do you think it means to love someone unconditionally? Is there a person in your life (outside of your family) who you love this way? Is there a person in your life who loves you this way?

**Read:** 1 Samuel 18:1-9

**Reflect:**

1. Look at 1 Samuel 18:1. What happened when David and Jonathan met? Have you ever met someone and instantly "clicked" with them? If so, what drew you to that person?
2. When you meet someone who has done something great (or who you greatly admire), how do you usually respond? Are you drawn to them or intimidated by them? Why?

3. V.2 says Saul kept David with him in the palace. Since Jonathan was Saul's son, how do you think this made him feel? How would you have felt?

4. Have you ever struggled in a friendship with feelings of jealousy? If so, how did you handle it? Were you able to stay friends?

5. Have you ever had a friend who had a reason to be jealous of you? If so, how did you handle that? Were you able to stay friends?



9. According to v.8, how did Saul feel about David? Why do you think he felt that way? How was Saul's response to David different than his son's response to David?

10. Why do you think Jonathan was capable of such generous Love? How do you have to feel about yourself in order to love some one generously?

**Respond:**

1. Would you describe yourself as a person who loves generously? Why/Why not? What do you struggle with most when it comes to extending this kind of love?

2. Is there a relationship you need to work on as a result of this study? If so, what will you do this week to start working on it?

**The Friendship Factor**  
**Week 3: April 29, 2007**  
**Who's Back Are You Watching?**

**Relate:**

1. When you think of your most loyal friend, who comes to mind? Why does this person come to your mind?
2. Have you ever experienced someone being disloyal to you? If so, how did you handle it?
3. If loyalty can be determined by the time and energy you spend on something, who/what are you most loyal to?

**Read:** 1 Samuel 18:10-19:7

**Reflect:**

1. What motivated Saul to try to kill David? (v.10.11) Do you think Saul's insecurity and jealousy had anything to do with the "evil spirit" that was driving him? Or was he just demon possessed?
2. Why was Saul afraid of David? (v.12) Do you find it ironic that Saul was afraid since he was the one who tried to kill David? Who do you think should have been more afraid—Saul or David? Why?





9. How does Saul respond to David's words? (v.6) What does that tell you about Saul? Do you think he meant his words?

10. Who is the biggest hero in this passage- David, Saul or Jonathan? Why?

**Respond:**

1. Is there anyone that you need to show loyalty to at this time? If so, how will you do that this week?

2. Is there anyone you've been loyal to who has caused you to compromise your convictions- or put you in an awkward situation? How can the group pray for you to direct your loyalty in healthy ways?

# The Friendship Factor

## Week 4: May 6, 2007

### Handling Misunderstandings

#### Relate:

1. When you are caught in the middle of a misunderstanding, do you tend to get involved, or let people work it out on their own?
2. Are you generally more confrontational or non confrontational in relationships? Which trait do you prefer in others?
3. If you were in a group that started talking badly about one of your good friends, would you say anything? Or would you keep silent?

**Read:** 1 Samuel 20

#### Reflect:

1. How does Jonathan show that he is a peacemaker in v.1-4? How does he try to honor both his father and his friend?
  
2. Do you think Jonathan was in an awkward position as Saul's son and David's friend? Have you ever been in a similar situation? (caught in a conflict between two people you loved)? If so, how did you handle it?





9. Look at v.32-34. What was Jonathan's final attempt to handle this misunderstanding peacefully? What was Saul's response? How does Jonathan continue to show self control in a very tense situation (v.34)? Is that hard for you to do when you are upset?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How does Jonathan show love for David by letting him go? (v.42). Have you ever had to do that in a relationship? Have you ever had to sacrifice your own desires for the well being of someone else? If not, would you be willing to?

**Respond:**

1. What insights does this passage give you about how to handle misunderstandings and tough times with friends? What is your "take away" from this lesson?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Is there a relationship and/or misunderstanding you need to handle right now? If so, what will you do this week to try to resolve it with God's help?

**The Friendship Factor**  
**Week 5: May 13, 2007**  
**How to Spiritually Walk Together**

**Relate:**

1. Is there a friend in your life who encourages you spiritually?  
If so, who?
2. What do you think are the characteristics of a spiritual friendship?
3. Is there a difference between encouragement and spiritual encouragement? If so, what?

**Read:** 1 Samuel 20:11-17

**Reflect:**

1. What indications do you find in this passage that David and Jonathan have a spiritual friendship? How do you think this conversation would have been different if they weren't connected spiritually?
2. How does Jonathan give David spiritual encouragement in this passage? What specific phrases would have encouraged David about God's plans for his future?







**The Friendship Factor**  
**Week 6: May 27, 2007**  
**Building Blocks of a Great Friendship**

**Relate:**

1. What is the difference between a friend and a great friend?  
What are some of the qualities that make a friendship strong?
2. Which to you is most important in friendship: time, trust or transparency? Why?
3. Would you say most of the friendships you have are close and deep, or situational and shallow? Why?

**Read and Reflect:**

1. Read Proverbs 18:24. What do you think this proverb means?  
Based on what we've read about David and Jonathan, how do they illustrate this kind of friendship?









# Prayer Requests - Week #1

# Prayer Requests - Week #2

# Prayer Requests - Week #3

# Prayer Requests - Week #4

# Prayer Requests - Week #5

# Prayer Requests - Week #6

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# Contact Information

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