



# A REAL MAN

*The Search for God's Definition of Manhood*



So Be Strong, show yourself a man...observe what the Lord your God requires...  
that you may prosper in all you do.

1 KINGS 2:2,3

Ask the group if they wrote down some of the mentors in their lives —review

List some men who have had positive influences on your life:  
Fathers? — Coaches? — Teachers? — Uncles? — Brothers? — Pastors?

## THE FRIEND IN A MAN'S CHEST

*The only two things that can satisfy the soul are a person and a story; and even the story must be about a person.*

GK Chesterton

We understand we are to be Kings to provide, Warriors to protect, and Mentors to teach, but sometimes a man can forget that he has a God-given need to connect.

## A DISCUSSION OF FRIENDSHIP

If you are teaching a larger group, break them out in small groups of no more than five people for a brief discussion on friendship —the discussion sheets are at the end of this study.



WHO WAS YOUR BEST FRIEND GROWING UP?

WRITE DOWN HIS NAME AND WHAT YOU LIKED ABOUT HIM.

AS A GROUP COME UP WITH TEN QUALITIES YOU DESIRE IN A FRIEND


Have each group submit one quality until you have ten as a group—record on your leader's guide or on a whiteboard if you have one. After each group has given one quality each, open the floor up for any additional qualities they may have come up with.

Have you been able to make some good friends in your current stage of life (college, career, current hometown)?



### THE POWER OF CONNECTION



You know what I hate more than anything else? *Alone*. Separation. Isolation. Alone is *Hell*. And I wasn't made for it. Neither were you.

Stu Weber, *Four Pillars of a Man's Heart* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah) 225. (emphasis added)

### A MAN'S MOST TREASURED CONNECTION

Read Exodus 3:8-12 and Matthew 28:18-20

What phrase is common in the Exodus and Matthew Passages?

"I will be with you" (NIV)

Why is this promise important to you?

Read Hebrews 13:5,6 and John 16:33

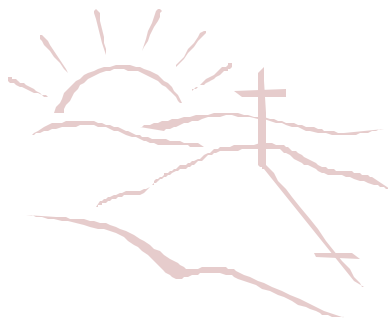
God is our friend and will never leave us and He has overcome this world with all its trouble. This promise can give us hope even when it seems everyone else has

We see God's heart towards us in the words of Jesus.

*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made know to you.*

John 15:15 (NIV)

### SONG – I WILL CHANGE YOUR NAME



I will change your name  
You shall no longer be called  
Wounded, outcast, lonely or afraid

I will change your name  
Your new name shall be  
Confidence, joyfulness, overcoming one  
Faithfulness, friend of God, one who seeks my face

### DEEP FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER REAL MEN ARE TO BE VALUED

For the sake of time, give an overview of what is happening in 1 Samuel during the time Jonathan befriends David...do your homework so you can do this quickly and accurately.

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:1-17



## WARNING: FRIENDS OUT OF BALANCE



### NO CONNECTION

#### LONER

one that avoids others;  
one that pursues a  
markedly independent  
course in thought or

- Does not connect with other men.
- Thinks he does not need anyone but himself.
- Is not a friend to his wife or his children.



Explain diagram—a friend out of balance in either direction makes the house begin to fall.

### WEARS YOU OUT

#### SMOTHERER

to overpower in thought  
or feeling; to provide  
with more than is needed  
or desirable

- Only takes from others in relationships, never gives.
- Is basically selfish and does not care about other people; he feeds on them.

*If there is no soulish connection then there is no reason for living. If the King provides, but never connects, it's no good. If the Warrior protects, but never connects, it's no good. If the Mentor teaches, but never connects it's no good. It is not good for man to be alone! It is the Friend in his chest that gives the King, the Warrior, and the Mentor a reason to exist. If one of the pillars is to stand a little taller, a little straighter than the others, if one pillar must bear a little more of the weight of manhood than the others, it must be the Friend pillar.*

*Four Pillars of a Man's Heart 226.*

### THE HUSBAND AND FATHER AS A FRIEND

We will cover the specific roles of husband and father in some later studies. For now, I would like you to meditate on how the Friend pillar would be needed in these relationships

## ASSIGNMENT OF THE WEEK

Read the entire story of David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 18-23