



## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of 1/14/2024

This week, we dive into King David's life to reveal how having God's heart requires next-level living and unconditional loving. Like soul friends David and Jonathan, who were knit together, we must look inward rather than outward, and fully invest in others' success. By examining this biblical example, be encouraged to draw near and cultivate God's heart.

**After your group opens in prayer, please discuss any questions or thoughts that came to mind after hearing/watching the sermon and read the following passage:**

**Read Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)** *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

1. As we are in a series called "A Church After God's Heart", we started this week looking at the importance of the heart. Why do you think the heart is prone to deception? How can we uncover and deal with the hidden sins of our hearts?

**Read 1 Samuel 18:1-9 (ESV)** *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. 2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. 5 And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 And Saul eyed David from that day on.*

2. Jonathan and David had an intimate soul friendship. Who do you have that kind of vulnerable relationship with? If no one, what holds you back from that kind of spiritual friendship?
3. Who can you identify in your life today as a "soul friend" who calls you to your best? If you don't have one, what steps can you take to foster that kind of relationship?
4. We talked about the contrast between Saul's conditional, outward love, with Jonathan's unconditional, inward love. Which do you tend toward more? How can you love others like Jonathan loved David?

**Read Ephesians 5:2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

5. In what ways have you experienced Christ's sacrificial love in your own life? How can remembering how He loves you empower you to better love others?
6. In the sermon, we looked at how "unconditional love is not optional, but required." How easy or hard is it for you to love others unconditionally? What gets in the way?

**As you close, share any challenges, encouragements, and needs related to this week's message. Close with prayer for one another.**