

# FLAWED HERO

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## THE LIFE OF DAVID



# WEEK 3

June 6/7, 2015

The friend before  
the Friend

*This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.*

### SERIES OVERVIEW

Every hero has flaws, even the ones we read about in the Bible. In the life of David—a king of Israel and a man after God's own heart—we see a hero with glimpses of greatness and wounds of pride. Through David's failures, challenges, and triumphs, we see a greater Hero. The hero was not David, but God Himself. God humbled David and pointed people back to the one, true, King.

### MAIN TEXT

1 Samuel 18:1-5, ESV

### GETTING STARTED

How do you define friendship? Who was your best friend growing up?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 1 Samuel 20:1-17 out loud as a group. What do you think attracted Jonathan to David? What characteristics attracted you to your best friends?
2. In chapter 18, what items did Jonathan give David? Why was this significant, especially considering Jonathan's royal standing? Has one of your friends sacrificially put you before him or her in the past? Share with the group.
3. A good friend makes the good days twice as good and the bad days half as bad. Describe a time when a friend made a good day even better for you. Also, when did a friend make a bad day less worse?

4. What is the contrast between how Saul and Jonathan viewed others, specifically David? Have you identified with both Saul and Jonathan in the past? Is it difficult for you to celebrate when your friends are having more success or an easier time than you are? Discuss as a group.
5. Read John 15:12-13 out loud as a group. Do you actively think of Jesus as your friend? If not, why do you think that is difficult to do? What are some of the similarities between Jesus and Jonathan?
6. This weekend, we learned that in our walk with the Lord, the way up is always down. What is a practical way that you can take a lower position than someone in your life? Whether it is a co-worker, acquaintance, friend, or family member, what sacrifice can you make for someone this week to show him or her the love of Christ?

### NEXT STEPS

As a church body, we have to become like Jonathan. People will be drawn to a church where everyone models friendship and love in the way that Jonathan did.

*Examine yourself: Do you love the people around you like Jonathan loved David?*

*Discuss as a group: What do you need to let go of to become more like Jonathan? What sin, status, security, or skill is preventing you from growing closer to Jesus?*