



 **LifeGroups**
REACH • LEARN • LOVE

David's Covenant

David's Covenant

- Jonathan loved David as himself; they made a covenant of friendship
- 1 Samuel 20:1–17
- Saul told Jonathan that he wanted to kill David.
- But Jonathan spoke to his father, pleading David's innocence, and Saul changed his mind (1 Samuel 19:1–7).
- A harmful spirit came upon Saul again, and he sought again to kill David.

David's Covenant

- Michal knew about this plot and helped David escape (19:11–18).
- Apparently Jonathan didn't know that his father had gone back on his word and was seeking to kill David again.
- When David came to Jonathan, pleading his innocence again, Jonathan claimed that Saul did nothing without telling him, big or small (20:2).
- But David promised that Saul really was trying to kill him and was intentionally hiding it from Jonathan because he knew how much Jonathan loved David (20:3).

David's Covenant

- Jonathan sided with David and said he would do whatever David wanted.
- This was not only because Jonathan loved David so much, but also because he knew David had done nothing wrong (19:1–7; 20:1).
- He trusted David's character and integrity above his father's.
- He said he would still ask his father, to make sure (20:12), but if he found out it were true, he would side with David and help him escape, even if it was dangerous for himself (20:13).

David's Covenant

- After David conquered Goliath, “The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (18:1).
- “Soul” in Hebrew is *nephesh*, the life of the person.
- The word refers to aspects of sentience, which animates us and gives us life.
- The *nephesh* isn't just the spirit; that would be *ruach*.
- It's the whole being of a person. It's a person's whole life, whole self.

David's Covenant

- So, Jonathan's whole self was "knit together" with David's whole self.
- The perfect illustration is right there in the word "knit."
- Pieces of yarn are woven together. This is how David and Jonathan's relationship was. They were so close that their lives were interwoven, interconnected.
- Their individual yarns together formed a whole new thing, a stronger thing that was more useful together than alone. Their whole selves were so interwoven that Saul could not pull them apart.

David's Covenant

- In this original friendship covenant (18:1–5), Jonathan gave David his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.
- The gifts were both personal (Jonathan's personal armor) and practical (David could use them in battle).
- This was a covenant between a royal and his vassal, but it was also a deeply personal symbol of brotherhood.

David's Covenant

- When David told Jonathan that Saul was trying to kill him, Jonathan made another covenant with him (20:16).
- Jonathan pledged to help David escape and asked, “Do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever” (20:15)
- The word for steadfast love, *chesed*, is the word used of God's love for Israel – “lovingkindness.”
- It is unconditional kindness that comes from covenant loyalty, whether the person “deserves” that love or not.

David's Covenant

- It is undeserved mercy, kindness and grace. It's Yahweh's great *chesed* that keeps Him faithful to Israel even though they are unfaithful to Him.
- *Chesed* is used abundantly in many psalms, but most famously in Psalm 136, in which the refrain "His steadfast love endures forever" is repeated after every line.
- Jonathan asked David to show this kind of love for Jonathan's family, and we will see David follow through on that covenant promise later (2 Samuel 9).

David's Covenant

- These passages say Jonathan loved David “as he loved his own soul” (18:1; 20:17). This is the mark of a deep friendship of *agape*, selfless love.
- Loving someone so much that you want for them all the things you want for yourself (joy, peace, prosperity, etc.), just as much as you want them for yourself.
- It's the love of a deep friendship like Jonathan and David's, but it also the kind of love Jesus called us to have for all our neighbors, not just our closest friends (Mark 12:31; Luke 10:25–37).

David's Covenant

- Jonathan and David's covenant friendship was based on their mutual love of the Lord.
- In this second covenant, Jonathan used the name of *Yahweh* six times in six verses (20:12–17).
- Both men were faithful to the Lord and recognized that faithfulness in each other. This is why Jonathan chose to be loyal to David over his father.
- He had a lot to lose by helping David, but he was a man of virtue, integrity, faith, and trust in the Lord.

David's Covenant

- Jonathan saw his father's true colors, chose David over him
- 1 Samuel 20:18–34, Psalm 15
- Jonathan devised a plan to uncover Saul's true motives and feelings toward David, and the plan worked. Saul showed his true colors.
- He wanted to kill David and also lashed out in anger against Jonathan.
- Instead of calling Jonathan "my son" as he had earlier in the story (14:39–42), Saul now called him "the son of a perverse, rebellious woman" (20:30).

David's Covenant

- We don't know much about Jonathan's mother, Ahinoam, but it's unlikely she was actually "perverse and rebellious."
- Saul was still married to her, and she was a noble queen as far as we know.
- He was most likely saying this the same way you might say to your spouse, "Your son got in trouble at school today," except it wasn't a joke. He was violently serious.
- In Saul's mind, it must be her fault that Jonathan turned out this way, because no son of his would betray his father like that!

David's Covenant

- Saul appealed to Jonathan with three powerful motivators:
 - **Shame** – You're bringing shame to yourself (20:30).
 - **Guilt** – You are bringing shame to your mother who bore you (20:30).
This is what is means by “your mother's nakedness.”
 - **Pride** – As long as David lives, you will never be king (20:31).

David's Covenant

- Jonathan must have felt he was bringing shame on himself, and of course he would desire to be king, but still he chose loyalty to David because of David's innocence (20:32).
- Jonathan was the kind of person David later wrote about in Psalms, the kind of person who can dwell in God's presence:
- "He who ... does what is right and speaks truth in his heart ... who honors those who fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change ... He who does these things shall never be moved" (Psalm 15).

David's Covenant

- Jonathan did what was right even though it would cost him his relationship with his father and possibly the throne. He kept his word even when it hurt himself. And he honored the one who feared the Lord (David) rather than the one in power who was not walking with the Lord.
- When Jonathan didn't acquiesce to Saul, Saul hurled his spear at him, just as he had done to David (20:33). And Jonathan rose from the table "in fierce anger" (20:34). But Jonathan's anger was righteous anger. He had done no wrong and Saul had disgraced him (20:34).

David's Covenant

- Jonathan helped David escape, and they both wept
- 1 Samuel 20:35–42, Psalm 16
- Jonathan completed the plan, using secret signals to let David know that Saul was indeed out to kill him (20:35–38). It is significant that when the boy left, Jonathan was alone in the field and unarmed.
- If David really wanted to take over the throne as Saul had accused, he could have killed Jonathan and started a coup right then and there. But Jonathan completely trusted David. He knew David had no such intentions.

David's Covenant

- Instead, David did the opposite. He bowed before Jonathan three times, the greatest number of times anyone in the Bible is depicted as bowing to someone else in a single encounter.
- In the ancient world, multiple prostrations were a common way of expressing submission, service and loyalty to an authority.
- Even though David had been anointed king and knew it was his eventual destiny, he bowed before Jonathan as his superior.
- Jonathan responded with a kiss, the greeting of a respected peer.

David's Covenant

- David and Jonathan wept together.
- They knew their lives would never be the same.
- Though their covenant bound them forever, they would no longer see each other every day, live in the same place, or enjoy the physical and emotional closeness of being brothers in the same family and warriors fighting on the same side.
- The text adds that “David wept the most,” reiterating to the reader that David never had any intention of hurting Jonathan or Saul.

David's Covenant

- David also was the one leaving his whole world behind.
- He didn't know what his life would look like from this point on, but he had to walk in trust of the Lord.
- He had been anointed king and told that was his future destiny, but things looked bleak at this moment.
- He was losing his best friend, his wife, his home, his place in the palace and the army – his whole identity.

David's Covenant

- As he wrote in Psalm 16,
- “The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup” and “You are my Lord, I have no good apart from you ... In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
- He didn't know what would happen, but he knew who had him in His hand.
- He wept at the loss but walked ahead in faith.

David's Covenant

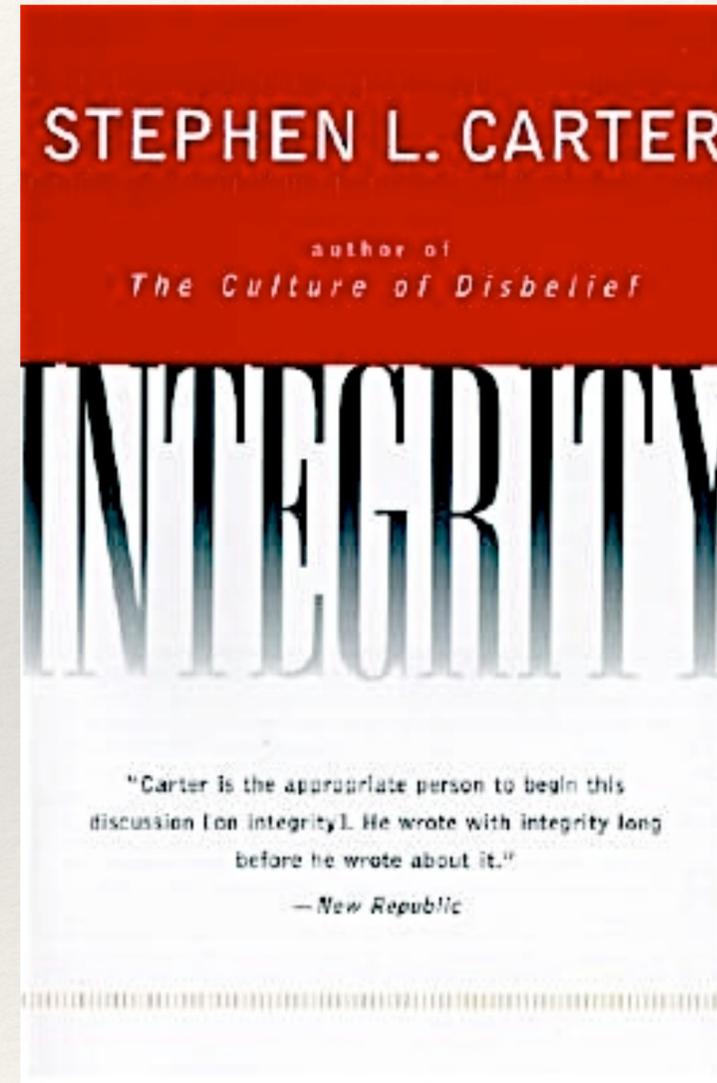
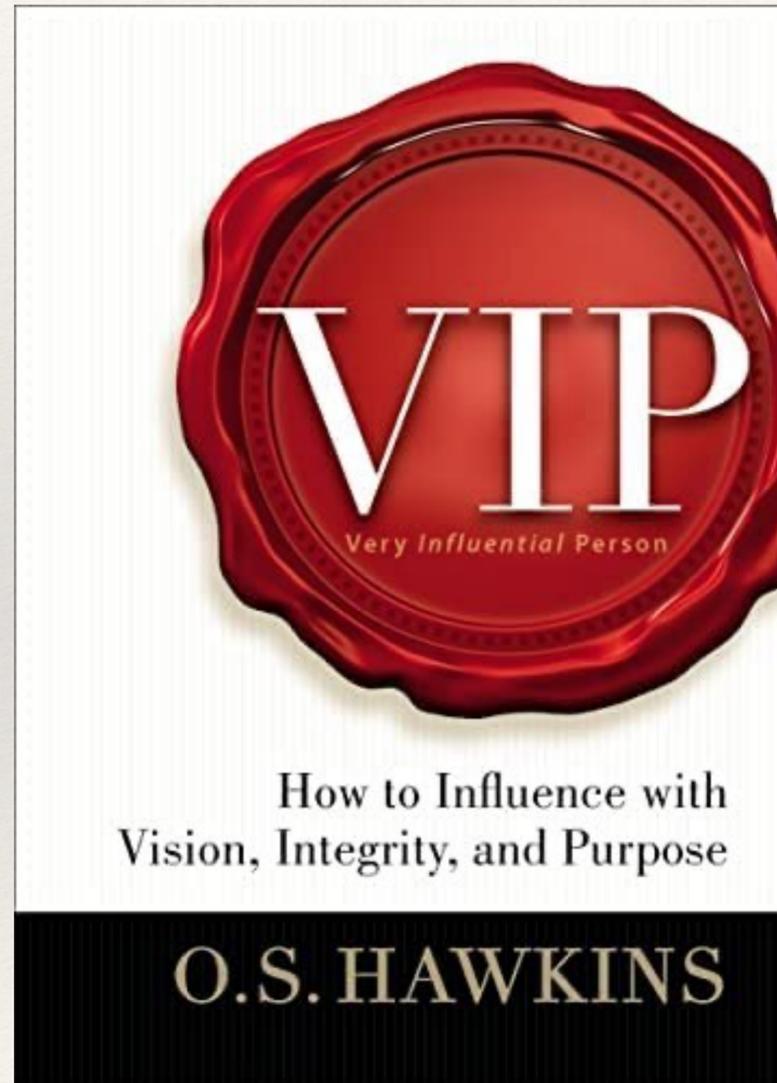
- Jonathan said, “Go in peace,” which was a typical sendoff when two people were separating for an extended time.
- But in this moment, as David was being pursued by Saul, it meant even more.
- David would not experience physical peace on the run, but he would have the peace that comes from trusting the Lord.

Ask Kerby



Integrity Principles

Integrity



Integrity

- The word “integrity” comes from the same Latin root as “integer.”
- It historically has been understood to carry much the same sense, the wholeness: a person of integrity.
- W.S. Tyler - “Integrity implies implicit obedience to the dictates of conscience-in other words, a heart and life habitually controlled by a sense of duty.”
- “If integrity has an opposite, perhaps it is corruption — the getting away with things we know to be wrong.”

Integrity

- 2 Peter 1:5-7 - “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith, supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, Christian love.”
- The word “integrity” occurs approximately fifty times in the Hebrew Bible. In many verses, it is translated perfection, simplicity, or uprightness.

Integrity of David

- Psalm 7:8 - The Lord judges me “according to . . . my integrity that is in me.”
 - *An integrated person - who you are when nobody’s looking.*
- Psalm 78:70-72 - “David shepherded them with integrity of heart, with skillful hands.”
 - *Integrity involves your head, your heart, and your hands.*
- 1 Chronicles 29:17 - “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.”

Integrity in the Proverbs

- Proverbs 10:9 - “He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.”
- Proverbs 11:3 - “The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them.”
- Proverbs 13:6 - “Righteousness guards the person of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.”
- Proverbs 29:10 - “The bloodthirsty hate a person of integrity and seek to kill the upright.”

Integrity

