

# RAGING SAULS - 3

## Pursuing God's Own Heart: Lessons From the Life of David

"Jonathan was deeply impressed with David--an immediate bond was forged between them.

He became totally committed to David. From that point on he would be David's number-one advocate and friend."  
- 1 Samuel 18:1

"One solid, godly relationship can sustain you through any number of difficult ones."

Goliath was dead. David's victory gave the Israelites total control over the Philistines. All the people were happy—that is, all the people except Saul! Rather than focus on the collective victory, Saul centered on his personal loss. Exploding in a jealous rage, Saul attempted to kill David six different times.

How does God respond? God counters Saul's cruelty with Jonathan's loyalty. Although Jonathan could have been as jealous as Saul, God used his gracious spirit as a way of further preparing David's heart and sustaining him through a difficult time.

### Welcome

What was your worst boss like? [Some people can relate to David in their jobs!]

### Word

#### Read 1 Samuel 18:1-16

1. What first incited the jealousy of King Saul? Fear is the root of virtually all jealousy. In your opinion what fears might have fueled Saul's jealousy? How does he respond to David's popularity and success? [If you want to explore this in greater detail, notice the actions of Saul in verses 17-30].
2. Few experiences are more miserable than being the subject of someone's unleashed jealousy. What "raging Sauls" stalk your world? What dangers do they pose?
3. In spite of the unfair treatment and attempts on his life, how did David perform his assigned duties? What passages come to mind about handling similar situations—the jealousy of others, fear of reprisal, personal hostility and attack? [1 Pet. 2:18-23]

#### Read 1 Samuel 20:1-40

4. It is evident that Jonathan was a huge encouragement to David. What do you consider the most important elements of their uncommon friendship?
5. Describe a time when God sent a "Jonathan" to encourage you through a difficult time. Describe him or her.

### Worship

*Are you being pursued by someone or something you're your past?*

The good news is that you're not the first person to face such a situation. The better news is that God has a lot of experience sustaining His people during their difficult times. Psalm 18:46-49 is a portion of a song that David wrote when the Lord delivered him from his enemies. Use this reading and other songs to celebrate God's deliverance: "Praise the Name of Jesus: (579), "How Firm a Foundation" (457), "Be Still & Know" (31).

### Works

One of the best ways to grow spiritually is to help someone else grow spiritually. Who do you know that might need some encouragement right now? Take the initiative, and do what you can to "strengthen their hand in God" (1 Samuel 23:16).