

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, **we want YOU to be the one to introduce** this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



4.3



God Is Love

Part of The Big God Story

1 Samuel 19—20; 31:1—2; 2 Samuel 9:1—7

David and Jonathan's Friendship

JUST FOR FUN

After dinner one day this week, talk with your children about their friends. Ask them who their friends are and why they chose them to be their friends. Tell them you're going to read a story in the Bible about some very special friends, David and Jonathan. Read **1 Samuel 19:1—7**. Explain to your children that Jonathan was King Saul's son, and Saul was jealous and mad at David. Then share with them that Jonathan promised David he'd protect him. Talk about what Jonathan said to his father about David. Then discuss how you see God's love being shown through Jonathan.

Did You Know?

- God used an unlikely friendship to exhibit His love. Jonathan was the heir to the throne, and David was anointed by God to succeed King Saul. Yet Jonathan showed no jealousy toward David.
- When King Saul enlisted the members of his court to aid in the death of David, Jonathan thwarted his father's efforts. King Saul was so intent on killing David that David was left with no options but to leave the king's court. Saul's own children protected David from their father under threat of treason.

- David was crowned king after the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. Keeping the covenant he made with his friend, David showed the Lord's kindness and love to Jonathan's remaining family for all of his days.

Remember Verse

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged; for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

If you notice your child increasingly acting out, chances are he's looking for some extra attention. Sometimes what's more important than correcting behavior is getting to the heart of what's behind it. Spend a little extra time with your child when you see him struggling. Quality time and tender loving care can go a long way.

Teachable Moments

After reading **1 Samuel 19:1—7**, discuss the following together:

- How did Jonathan show God's love to David?
- What do we know to be true about God's love?
- How have you seen God's love in your own life?

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in *HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource*.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may you trust and know the love of the Lord. May you know that He is your hope and your strength.