

Next Level | Week 2 - Authentic Friends

Message Big Idea

Next Level friendships deepen with authenticity.

Scripture

1 Samuel 14:1-15, 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 1 Samuel 23:15-18 and Galatians 6:2

Opening Questions

1. Who was your best friend growing up? Are you still in touch?
2. Share a favorite memory that includes your best friend.

Series Overview

Our current series, Next Level, is about bringing our relationships and friendships to a new and better place. This week we focus on moving our relationships and friendships from availability to authenticity.

Bible Discussion

1. One biblical example of an authentic friendship is between Jonathan and David. For some history on Jonathan, read 1 Samuel 14:1-15. What does this passage reveal about Jonathan and his character?
2. It's no wonder that over 15 years later when Jonathan sees David march out to fight Goliath with only a small slingshot, he feels a connection. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4. What most impresses you about this passage and their friendship?
3. Read 1 Samuel 23:15-18. How did Jonathan help David "find strength in the Lord"?
4. Galatians 6:2 tells us to carry each other's burdens, and in this way we fulfill the law of Christ. What is the "law of Christ"? How did this change the way the law was viewed?

Life Application

5. Do you have a Jonathan in your own life? If so, who is it and how have they come alongside you as Jonathan did for David?
6. Barriers to authenticity include people pleasing, comparison, perfectionism and workaholism, with fear often being at their core. Can you relate to any of these barriers? If so, how? What are some ways we can help one another break through these barriers?
7. As we live out Galatians 6:2, we must choose authentic words and emotions. Try this exercise with your group to grow in authenticity together. Fill in the blank: "If you really knew me, you'd know this _____"
8. Being open to growing in your relationship with God, His church and the world is part of living authentically. Have you had your You+ conversation? If so, what was your favorite part? If not, please consider answering the nine questions at youplus.info to get started.