

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

It's Not You, It's Me

Week 5: The Necessity of Boundaries
1 Samuel 20:1-42

Week of May 17, 2020
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Jonathan's people skills were impressive! This week we studied his wise use of a type of "social distancing" known as "healthy boundaries." Jonathan fought to save the relationship between his father and his friend, but when all hope was gone, he advised David to abandon the relationship and execute a sacred separation. We must learn to do the same.

Kicking it off: People approach this pandemic very differently – and that's OK! If there was a "Covid 19 Caution Scale" ranging from 1 to 10 with 1 being: Super Cautious ("Wipe down the mail") and 10 being: No Caution ("I'd kiss a Covid patient"), what number would you give yourself?

Discussion:

1. David gave up on his relationship with King Saul and left from "The Rock of Ezel" (Ezel means "separation"). For the sake of your wellbeing, have you ever found it necessary to put separation between you and someone? Can you share about it?
2. Reread what Jonathan said to David in *1 Samuel 20:13* "If my father intends to harm you... I will let you know and send you away in peace."

What does Jonathan mean by "in peace?"

3. How would you instill healthy boundaries with a friend who is smothering you by calling multiple times a day?
4. How would you deal with a spouse who expects you to make them happy?
5. Reread Jonathan's words found in *1 Samuel 20:22* "If I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,' then you must go, because the LORD has sent you away."

Jonathan told David that if he needs to leave, it would be because "the LORD has sent you away." What are ways that the Lord can reveal His will to us regarding relational boundaries?

6. If we are following the Lord's guidance, will He lead us to end all difficult relationships?
7. Reread *Romans 12:18* "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

How can we fight for relational peace with others?

Wrapping It Up: It takes the precision of a surgeon to apply relational boundaries well. Pray that God would give you the wisdom, courage and love necessary to steward your relationships according to His will.