

# Closer Than a Brother



Week Seven

## inTro



Read This Week's Passage:  
1 Samuel 18:1-5

### THE HUMAN NEED FOR FRIENDSHIP

The saying goes, “Blood is thicker than water.” Yet Solomon exclaims that “there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24). While we cannot pick the family we are born into, we can pick our friends (who become like family), so it is essential that we choose wisely.

Friendship constitutes one of the most important types of relationship in our lives. Sharing mutual affection with someone increases our chances of being happy and finding fulfillment. It is no wonder, since we were created as social, emotional beings who thrive in healthy, close relationships (cf. Gen. 2:18). Think about it: even the most antisocial person still enjoys the occasional interaction with a like-minded individual.

Not every friendship develops into a deep relationship or lasts forever, and that’s not necessarily a bad thing. We gain friends and sometimes lose friends, but there are some friendships that last a lifetime. In our need for friendship, we sometimes end up forming superficial companionships. In his *Nicomachean Ethics*, the Greek philosopher Aristotle categorizes friendship into three classes: (1) utility friendship—based on how you can benefit from the other; (2) pleasure friendship—based on the pleasant qualities of the other or enjoyment of each other’s company; and (3) goodness friendship—based on mutual respect and admiration. The first two can be fleeting, because needs and pleasures are bound to change over time. But goodness, on the other hand, is an enduring attribute. It may take time to develop these friendships, but they are more fulfilling and lasting.



## **inScribe**

Write out 1 Samuel 18:1–5 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.

## inGest



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

—————→  
Memorize your favorite verse in 1 Samuel 18:1–5. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Compare 1 Samuel 14 and 17. What common traits did David and Jonathan share? How would their similarities have formed a foundation for their friendship?



Read more at  
[www.inversebible.org/will7-3](http://www.inversebible.org/will7-3)



## inTerpret

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you deal with loss of friendship, when someone turns their back on you or betrays you?



Read more at  
[www.inverseible.org/will7-4](http://www.inverseible.org/will7-4)

Closer Than a Brother



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Genesis 40:1-23
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Luke 7:34
- John 15:12-15



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with 1 Samuel 18:1-5?

Review your memorized verse from 1 Samuel 18:1-5.



**inVite**

Meditate on 1 Samuel 18:1-5  
again and look for where Jesus is.



How do you see Jesus differently  
or see Him again?

What kind of friendship does  
Jesus call you to? With others?  
With Him?

Prayer: How do you respond to  
seeing Jesus in this way?



Read more at  
[www.inverseible.org/will7-6](http://www.inverseible.org/will7-6)

Closer Than a Brother

# inSight



Review the memory verse.  
How does it apply to your  
life this week?



After this week's study of the  
chapter, what are personal  
applications you are convicted  
of in your life?

How do you explain the fact  
that Jesus chose Judas Iscariot  
who ultimately betrayed Him?



Read more inSight from the  
Spirit of Prophecy at  
[www.inverseible.org/will7-7](http://www.inverseible.org/will7-7)



## inquire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



Discuss some principles of friendship you find from the book of Proverbs. What friendship example from the Bible inspires you the most?

For a new church member, what are the challenges of making friends? How can these challenges be overcome?

How do you share the Word of God with your friends without pushing them away?

Jesus was, in practical terms, "a friend of sinners," yet His good morals were not corrupted. How can you witness to unbelievers and not be led astray?

Does friendship metamorphose as it goes through different seasons of life (college, marriage, and so on)? How do you manage the changes?