



MY CIRCLE IS SHAPING ME

May 16 & 17, 2026

“Show me your circle and I’ll show you your _____.”

Three Areas My Circle Forms Who I Am:

It...

- Shapes my _____.
- Influences my _____.
- Impacts my _____.

One of the clearest pictures of this is Jonathan and David.

They had a friendship that:

- Wasn’t _____.
- Wasn’t _____.
- Was a _____ friendship.

Six Keys to Build the Right CIRCLE of Friends:



C _____ the right people.

1 Samuel 18:1 (NLT)

After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king’s son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David.

Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

Three Musts:

- _____ who is shaping my life.
- _____ only toward people who strengthen my faith.
- Be very _____ about who I let in my circle.

Philippians 2:2 (NLT)

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and one purpose.



I _____ in the relationship.

1 Samuel 18:3 (NLT)

And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself.

Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)

There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

Two Friendship Facts:

- _____ friendships don't happen by accident – they are built through time, effort, and commitment.
- Friendships don't usually end because of conflict – they end because someone stops _____.



R _____ loyal to great friends in every season of life.

1 Samuel 20:17, 42 (NLT)

And Jonathan made David reaffirm his vow of friendship again, for Jonathan loved David as he loved himself ...

At last Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn loyalty to each other in the Lord’s name. The Lord is the witness of a bond between us forever!” Then David left, and Jonathan returned to the town.

Ruth 1:16 (NLT)

But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”

Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)

A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

Reality Check:

Fair-weather friends are around when it's easy. True friends stay _____ when things get complicated.

4**C** _____ truth in love, even when it is hard.**1 Samuel 20:12-13 (NLT)**

Then Jonathan told David, "I promise by the Lord, the God of Israel, that I will talk to my father and let you know at this time tomorrow or the next day how he feels about you. If he speaks favorably about you, I will let you know. But if he is angry and wants to kill you, may the Lord strike me and even kill me if I don't warn you so you can escape and live. May the Lord be with you as he used to be with my father."

Proverbs 27:6, 9 (NLT)

Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy ... The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

How Do I Do This?

- Be _____ – but not harsh
- _____ avoid hard conversations
- _____ truth over comfort

5**L** _____ each other up spiritually.**1 Samuel 23:16-17 (NLT)**

Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. "Don't be afraid," Jonathan reassured him. "My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Two Realities:

- My best friends shouldn't just check in on me – they should point me back _____.
- A best friend who doesn't know God can't truly _____.

1 John 4:16, 18 (NLT)

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them ...

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

1 Samuel 18:4 (NLT)

Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

Three Truths this Act Signified to David:

- _____ even to death
– Jonathan was willing to die for him.
- _____ loyalty
– Jonathan risked high treason for their friendship.
- _____ transfer
– Jonathan modeled Christ by giving up his throne.

John 15:13 (NLT)

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

How Can I Shape My Circle of Friends?

- _____ up – even when it's inconvenient.
- _____ your friends humbly.
- Love through _____, not just words.



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- Evaluate who is shaping my life.
- Move only toward people who strengthen my faith.
- Be very intentional about who I let in my circle.

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Remain loyal to great friends in every season of life.

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- **Never avoid hard conversations**
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6

Express sacrificial love.

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- **Serve your friends** humbly.
- **Love through actions**, not just words.