



# NEXT

## FALL FOCUS 2017

November 5, 2017

Pastor Dan Seitz

### Living as Ambassadors of Hope: The Jonathan Project

#### “NEXT” Recap

“Discover Faith” → Alpha (Starts Monday, January 22, 2018)

“Grow in Love” → Personal Rule of Life

“Live as an Ambassador of Hope” → Jonathan Project

#### I. A “Blue Coat” for Every Christian (But How?)

ESV **2 Corinthians 5:18** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ...<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.

ESV **1 Corinthians 13:1** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

NIV **Colossians 4:5** Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;

#### II. Friendship-Building Wisdom From the Jonathan Story

##### Episode 1 (I Samuel 18:1-5)

ESV **1 Samuel 18:1** As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

ESV **1 Samuel 18:3** Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

##### Episode 2 (I Samuel 20)

ESV **1 Samuel 18:7** ...Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

ESV **1 Samuel 20:14** If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; <sup>15</sup> and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."  
<sup>17</sup>...And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him,

NIV **1 Samuel 20:3** ...there is only a step between me and death.

## Episode 3 (I Samuel 23:15-17)

ESV 1 Samuel 23:16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God.<sup>17</sup> And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you.

### III. The Jonathan Project (An “Ambassadors of Hope” Initiative )

A “**Jonathan friendship**” is a *true* friendship, *sparked* by chemistry (18:1, 19:1), *grounded* in commitment (18:3, 20:16-17, 23:18) and *deepened* by conversation (20:1-11), that seeks to bless and benefit the other.

#### How to Build a “Jonathan Friendship”

1. Notice who among the people nearby you “click with.”
2. Make an invitation to meet and talk.
3. Get to know by asking questions and remembering what is shared.
4. If the relationship “takes flight,” decide to focus in.
5. Look for practical ways to bless and benefit.

#### ***But Do These “Tracks” Connect?***

#### **One Conversational “Tool” To Keep at the Ready**

*“That’s why Christianity is so helpful for me, because it...”*