EVERYDAY HEROES

Jonathan: LOYAL
1 Samuel 18-20

MIKE ARMSTRONG
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Warming Up

1. Who has been the most loyal person in your life? How did he/she demonstrate this loyalty? What difference has it made for you?

Digging In

I'm loyal when . . .

2. *. . . I'm committed to loving others well (18:1-5).*
   - The passage says that "Jonathan made a covenant with David." What is a covenant? What does it indicate? What other examples of covenants can you think of from the Scriptures?
   - These verses also tell us that "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David" and "[Jonathan] loved [David] as his own soul." What do you think this means? How does this remind you of the description in Ephesians 2:4?
   - What are some less-than-ideal reasons why we exhibit loyalty to others? How should God's commitment to us be the motivation for our commitment to others?

3. *. . . even in the bad times (19:1-7).*
   - Explain how Jonathan was loyal to David in difficult days. How does this support Pastor Mike's statement that "our loyalty is tested and proven in the bad times"? When have you experienced this to be true?
   - When is it harder to show loyalty: in the rare bad circumstances or in the frequent regular circumstances of life? Why? Reflect before jumping to a quick response.

4. *. . . no matter the personal cost to me (20:1-42).*
   - What was the personal cost to Jonathan because of his loyalty to David? Can you think of any situations where your loyalty to someone cost you significantly?
   - Pastor Mike talked about a "warped sense of loyalty" where we are committed to someone to the point that it becomes detrimental. What were the three cases he mentioned? Can you come up with an example for each one?
   - How does the principle of "being loyal to God, what's right, and the truth above all else" help justify Jonathan's loyalty to David over his own father?

Breaking Out

5. Which person (or persons) in your life is (are) deserving of greater loyalty? To what degree are you showing loyalty within your small group? What is your next action step?