

## Group/Individual Study

Series - Love Does: Love Pursues Community

Passages: Genesis 3:6-10, 1 Samuel 16:6-13, 1 Samuel 23:14-16, 2 Samuel 12:1-7

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 6/17

1. Read Genesis 3:6-10. Isolation can be a huge problem in life. We can be surrounded by people and feel no one really knows us--and our burdens can become overwhelming in our sense of aloneness. In this passage how did sin interfere with our relationship with God? With each other? With ourselves?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13. Sunday's sermon said one type of friend we all need is a "Samuel: A friend who makes you better." How did God use Samuel to call forth things in David that neither David nor his family could see? Have you ever had someone in your life who saw more in you than you saw in yourself? Have you ever functioned this way in another's life?
3. Read 1 Samuel 23:14-16. Another type of friend we all need is a "Jonathon: A friend who helps you find spiritual strength." Do you have any person(s) in your life who helps you find strength in God when life is hardest? How do they help you do this? Is there someone in your life who might say you do this for them?
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-7. A third type of friend we all need is a "Nathan: A friend who tells you the truth." What might have become of David if Nathan hadn't played this role for him? Have you ever had someone speak a word of correction to you--and when they did, you actually felt loved rather than judged. What's the key to being a loving "Nathan," rather than one who heaps shame on others?
5. Christian speaker and author, Gordon MacDonald described three kinds of people we have in our lives: Basement people, Audience people, and Balcony people. "Basement people" in our lives drain us when we are with them. "Audience people" neither drain nor fill us, they just watch us live our lives. Our "Balcony people" are in the balcony of our lives wildly and resolutely cheering us on: "You can do it," "I believe in you," "I have your back," "Hope in God--He's faithful!" they cry. Who are some of the Balcony people in your life right now? To whom do you want to be a more intentional Balcony person this week?