Good Friend
A Good Friend Shows Up

Talk It Over

Message Summary

In a world of quick digital gestures, real friendship means showing up when it matters most. Jonathan's friendship with David shows three ways good friends show up: with presence, with words that strengthen, and with invitations toward God's future. As we head into Christmas—the season celebrating that God showed up for us in Jesus—we're reminded that one of the greatest gifts we can give is showing up for others and inviting them to meet Him.

Key Scriptures

1 Samuel 23:15–18 (NIV)
While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

Job 2:12–13 (NIV)
When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a time when someone simply showed up for you. What did their presence mean in that moment?
- Watch this week's Sermon Refresh: Here (Available Monday's)

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Please read the Key Scriptures on the left.
- What do these passages reveal about why presence matters more than perfect words when someone is hurting?

Start Sharing

Choose a question(s) to create openness.

- When you're overwhelmed, what helps more—practical support, listening, or someone simply being there?
- Jonathan didn't just encourage David—he strengthened him in God. What does that difference look like in real friendships?
- Has there been a time when a friend's words helped you believe something true about God or your future that you couldn't see yourself? What made their encouragement effective?
- Which of these traits do you most want to grow in right now (Showing up with presence, Speaking strengthening words, Extending invitations toward God)?

Start Praying

Jesus, thank You for showing up for us—leaving heaven, entering our world, and becoming God with us. Make us friends who show up for others with Your presence, Your encouragement, and Your invitations. Give us boldness and compassion to invite the people around us to Christmas services so they can encounter Your love. Amen.

Start Doing

Identify one person you will personally invite to CCV's Christmas services this week.

Show up for a friend in one practical way—send a message, meet for coffee, offer help, or simply sit with someone who's struggling.