



## PART 2: *One* WITH OTHERS WEEK 5: TRUST

**WARM UP 1:** What is the greatest friendship you can think of in movies, TV shows, books or real life? **WARM UP 2:** Talk about a close friendship you have (spouses can be included in this). What makes it work?

*Jonathan and David, Ruth and Naomi, are two examples of great biblical friendships that were forged in unexpected circumstances. For this study you can choose the Samuel readings, the Ruth readings, or both!*

1. Read [1 Samuel 18:1-4 / Ruth 1:16-17]. Trust in a relationship begins with having a good *intention*, i.e. being 'for' the other person. Why can't we take this for granted? What are the alternatives?

2. Read [1 Samuel 20:3,12,16,17 / Ruth 1:17]. Notice the language of *honesty*... 'oath', 'covenant', 'swear', 'may the Lord deal with me'. What are some examples of why it's important to trust what someone says?

3. Read [1 Samuel 20:27-33 / Ruth 1:18]. Jonathan was *steadfast* in the face of adversity, and Ruth promised she would be. What are some situations that could threaten or challenge a friendship? What difference does it make if the two people can trust each other's commitment?

4. Read [1 Samuel 20:41-42 / Ruth 3:1-6, 4:13-17]. Sometimes in a friendship one person might help the other person more, but in an intimate friendship there needs to be *mutual affection*. What's the relationship between 'love', 'like' and 'help'?

5. What has been your experience (or not) of relationships based on trust - in intention, in honesty, in steadfastness and in mutual affection?

6. Read Matthew 6:25-34. We can't trust people completely, but we can trust God. How can these words help us trust in our relationships?

**PASS IT ON:** Who in your life needs to hear this truth?