



# Friendship, love, and loyalty

# 14

**Objective** The confirmands are aware that love and loyalty form the basis for a harmonious and trusting relationship.

**Contents** Friendship and loyalty (David and Jonathan).  
Love and loyalty.  
Jesus Christ is our friend and bridegroom.  
The Sixth Commandment.

## 1 Lead-in

At the beginning of the lesson the confirmation teacher tells the story of David and Jonathan's friendship.

**Hint** The concept 'tell' is explained in the "Instructions".

**Tell** When Saul, the king of the Israelites, was no longer obedient to God He rejected Saul. Consequently God commissioned Samuel to anoint a new king and sent him to Jesse. At the time David was in the fields and had to be sent for. He ultimately was the son of Jesse, concerning whom God said to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" (1 Samuel 16: 12). Saul knew nothing about all of this. He had David brought to his court as a harpist and armour bearer. There David became acquainted with Saul's son Jonathan. The two became friends and made a pact with each other. Jonathan gave David his robe, sword, bow, and belt. In the course of time David became increasingly famous and popular among the Israelites. When Saul noticed this he began to hate David. Saul commanded his soldiers and even his son Jonathan to kill David. But because Jonathan admired David very much he advised David to hide. Jonathan himself spoke with his father saying only the best concerning David and succeeded in persuading Saul not to follow through with his plans. A short time later however, Saul again was after David's life. The two friends met once again and reaffirmed their friendship and their pact. Jonathan promised David that he would do everything he could to protect him because "he loved him as he loved his own soul" (1 Samuel 20: 17). This friendship made Saul so furious that he even tried to kill his own son. Before David had to flee for a lengthy period the two friends met secretly one last time. Jonathan assured David that they would continue to be friends. David was greatly distressed when he heard that Jonathan had been killed in the war against the Philistines. He had lost his best friend.

*David and Jonathan  
become friends...*

*...and continue to  
be loyal to each  
other despite  
various dangers*



# 14

## Friendship, love, and loyalty

### 2 Friendship and loyalty

#### Ask

#### What is genuine friendship?

#### Hint

The confirmation teacher can distribute pieces of paper on which the confirmands write their answers. These pieces of paper are then to be attached to the board and the confirmands comment on their responses. The answers can be supplemented using the example of David and Jonathan's friendship.

Genuine friendship means that I

- care dearly for my friends,
- am there for my friends when they need me,
- share with my friends,
- only speak highly of my friends,
- defend my friends whenever necessary,
- trust my friends,
- can speak openly with my friends, and
- stand by and continue to be loyal to my friends even when things go badly for them or they are experiencing difficulties.

Genuine friendship is a relationship which grows between two people. It is consolidated through mutual experiences. This example describes the friendship between two men. Genuine friendship can likewise develop between women and especially between a man and a woman. Genuine friendship is not limited to a certain age. It exists among children and young people.

#### Workbook exercise

Afterwards the results of this discussion are noted in the confirmands' workbook using key words.

### 3 Love and loyalty

#### Explain

When a boy and a girl fall in love their love for one another is something very significant and great. The prerequisites for friendship to be genuine (discussed in section 2) also apply to a relationship such as this.

#### *Considerations at the beginning of a relationship*

In addition we ought to also ask ourselves the following questions:

- Am I prepared to accept that she/he sometimes will think and feel differently than I?
- Am I only in love with her/him because of outward appearances?
- What is her/his attitude towards our faith?
- What is her/his attitude towards her/his parents?

Although these considerations do not appear to be very important at the beginning of a relationship these questions should be asked. When these considerations lead to misgivings about a relationship we ought to have the courage to break it off.



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*What can become of a relationship*

When a relationship continues to develop in a beneficial manner it will lead to marriage—the union between a man and a woman desired by God. God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him” (Genesis 2: 18). And the Lord Jesus said, “What God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19: 6).

*Faithfulness and loyalty creates trust*

In every relationship, particularly in a marriage, it is important to remain faithful to one another. To be faithful and loyal means having the firm resolve to keep one’s promises by putting them into action. A marriage partner ought to be able to believe and trust the other. Love, faithfulness, and loyalty are the basis for a harmonious and trusting union. It is God’s intention that husband and wife are loyal to one another.

**A student reads aloud**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Explain**

Before beginning a relationship we can turn to our heavenly Father. In prayer we ask Him to give us the right thoughts and feelings. Our parents will gladly be available to counsel us. We can also speak with our Priest concerning matters close to our heart. He will pray for us so that we will make the correct decision.

## 4 Jesus Christ is our friend and bridegroom

**Ask**

**What is special about Jesus Christ?**

**Listen to answers and supplement**

Human beings are never perfect. However, the Man Jesus Christ is perfect since He is without sin. Jesus Christ however, is perfect! He is the best friend we can have. Yet Jesus Christ is not only our best friend. He is also the bridegroom of our soul. We wait for Him to take us to Himself so that we will be for ever united with Him.

*Jesus – our friend and the bridegroom of our soul*

- He loves us with a perfect love and has given His life for us (cf. John 15: 12–14).
- He is always available for us.
- He repeatedly intercedes on our behalf with His Father and grants us grace.
- He always remains loyal to us.

We can therefore always trust Him. We can tell Him everything and entrust all our concerns and wishes to Him.

**The main points**

**I also want to ...**

**... be loyal!**

**Homework**

In the Bible the confirmands read Luke 5: 4–7 and prepare themselves to retell what they have read. They do the exercise in lesson 15.

