

## Small Group Discussion Guide

“Riding Out the Storm of  
Consequences with Friends”

Louie

10-10-10



### Discussion Points

- The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge once described friendship as “a sheltering tree”. Louie said God’s grace sustained David through many such friends.

Who has been such a friend to you? How has God’s grace come to you through them? If no one comes to mind, what does that stir in you? Would you want to have such a friend? Why or why not?

Are you a “sheltering tree” to others? Why or why not?

- Read 2 Samuel 15:19-37. Ponder this passage together. What does it say about friendship? What does it say about David? What would you like to emulate in these men? Where or how or with whom might God be asking you to take a step toward being a friend like these men were to David?
- Read 2 Samuel 17:27-29. What practical ways have others shown friendship to you in the face of crisis (meals, clean your house, mow your lawn, prayer, etc)? Name some specific, practical ways you could do the same for others in your life (spouse, children, co-workers, small group member, etc).
- Matt Mead and Dan Lokers talked about the vital importance of authentic friendships. They also talked about the need to be intentional about taking risks to make friends; not allowing past hurts or wounds to let us settle for being alone and isolated.

Do you *currently* have authentic friendships in your life? If yes, explain how those friendships got started and grew. If not, would you be willing to talk about what has hindered you from having close friends? Would you be willing to take a risk to reach out to someone? Why or why not?

- Matt talked about Men’s Fraternity and how many men have found meaningful friendships there. Men, would you be willing to attend Men’s Fraternity in order to be a friend or to build a friendship with other good men? Please explain.

### Big Idea:

“Friendship is a sheltering tree.”

### Main Text:

2 Samuel 15-19

