

## Taking It Home:

- Pastor Matthew identified three ways David’s friends provided for him through refreshment, resources, and relationship. As you think about these three categories of care, does anyone come to mind who could use your encouragement this week?
  
- Dr. Brené Brown challenged the audience at the Global Leadership Summit with this idea: “When you judge yourself when you have to ask for help, you are judging others when you offer help.” In light of Romans 8, how do you overcome the judgment you feel in asking or receiving help?
  
- How does diversity in your small group contribute to your understanding of God’s character? In Acts 15 we read of a diverse small group which began with a demon possessed slave girl, wealthy businesswomen, and former jailer. This group would later become the church to whom Paul wrote Philippians.

## Joining a Growth Group Next Steps

- If you would like to join a Growth Group at Bethel, please write “G2” or “Growth Group” on your white response card.
- Over the next two weeks we will be working with group leaders to establish new groups by contacting you via phone or email and placing you in a group designed to be a best fit.
- If the first group doesn’t work out, keep trying... sometimes it take 2-3 times to find a great fit.
- Give yourself wholeheartedly to the task of becoming the friend you want others to be for you.

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
September 8, 2013

Friends for Life  
2 Samuel 17:27-29

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## Friends for Life

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelcf.com](http://www.bethelcf.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 8, 2013

2 Samuel 17:27-29

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**Quick Review:** This week's message features the ministry of Growth Groups through a study in 2 Samuel 17. Growth Groups at Bethel are one way we fulfill our mission of helping the spiritually hungry experience and proclaim the life changing power of Jesus. These groups serve as an opportunity for people to develop meaningful relationships centered on Jesus. Many people have found life-long friends through their small group experience. The lesson this week reminds us that we all need friends who know us and will be there when life begins to unravel.

## My Story:

- Do you agree or disagree that, "you have to be a friend to have a friend?"
- Share about a time when you were able to provide for a friend in need. Have you ever felt like you received more than you gave?
- How do you respond when others care for your needs in tangible ways?

## Growing Deeper:

- In 2 Samuel 17, David is running for his life. His son Absalom and his trusted friend Ahithophel have conspired to overtake the throne. David's rule is at risk as never before and he flees to Mahanaim. This is the same location where Jacob wrestled with the angel in Genesis 32:1-11 and where Saul's son ruled for a short time following his father's death in 2 Samuel 2. Three friends, Shobi, Machir, and Barzillai arrive to aid David and those who have fled with him.
- Consider the story of Mephibosheth as an example of David's desire to be generous and honor his friendship with King Saul's son, Jonathan. What stands out to you from 2 Samuel 9:1-13 about this situation? What role did Machir have in the care of Mephibosheth?
- Some have suggested that Psalm 23:5 was inspired by this story in 2 Samuel 17. How does Psalm 23, especially verse 5, read differently to you in light of 2 Samuel 17?
- Often when we share about small groups, we refer to the early church in Acts 2:42-47. What parallels do you see between the story of David and his friends in 2 Samuel and the early church in Acts 2?