

# TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY



## Jonathan

There are few relationships as well known as the friendship between Jonathan and David. It is used to describe the pinnacle of human friendship, an example of the kind of friend that we all long for. To know and be known. The story of Jonathan and David describes an intimacy that we seldom see.

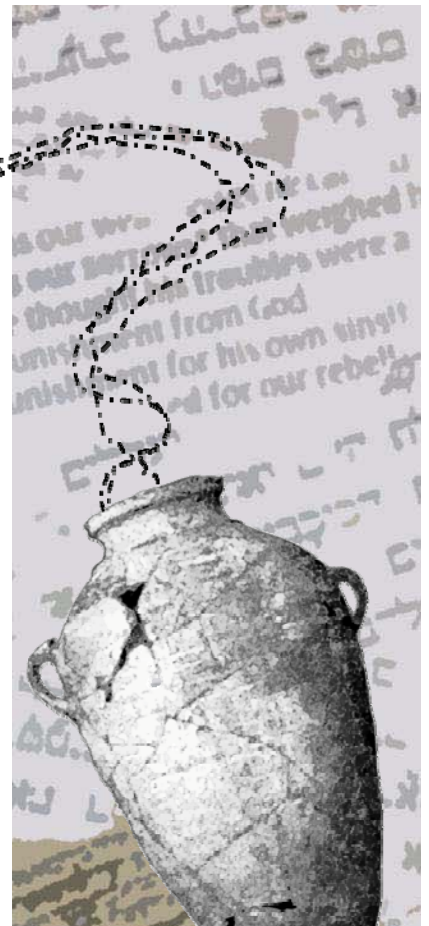
I think a great deal of the depth of their friendship had to do with Jonathan's humility. Humility has been defined as understanding the truth about yourself. Jonathan seemed to understand that he was not destined to be great in this world, but his friend David was. God had anointed David as the next king to follow Jonathan's father Saul, and Jonathan seemed to neither question, nor defy, God's plans.

If only I could approach the people in my life in that way! I am much too often self seeking rather than focused on helping others achieve what God has planned for them. Jonathan was able to set himself, and his own ambitions, aside for the sake of another. He helped his friend accomplish what God had planned. Jonathan gives us a picture of the friend to come in Jesus Christ our Lord, willing to sacrifice anything for a friend.

## Jonathan the Intercessor

How did Jonathan play the part of David's intercessor before his father, and king, Saul? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways is this similar to how Jesus is intercessor for us? \_\_\_\_\_



*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."*

*2 Corinthians 4:7*

### READ:

• 1 Samuel

## The Measure of a True Friend

Despite all of our networking, on Facebook or Twitter, despite being readily connected by internet and cell phone to people all over the world, true friends are in short supply. We invest a great deal of time, money, and effort into the means of connecting with others, yet find our craving for connection, for a friend like Jonathan, still largely unmet. How does Proverbs 18:24 describe different kinds of friends? \_\_\_\_\_

Cicero, a Roman philosopher before the time of Christ, said that to have even a handful of true friends in the course of a lifetime was a rare thing.

Why are true friends, the ones closer than a brother, so rare? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we find it so hard to **be** that friend? \_\_\_\_\_

What do we see in Jonathan's attitude toward David that is similar to what John the Baptist said some thousand years later about Jesus as is recorded in John 3:30?

**"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."  
Philippians 2:3-4**

What part does that attitude play in our friendships? \_\_\_\_\_

In John 15:15 Jesus called the disciples, and us as well, His friends. What reason did He give? \_\_\_\_\_

What characteristics do your "truest" friends share? \_\_\_\_\_



## Intimacy

Psychologist Dan Montgomery describes reaching deeper levels of relationship with others with the image of a descending elevator. He gives us these four levels: (Montgomery, 190)

1. The façade level—a necessary and valuable stage for getting to know others, but the conversation stays at a superficial level of small talk.
2. The acquaintance level—we are now willing to reveal some private sentiments and opinions. There is some risk involved, but not much.
3. The friendship level—at this level we become emotionally vulnerable. We share feelings, and look for mutual trust and compatibility.
4. The intimacy level—here we reveal even the darkest memories and wounds that we find shameful. We share our heart's desires.

The level of friendship we are able to attain with others depends not only on the trustworthiness of others, but also on our own ability to trust. Some people are unwilling to take the risks involved in becoming anything other than a casual acquaintance with anyone. Jonathan and David were able to achieve a deep level of friendship. What risks did Jonathan take in doing that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Power of Touch

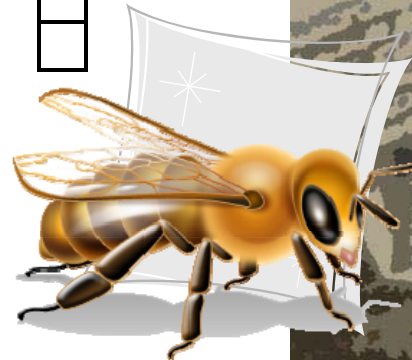
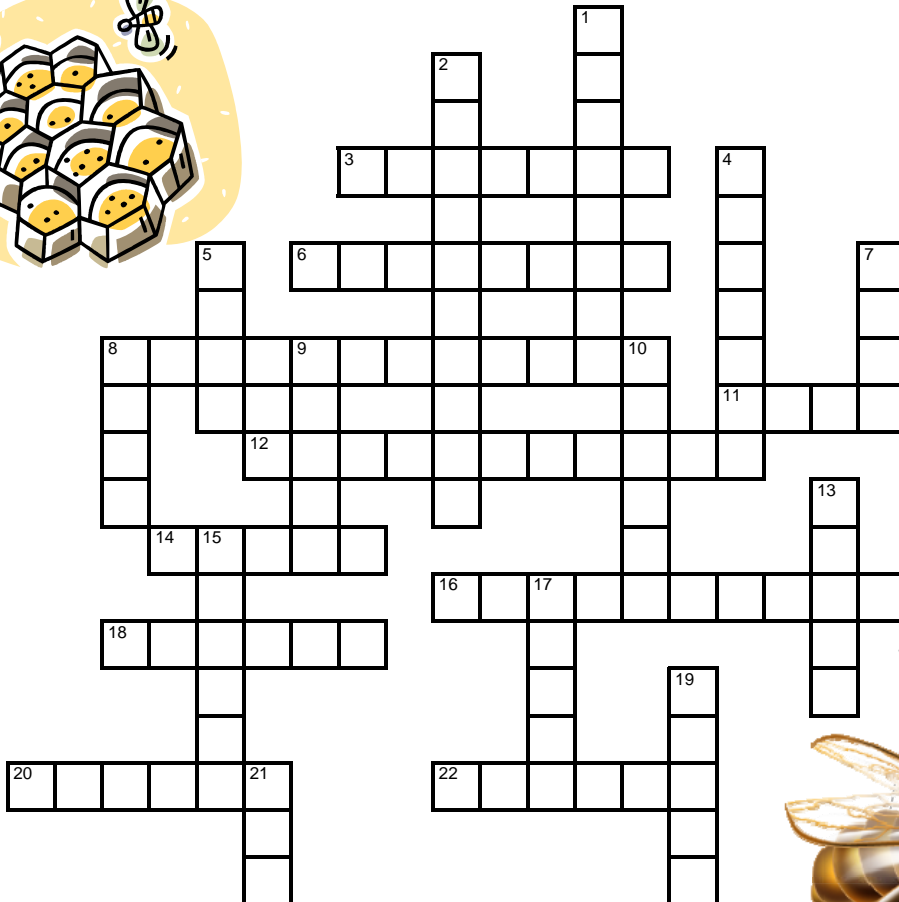
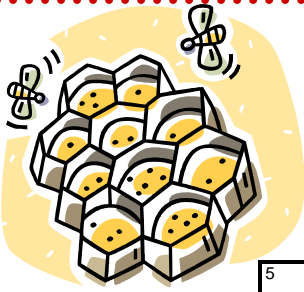
I'm not sure we would have been very comfortable with the degree of physical affection between Jonathan and David. Today, it has been speculated that they were homosexual. When I tried to find a photo of "two men embracing", the only results were in fact of two gay men. Among men especially, touch has become wrong. They dare not share a friendly touch with a woman for fear of being charged with sexual harassment, and they cannot touch other men without being labeled as gay. Yet,



we see not only Jonathan, but Jesus, quick to embrace. Should we dismiss this as a difference in our cultures, or see it as a loss of an important aspect of friendship?



# PUZZLE PAGE



## Clues

### Across

- 3 how he felt about his father's treatment of David (7)
- 6 a brother (8)
- 8 his son (12)
- 11 his father (4)
- 12 fell to he and his armor bearer (11)
- 14 God struck the Philistines with this (5)
- 16 he did this with Saul on David's behalf (10)
- 18 he \_\_\_\_\_ David of Saul's intent (6)
- 20 his body was burned here (6)
- 22 a sister (6)

### Down

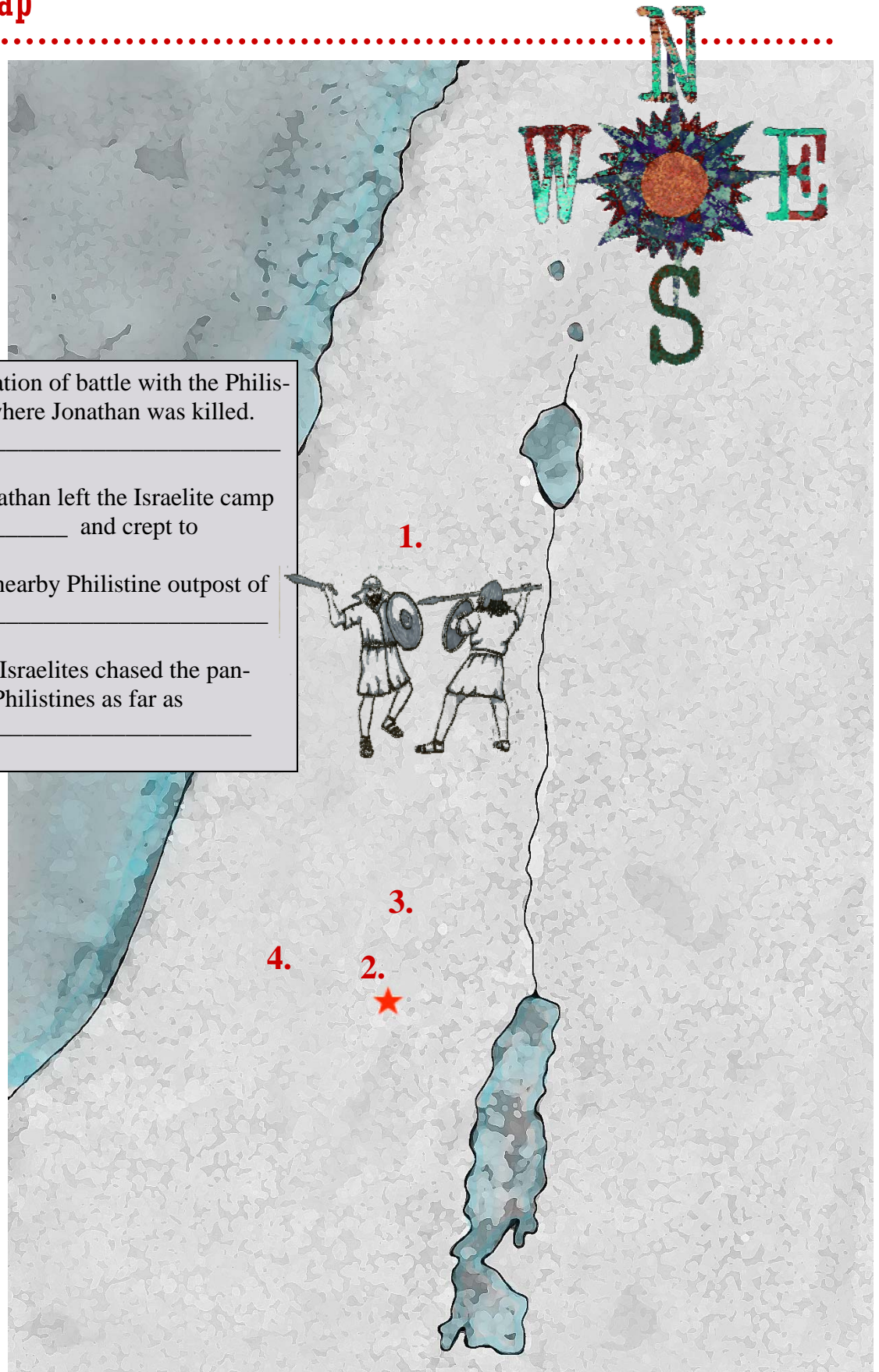
- 1 he made one with David (8)
- 2 sworn between Jonathan and David (10)

- 4 the Lord was this between he and David (7)
- 5 he and David did this together (4)
- 7 was told to do this to David (4)
- 8 his grandson (4)
- 9 a brother (5)
- 10 said "nothing can \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord from saving." (6)
- 13 he and his father were only ones to have a sword and \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 15 these were used to deliver a message to David (6)
- 17 he gave this to David along with his robe and sword (5)
- 19 died in battle on this mount (6)
- 21 he inadvertently violated his father's oath by eating this (5)



# Map

1. location of battle with the Philistines where Jonathan was killed.
2. Jonathan left the Israelite camp at \_\_\_\_\_ and crept to
3. the nearby Philistine outpost of \_\_\_\_\_
4. the Israelites chased the panicked Philistines as far as \_\_\_\_\_



## Puzzle answers:

### MAP ANSWERS:

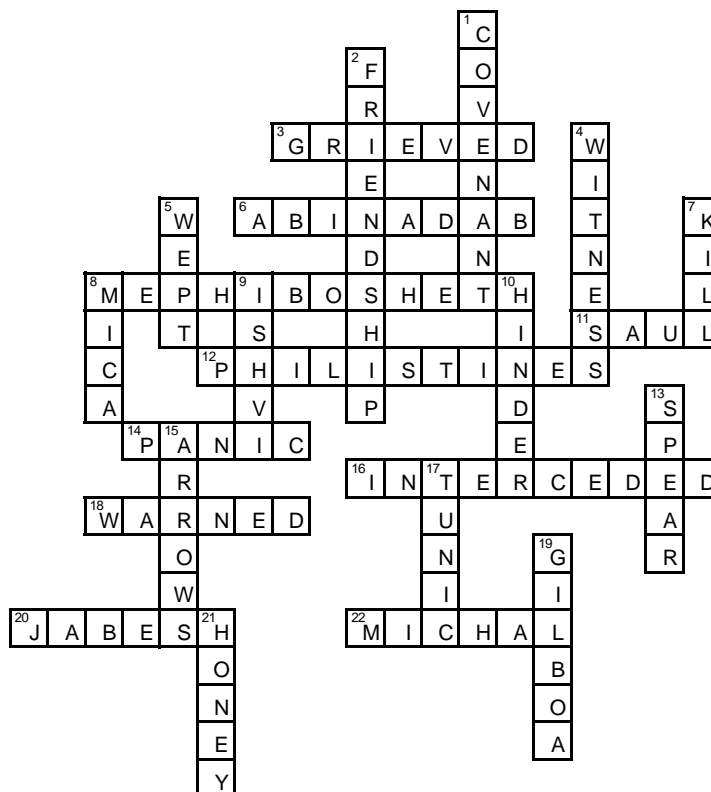
1. location of battle with the Philistines where Jonathan was killed.

### MOUNT GILBOA

2. Jonathan left the Israelite camp at GIBEAH and crept to

3. the nearby Philistine outpost of MICMASH

4. the Israelites chased the panicked Philistines as far as AIJALON



## Sources:

P. 3

Montgomery, Dan. *Beauty in the Stone: How God Sculpts You Into the Image of Christ*. Nashville. Thomas Nelson. 1996. Print.

Sweet, Leonard. 11 Indispensable Relationships You Can't be Without.



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