

For the week of May 15, 2016
Pastor: Paul Taylor

Frenemies of the King

35th week in the series "A Life of Passion: The Story of David."

2 Samuel 20:1–26

Still reeling from the death of his rebellious son, Absalom, David faces another challenge to his reign. This rival is put down rather easily, but the real story has to do with someone closer to David. After trying to punish Joab for killing his son, David's demotion of Joab proves futile. Joab will not stay down. What kind of character has Joab been throughout David's life? How has he helped and hurt David at different times? How do the people in our lives play similar roles? As we consider Joab, we'll consider the people who surround us. What can we learn about our own friends, enemies, and frenemies?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your opinion of the character Joab in the stories throughout David's life? Would you count him as a positive influence or negative influence, on the whole, for David?
2. Is there anyone in your life now or in the past that reminds you of Joab?
3. How do you choose the people in your life? What makes you drawn to certain people and not drawn to others?
4. What about the people in your life that you can't choose: family and coworkers and others? How do you manage those relationships? How do you protect yourself from people who might be hurtful or negative influences on you?