

News Story Summary

Officer Billy Raymond and the Ivory family became unexpected friends after Joyce Ivory was pulled over for not having her lights on. Joyce's daughter, Destiny, began to cry because she was frightened by the event. At that point, Officer Raymond asked the girl if she needed a hug, to which she gladly accepted. Soon other officers joined in with hugs, they took photos of each other, and even sang a song. While this was taking place, Joyce's husband, Pastor Damon Ivory, pulled up and invited Raymond to church. Raymond not only attended the church but spoke to the congregation. While from different races, Officer Raymond and Pastor Ivory have since become friends with Officer Raymond planning on joining Pastor Ivory's church as a member.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "traffic stop unexpected friendship.")

Focus Attention

Invite the group to talk about a quality that they think is most important in a friend. Share the news story about the unexpected friendship, then ask if they recognized any of those qualities in the story. Ask: *What quality do you think helped forged this freindship?*

Explain that today's session focuses on the friendship between David and Jonathan. Encourage group members to take note of any special qualities in their relationship and compare them with the qualities between the officer and the family.

Challenge

Share with the group that David and Jonathan had a friendship that endured trauma and tragedy. There were risks and sacrifices made on both sides. Emphasize a shared faith in God as foundational for David and Jonathan's friendship. Remind the group of the news summary about Officer Raymond and the Ivory family. Ask: *What risk did the officer and the family take in becoming friends?* Challenge group members to be willing to take risks to be a friend to someone and to be ready to make friends unexpectedly.