

5. Read 1 Samuel 14:12-14 again. When the Philistines invite Jonathan and his armor-bearer to come up to their camp, what does Jonathon conclude?

How is Jonathan's faith in God as Israel's deliverer proven to be justified?

6. Read 1 Samuel 14:16-23. Contrast Jonathan's pursuit of the Philistines with Saul's delayed action in verses 16-19. What do their different actions reveal about their desire to follow God's will in pursuing Israel's enemies?

How does Saul discover Jonathan's secret mission?

When Saul enters the battle, what supernatural events do they observe among the enemy? Look back at 1 Samuel 14:20.

How does Jonathan's faith prove to be the winning battle strategy?

7. What circumstances or battles in your life have required you to depend on the Lord to bring victory?

Share some ways you can strengthen your faith so you head into life's battles with the confidence, courage and faith of Jonathan.

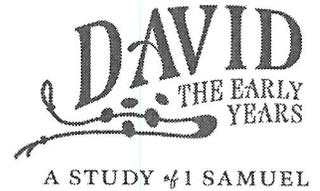
8. After reading 1 Samuel 14:24-30, evaluate Saul's leadership as a king and a commander. Record the reasons for your evaluation.

How does Jonathan unknowingly violate Saul's vow?

After hearing the vow made by Saul, what is Jonathan's assessment of his father's leadership?

1 SAMUEL 14

February 2-3, 2022



1. Share a time when you or someone you know followed God in a difficult circumstance with faith and confidence.

What do you think makes it possible to have a courageous faith?

2. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-7. Who are the main characters in this narrative?

What does Jonathan propose to his armor-bearer?

What makes this proposal risky? What makes this proposal an act of faith?

As Jonathan plans a raid on the enemy, what do you learn about Saul and his companions?

3. Look back at 1 Samuel 2:12, 30-36. Ahijah, who is with Saul, is the great-grandson of Eli, whose family was removed from the priesthood and replaced with Samuel. Compare Saul's companions with Jonathan's lone supporter on his secret mission.

4. Read 1 Samuel 14:8-15. Summarize Jonathan's plan.

What insight do you gain into Jonathan's relationship with the Lord from his words in verse 10?

Who does Jonathan view as the true leader of their mission?

How can you trust God more to be the true leader of your life and future? Read Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 23:1-3; and Proverbs 3:5-6.

9. Read 1 Samuel 14:31-35. The Mosaic Law forbade eating meat without the blood drained from it. How does Saul's poor leadership play a role in the sin of the Israelites?

What action does Saul take to make amends for their sin of violating the law?

10. Read 1 Samuel 14:36-46. What conclusion does Saul reach when the Lord is silent concerning future victories over Israel's enemies?

Saul's vow issued about fasting on the day of the attack was his own rule, not God's law. What does his willingness to execute his son Jonathan reveal about the importance he places on his own rules rather than on God's will?

How do Saul's men make a better choice? What do they understand that Saul does not?

11. Read 1 Samuel 14:47-52. Although Saul wages war against Israel's enemies, what insight does verse 52 give about where he places his trust as he leads Israel into battle?

12. Think back on chapter 14 and write out one sentence that describes Jonathan, and one sentence that describes Saul.

What characteristics of Jonathan would you like to cultivate? What characteristics of Saul would you like to guard against?

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

A Father and A Son: A Tale of Two Hearts

1 Samuel 14

An Obedient Heart

vv. 1,4-15

- Jonathan develops a brave plan to strike the Philistines in obedience to God's will.
- Armed with his faith in God and his armor bearer, Jonathan courageously confronts the enemy.
- Their mission is successful, striking down 20 Philistines and causing the whole army to panic.
- Jonathan's bold plan, accompanied by a divine earthquake, defies military logic.

Follow God in courageous _____, having confidence that He is faithful.

A Blinded Heart

vv. 2,3, 16-26

- Saul sits comfortably under a pomegranate tree with his soldiers, waiting for the enemy.
- Saul discovers Jonathan's absence when his spies report the chaos among the Philistines.
- Saul reveals his spiritual blindness when he instructs the priest to withdraw before the battle.
- Despite Saul's disregard of God, the LORD turns the battle in favor of the Israelites.
- He foolishly prohibits his men from eating during the battle with an oath that is not part of God's Law.

***Avoid spiritual blindness in your life by _____ to God daily,
learning His Word and pursuing His ways.***

A Wise Heart

vv. 27-30

- Jonathan unknowingly disobeys his father's oath against eating during the battle.
- When told of the oath, Jonathan recognizes the foolishness of the command that is not God's law.
- Jonathan understands that his father's foolish oath has kept Israel from an even greater victory.

Wisely _____ the decisions of leaders through the lens of God's Word.

A Prideful Heart

vv. 31-52

- Saul's poor leadership leads his soldiers to sin against the Lord as they eat meat with blood.
- Saul must be reminded by the priest to consult the LORD before pursuing the Philistines further.
- When he receives no answer from the LORD, Saul mistakenly calls violating his oath "sin".
- His pride leads him to pronounce a death sentence on his own son, Jonathan.
- As Saul's kingship continued, he relied heavily on building an army rather than trusting God.

Yield to God's control in your life, guarding your heart from _____ and selfish motives.

David – The Early Years – 1 Samuel 14
February 2-3, 2022

1 SAMUEL 9:16 “Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people because their cry has come to me.”

DEUTERONOMY 20:1 “When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.”

DEUTERONOMY 7:9 “Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

DEUTERONOMY 28:7 “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.”

DEUTERONOMY 20:2-4 “And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’”

JAMES 4:8a Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

PROVERBS 16:5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

PROVERBS 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.