

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

1 Samuel 14:1-23

1 One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side." But he did not tell his father. 2 Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah in the pomegranate cave at Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men, 3 including Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, son of Phinehas, son of Eli, the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone. 4 Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. 5 The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.

6 Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few." 7 And his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul." 8 Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. 9 If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them. 10 But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us."

<CONTINUED IN 1 Sam 14:11:23>

Study Guide 21 Nov 2010 – Advancing for the Kingdom



Summary

At a low point in Israel's history, God gives victory through Jonathan and his armour-bearer while Israel's leaders sit and hide. Jonathan sees God's enemies as people who oppose God while other Israelites see them as a formidable army.

We too are at war. We are here to live for the King of Kings; to spend our lives and risk for the victory that is already assured. Our primary mission is not the comfort of the saved, but the mission of God.

God uses all kinds of people. Anonymous as the armour-bearer, confident as Jonathan, cowardly as Gideon – He uses us all. It is an awareness of God's character and what He is doing leads to great initiative. This gives us the faith and strength to know that God will do something significant, even if it is just two of us.

We cannot win the battle by dreaming and envisioning and planning. We must take action and pay the cost. The cost we pay is complete submission to God – His will and His way, and not our own.

Do not be afraid to start small. Have no fear. Small victories lead to big victories when we obey God.

Key points

God has not called us to a life of self-preservation, but a life of self-denial.

Explanation

>>In what way and to what extent are we (Christians) at war?

>>What kinds of people does God use for His work?

>>What are the garrisons and strongholds that exist in our society? How does God want us to take them on?

Application

>>How can we make ourselves available for God to work through us?

>>Share how we are each affected in these areas: a) previous experience of church leadership, b) previous experience of Spiritual claims, c) money and d) rash promises and principles.

Final thoughts

Don't settle for cowardly living – God has called us to know Him, risk for Him, and win victory in His name.