

## Saul Rescues the City of Jabesh - 1 Samuel 11:1-15

*Topics:* Affirmation, Anger, Authority, Celebration, Challenge, Confidence, Consequences, Deceit, Delegation, Enemies, Grace, Help, Holy Spirit, Humiliation, Humility, Intimidation, Isolation, Leadership, Mercy, Neighbor, Opposition, Perspective, Popularity, Relationships, Representatives, Respect, Responsibility, Revenge, Unity, Victory

### Open It

1. What is an example that demonstrates the saying, “Actions speak louder than words”?
- \* 2. How does it feel to be reduced to your last line of defense?
3. How would you go about motivating someone to do something that involved some risk?

### Explore It

4. Why did the people of Jabesh Gilead propose a treaty with the Ammonites? (11:1)
5. What condition did Nahash the Ammonite insist on before he would accept the Israelites’ surrender? (11:2)
6. What “last ditch effort” did the Israelites undertake before surrendering? (11:3)
7. What was Saul’s reaction to the plight of Jabesh Gilead? (11:6-7)
8. What added strength and authority to Saul’s response? (11:6)
9. How did Saul motivate all Israel to join him for the rescue of Jabesh Gilead? (11:7)
10. What was the size of the army that Saul led into battle? (11:8)
11. What message did Saul send to Jabesh Gilead? (11:9)
12. What ruse was employed to take the Ammonites by surprise? (11:10)
13. What was Saul’s battle plan? (11:11)
14. What was the result of the Israelite attack? (11:11)
15. How did Saul’s authoritative response make the people feel toward his former critics? (11:12)
- \* 16. What consequence did the people propose for Saul’s critics? (11:12)
- \* 17. What was Saul’s reaction to the idea of getting revenge on his detractors? (11:13)
- \* 18. What positive plan did Samuel the prophet initiate instead of vindictiveness within Israel? (11:14)
19. What did the Israelites do at Gilgal following the victory at Jabesh Gilead? (11:15)
20. What was the mood in Israel after Saul’s stunning victory? (11:15)

### Get It

21. To whom should we be able to turn when “our backs are up against a wall”?
22. What are the pros and cons of not just defeating but humiliating an enemy?
23. What was good or bad about Saul’s way of motivating solidarity?
- \* 24. What is the advantage of showing mercy to one’s detractors rather than getting even with them?
- \* 25. In what sense is Saul’s rescue of Jabesh Gilead an example of actions speaking louder than words?
26. Why is it good to mark a communal milestone with public thanksgiving or celebration before returning to the routines of daily life?

### Apply It

- \* 27. The next time you are vindicated or proven right, in what concrete way could you show mercy toward those who were wrong?
28. What “victory” should your church, Bible study, or family commemorate together before moving on?