

Israel without Weapons - 1 Samuel 13:16-14:23

Topics: Achievements, Alone, Answers, Confidence, Conviction, Courage, Enemies, Faith, Follow, God's Will, Heroes, Initiative, Intimidation, Leadership, Loyalty, Miracles, Opportunities, Persistence, Plans, Restoration, Risk, Success, Victory

Open It

- * 1. What act of individual bravery has impressed you lately?
- 2. Why does the bravery of one individual often set the stage for others to dare something difficult?
- 3. What are the characteristics of the initiative-takers you know or know of?

Explore It

- 4. In what ways were the Philistines flexing their muscles before Israel? (13:16-17)
- 5. Why did the Philistines deprive the Israelites of the blacksmith's trade? (13:19)
- 6. How did the Israelites have their farming implements sharpened? (13:20)
- 7. How were the Israelite soldiers armed? (13:22)
- * 8. What plan did Jonathan propose to his armor-bearer? (14:1)
- 9. Who was aware of Jonathan's plan besides his armor-bearer? (14:1, 3)
- 10. Where was Saul staying while the Philistines were on the move? (14:2)
- 11. What was the ancestry of the priest who was with Saul on the outskirts of Gibeah? (14:3)
- 12. What physical barriers would Jonathan have to navigate in order to reach the Philistines? (14:4)
- * 13. How did Jonathan express his faith when he proposed the plan to his armor-bearer? (14:6)
- 14. What was the servant's answer to Jonathan's plan? (14:7)
- 15. What method did Jonathan propose for determining whether God would give them victory? (14:8-10)
- 16. Why did Jonathan go ahead despite the Philistine taunts? (14:10)
- 17. What was the Philistine taunt when they saw Jonathan and his armor-bearer? (14:11-12)
- * 18. What was the initial Philistine loss at the hands of Jonathan and his armor-bearer? (14:14)
- 19. What was the effect of the initial loss on the rest of the Philistine troops? (14:15)
- 20. How did Saul determine who had started the rout of the Philistines? (14:17)
- 21. Why did Saul cut short the consultation of the ark of God? (14:18-19)
- 22. When Saul and his men entered the battle, what was the condition of the Philistine troops? (14:20)
- 23. What was one of the symptoms of confusion among the Philistines? (14:20)
- 24. What groups joined in to help defeat the Philistines? (14:21-22)
- 25. What was God's part in the battle that followed Jonathan's bravery? (14:23)

Get It

- 26. What was particularly pitiful about the Hebrew army as they faced the Philistines?
- * 27. What did Jonathan know about God's nature that enabled him to be bold?
- 28. Why were the Philistines feeling cocky in relation to the Hebrews?
- 29. Why might Jonathan have decided to act alone, without telling his father's troops?
- 30. Why are we more likely to "come out of hiding" when the enemy is already in retreat?
- * 31. From God's perspective, why were Jonathan's actions wise?

Apply It

- * 32. In what circumstance or area of life has God given you the faith to blaze a trail where others see only hopelessness?
- 33. What problem confronting you this week could be put in perspective by reminding yourself, "Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving"?