

God Wins!

1 Samuel 13:16-22; 14:1-23; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 616-626

I can't! I can't! I just can't do it!" Have you ever felt that way? When things are too hard, whom do you ask for help? Jonathan knew who to ask. Here's his story . . .

King Saul's army was camped under a tree near Gibeah. The Philistines were camped nearby in a narrow pass in the mountains. Every day the Philistines sent out soldiers to harm the Israelites and steal from them.

The Philistines had hundreds of chariots and thousands of well-armed soldiers. The Israelite army of 600 men was small and afraid.

None of the Israelite soldiers had swords or spears. Only Saul and Jonathan had them. The Israelite soldiers had plows, hoes, axes, and sickles for weapons. But you don't win wars with farm tools! Because of this, many of the Israelite soldiers were afraid, so they hid in holes and behind rocks. But not Jonathan, the son of

King Saul. He alone thought that God could win the battle.

One day Jonathan whispered to the soldier who carried his heavy shield, "Come with me."

The armor bearer knew at once that Jonathan had a secret plan. He quickly dressed and followed Jonathan out of the camp. Nobody heard them leave.

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"We can get to the Philistine lookout if we take the pass between the mountains," Jonathan explained. "God will get us past the guards and give us victory. Nothing can stop God from saving us."

"You lead the way," the armor bearer said. "I'll be right behind you."

"Let's go," Jonathan said, starting toward the pass. "If, when they see us, they tell us to wait for them to come down, we will wait. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will know that this is the sign that the Lord will give us a victory."

After a slow, hard hike, Jonathan and his armor bearer reached



The Message

God gives me the victory.

Memory Verse

“Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving”

(1 Samuel 14:6).

the pass. Boldly they stepped forward in full view of the Philistine guards.

“Look!” one of the guards cried out. “The Israelites are crawling out of their holes!”

“Come on up so we can teach you a lesson!” another shouted.

“That’s our sign!” Jonathan whispered. “God has given them into our hands.” So the two began climbing up that steep cliff. When they got to the top, Jonathan walked forward. His armor bearer was right behind him. Twenty Philistine guards suddenly attacked in just a small space.

But Jonathan and his armor bearer knew God would help them. The Philistines were quickly defeated.

Other guards watching from the tops of the cliffs panicked and became confused when they saw what happened. They shouted down to tell the soldiers in the Philistine camp. And those soldiers panicked. Even the chariot drivers panicked. In their confusion they began to push and fight one another as they ran in every direction. The ground shook as if a great army with horsemen and chariots were



coming. Jonathan, his armor bearer, and the Philistines knew that God was helping Israel.

When King Saul and his 600 soldiers came upon the scene, Jonathan and his armor bearer stood quietly watching the Philistines run away. The soldiers of Israel knew they had won because God had won the battle for them. “This day the Lord has rescued us,” they said.

Jonathan and his armor bearer agreed. The Lord had won a great victory. Nothing had stopped God from saving them.



Samuel calls God "the God of armies." That means God defends and protects His people.



SUNDAY

READ During family worship, read the lesson story in the Bible (1 Samuel 14:1-23).

DO Then read the memory verse. Write down a big number and the smallest number you know. Can God win using this many people or this few? How do you know? (See 1 Samuel 14:6.) Thank God for His power to win our battles.

DO Draw a big zero on a piece of construction paper. In the center of the zero, write the words of your memory verse. Decorate your memory verse reminder and put it where you will see it every day.

PRAY Thank God for taking good care of you.

TUESDAY

SING Say your memory verse. Try to put it to music, then sing it for family worship.

DO Think of another Bible story that tells about a time God rescued His people. Ask a family member to help you to find and read about it in the Bible.

PRAY Thank God for His protection every day.

SABBATH

DO If possible, hike up a big hill with your family. At one of your rest stops, read the Bible lesson story together. Imagine that you are with Jonathan climbing the tall cliff to the Philistine camp. Thank God that you can walk and climb.

READ Read aloud the memory verse from the Bible (1 Samuel 14:6).

MONDAY

DO Show your "zero" memory verse poster to your family, then say your memory verse without looking.

READ With your family, read 1 Samuel 14:2, 3, 18. What did Saul have with him to help him win? What was the most important thing that Saul did not have? Talk about it together. Ask God to help you trust Him more.

WEDNESDAY

SHARE Say your memory verse during family worship. Tell what it means to you. Ask your family to tell about a time God rescued or gave them special help. Add this to the memory book of God's goodness that you began in lesson 2.

READ Read Psalm 34:7 together. Think of a Bible story about angels helping people. (For example, see Daniel 6:22.) How does this story give you courage?

SING Sing a song about God's care; then thank Him for it.



T H U R S D A Y

DO Tell your family the story of the victory that God gave Jonathan. Include your memory verse.

DO Together, look at pictures of mountains in books, etc. Discover names of a few of the world's most famous mountain ranges. Thank God for the beauty of the mountains.

DRAW Draw a mountain scene. Ask someone to help you read Psalm 121:1, 2. Write the verses on your drawing.

F R I D A Y

For family worship tonight, try some of the following ideas:

DO Say your memory verse. Say it again, replacing "nothing" with a word like "floods," "fire," "storms," "war," etc.; "can" with "cannot"; and place your name after "saving." (For instance: Floods cannot hinder the Lord from saving me.) Invite your family members to do the same. Write the verse like that on a piece of paper and keep it in your Bible.

DO Do a charade of this week's Bible story.

READ Read a favorite Bible promise that gives you courage (for example, Joshua 1:5).

SING Sing as many songs as you can think of about being in the Lord's army.

PRAY Thank God for always watching over your family.

PUZZLE

Directions: Use the code to find out why you can win with God.

A	C	D	E
1	2	3	4
F	G	H	I
5	6	7	8
L	M	N	O
9	10	11	12
R	S	T	V
13	14	15	16

11 12 15 7 8 11 6
2 1 11
7 8 11 3 4 13
15 7 4
9 12 13 3
5 13 12 10
14 1 16 8 11 6

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J