



IN SEARCH OF THE KING

Community Group Questions

1 Samuel 14:1-46
Losing Control

READ

1 Samuel 14:1-46

SOME QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

Are there any historical or geographical questions people have about this chapter that need answering before thinking more deeply about the passage?

Chapter 13 ends by pointing us to two people: Saul and Jonathan. Chapter 14 now provides us with a contrast between them. Carefully work through this chapter and note how Jonathan's faith and Saul's foolishness are contrasted throughout.

There are many places within this chapter that emphasize this contrast. You may find it helpful to consider some of the following:

- Saul's location in verse 2.
- Saul's choice of company in verse 3.
- The overwhelming odds Jonathan faces.
- Saul's response to the priest in v.19 as the battle intensifies.
- Saul's vow.
- Saul's willingness to murder Jonathan.
- Jonathan's response to all this.
- And many more...

FOCUS

This chapter highlights for us the deep faith that Jonathan has in God. However, Jonathan's faith ultimately serves to highlight the increasing foolishness of Saul. In this contrast, we are shown two ways to live and are thus called to put our faith in the promises of God in Christ as revealed in His Word.

OPENING QUESTION

Whether it's from a Christian biography you've read or from someone you personally know, can you give an example of a faith that makes people daring for God?



Focus in on verse 6. What do we specifically learn about the nature of Jonathan's faith from this verse? How does Jonathan exhibit a faith that is active and confident in God, and yet isn't presumptuous or arrogant?

How would you describe the people's reaction to Jonathan? To Saul?

CLOSING REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

Would you describe your own faith as being daring? Can you provide an example of daring faith in your life?

Why must genuine faith never dictate to God?

When you consider the life of Jonathan, it's both remarkable and yet tragic. He has all the qualities to be king, and yet never will be; the kingdom will pass not to him but to David. And yet Jonathan nevertheless seems to trust God deeply and thus is willing to give himself for the glory of God and His kingdom. Would you be willing to play a relatively minor part in God's plans if it meant the furtherance of God's saving purposes?

To walk or live by faith (as the Bible instructs us to do) is to take God at His Word as you believe that He is who He says He is, and to then act in accordance with that truth. Given how Jonathan does this, one of the ways to apply this passage as new covenant Christians is to think through some of the rich promises that we have from God in Christ and how it is that you can truly walk in faith as you trust those promises. Here is a list of some of those promises. Spend sometime looking them up and think through what it might mean for you to live in accordance with that promise. Try to get very specific by identifying specific things you have to do in your life and what it would mean for you to walk by faith in God as you do those things.

- Philippians 4:19
- 2 Corinthians 9:8
- Hebrews 13:5-6
- Romans 8:32
- James 4:7
- 2 Corinthians 12:9