

3Thirds Discipleship Training Tools

Disciple Multiplication Movement (DMM)

The Jonathan Vision 1 Sam 13-14:1 – 23

Pray

Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23

The Situation Was Horrible:

- ***The Philistine were attacking Israel and they were horribly oppressing them.***
Its about 3000 years ago.
- ***King Saul had been rejected by the Lord. He had been anointed King, had won some victories, but he acted badly in front of the Lord, and the prophet Samuel gave him a message from the Lord rejecting him. The Lord would seek out a man after his own heart-who turned out to be King David.***
- ***There was political and spiritual lack of leadership. Jonathan's dad sat under a pomegranate tree and met with the generals, the royal court, and even the religious leaders were there. But they didn't DO anything. They ever had the ephod with which they were able to consult the Lord. But nothing-tough times!***

In chapter 13 we read that...

- **The enemies had 30,000 iron chariots, 6,000 cavalry, and infantry as “the sands of the sea”.**
- **Saul began with 3,000 soldiers but only 600 people remained with him. 2,400 soldiers had deserted him. *80% of his army had deserted him!***
- **In all Israel there they were only 2 swords.** The Philistines in order to subjugate them did not allow them to have weapons. Only Saul and Jonathan had them – the rest of the troops had no weapons – only two swords in the whole army!
- The Israelites were filled with fear and they were hiding in caves.
- Others had fled to the other side of the Jordan River. They left the country.

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So you've got horrible leadership, an unbeatable foe, a horrible attitude in your own group – fear, hiding, betrayal, grumbling. What do you do with that?

Read 1 Sam 14:1 – 6

1. One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

2 Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men,

3 among whom was Ahijah, who was wearing an ephod. He was a son of Ichabod's brother Ahitub son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh. No one was aware that Jonathan had left.

4 On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff; one was called Bozez, and the other Seneh.

5 One cliff stood to the north toward Mikdash, the other to the south toward Geba.

6 Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

(from New International Version)

Jonathan was NOT under any pressure to do this. He was the son of the king. And he was going to continue being it. The king, the leader he was seated with the leaders of the town and they did not do anything. Jonathan already had position and status.

And besides, the risk was large – if the enemies captured him, what would they do to the son of the King? It would be horrible, they would make him a tremendous example – Jonathan took a great risk.

Ask yourself – are you a person of courage?

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What holds you back?

What do you fear?

Where do you get that kind of strength from? How does that work?

2. Jonathan's Have Mountain Moving Faith.

Jonathan believed the promises of God.

Read -1 Sam 14:6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore 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 restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."

This is at the heart of a Jonathan. He's a man or woman who's convinced that for God it's not hard to save whether by many or by few.

This is the faith that our God wants us to have – faith that moves mountains. Faith that gets the victory.

Jonathan saw and understood how horrible the situation was:

- **The lack of political and spiritual leadership.**
- **The lack of troops, weapons, and resources,**
- **The lack of loyalty among the Israelites.**
- **The magnitude and force of the enemy that faces them.**

Nevertheless...

He/she is someone that stands firmly upon the promises of God. He sees the situation clearly, she sees the reality, but he/she believes a divine perspective.

He would risk his life believing that God is going to act.

Notice it says "pagan" or other versions say "uncircumcised".

Circumcision was the sign of the Old Covenant with God.

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That is to say, Jonathan called them "pagan" or "uncircumcised" because the Philistines did not know God, they did not have a covenant with Him – as Israel, the people of God did. The Philistines did not enjoy Gods favor or His protection but Jonathan knew that Israel did.

They had incredible promises like...

Read Joshua 23:10 One of your men puts to flight a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, just as He promised you. NAS

Read Deuteronomy 20:1

WHEN YOU go forth to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, do not be afraid of them, *for the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you.*

Read Deuteronomy 28:7 The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

Now please notice

- His great faith was not based on his own capacity,
- Nor on his great planning and strategy.
- Nor on his great training as a warrior,
- Nor in the number of troops he had with him. Because humanly speaking, he had NOTHING going for him.
- But he believed that "God can save by many or by few".
- He understood that the battle is of the Lord.

Now, in the New Covenant, we don't have the promise that one of us can make a 1,000 people flee. **We have better promises than that!!**

Matt 17:20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you. NAS

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**The Kingdom expands when we believe it will! When we know it will!
Because nothing can hinder our Lord from saving, whether by many or
by few!**

3. Jonathan's inspire faith in others.

1 Sam 14:7 "Fine!" the youth replied. "Do as you think best; I'm with you heart and soul, whatever you decide." **TLB**

It's amazing how faith in one person can be the spark that ignites faith in others.

4. Jonathan's Believe in God's Direction.

1 Sam 14:8-10

8 Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us. 9 If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them. 10 But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands." (NIV)

Let's think this through.

1 Sam 14:11-12

11 So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in." 12 The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson."

So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; *the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel.*" (NIV)

This is a done deal!!! The Lord has already done this! Jonathan is incredible!

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They're 2 people, one sword, they're attacking thousands and thousands of enemies, 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, thousands of infantry men and this guy's saying *"this is a done deal!"*

Those philistines are toast! God's gonna do this! in fact, I'll stake my life on it!!"

You and I need to speak words of victory.

Joel 3:10 says "Let the weak say I am strong."

Declare words of strength, victory. Don't waste your breath on criticisms, whining or complaining. It'll get you nowhere.

Proverbs 18:21 says the tongue has the power of life and death. Be like Jonathan and declare words of faith and victory.

What do you think God needs to save people in other countries?

More seminaries? More money? Better Temples? Better offerings? No! Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving!

Can you see yourself being a divine instrument to bring salvation to many people?

Can you believe that it's not hard for God to save, whether by many or by few?

5. Jonathan Was A Man Of Action.

1 Sam 14:13

Vs. 13 Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.

God loves to see people take incredible steps of faith! And He blesses them for it.

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14 In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.

And then God begins to act!!

15 **Then panic struck the whole army**-those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties-and **the ground shook**. *It was a panic sent by God.*

- All the Philistines panicked and began to attack one another with swords.
- Saul's army joined the battle.
- The Israelites that had joined Philistines returned to the ranks of the Israeli army.
- The Israelites that had hidden in caves and in the hill country came out to fight.
- The people of God won a great victory!

Jonathan took a step of faith and the Lord responded. Jonathan illustrates faith.

- *God's people are not meant to live in states of fear and doubt. Hiding in spiritual caves of sin and doubt and discouragement.*
- *He wants us to come out.*

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What Is Discipleship – 3 Illustrations (with Trainer's Notes)

A duckling just needs to be one step ahead.

1 - Duckling Discipleship



Ask the group: What are all of the young ducklings doing? **Following.**
Discipleship is not knowledge, it is following.

You don't need to know where you are going or what you are going to do.

Ask the group:

How far ahead does a duckling need to be for another duckling to follow him? **Just one step ahead.**

How can this apply to discipleship?

Even new disciples can lead other people to be disciples.

If someone knows enough to follow, he/she knows enough to tell someone else how to.

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Do you have to be a mature duck to lead another duckling?

No, You Just need to know enough to share.

None of us have or will achieve the fullness of measure of the stature of Jesus.

This is a process that we are in and will continue to be in until we go to heaven.

Ask the group: Who is the mother duck?

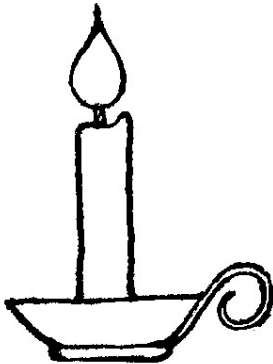
Jesus is the only mother duck - not a pastor, missionary, or anyone!

None of the rest of us are perfect like Jesus was

But all of us can lead other ducklings

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

2 - Candle



Ask the group: How long does the candle need to be lit to give off light?

immediate

Read Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world...”

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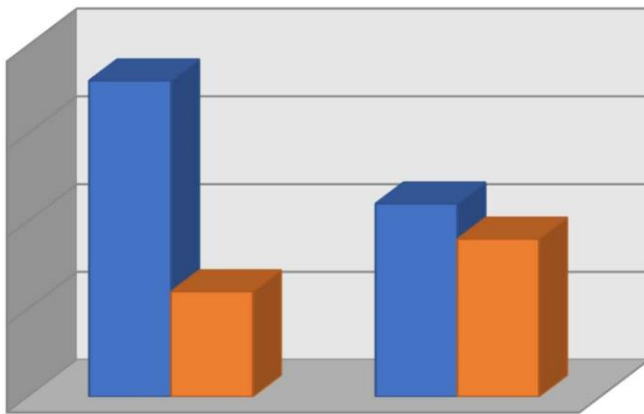
Open Bibles and read Mark 5:18-19, about a man whose demons Jesus cast out.

How does this story relate to the candle illustration?

Jesus wanted the man to immediately tell others about his healing.

All disciples have a story of the “great things the Lord had done” for them and “how he had mercy” on them.

3 - Mature Disciple



40- 30- 20- 10-0

Knowledge of the Bible -Blue

Obedience of the Bible-orange

Trainer: Point out that Person A has been in the church for a long time. He knows the books of the Bible and has been to many good conferences and heard lots of good teaching.

And much of it he puts into practice.

Person B only has about 6 months in the church. He has to look in the

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index to find the verses that are being studied. He doesn't really understand the Bible too well, but he's doing his best to obey everything he understands Jesus to be telling him. Given that...

Who is really mature? Why?

Person B is more mature because of obedience, even without as much knowledge.

Open bibles and read John 14:21-24

What importance does Jesus attribute to obeying His commands?

Let the students respond-you want to hear at least these points:

- He says that it's the way we show we love Him. And loving God is the greatest commandment of all. Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV) Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.
- Vs. 24. If you don't obey Jesus it shows you really don't love Him.
- Vs. 24. Jesus wants us to understand that this teaching comes from the Father and thus it is very important.

What are the results/benefits/blessings of obedience?

Let the students respond - you'll want to make sure to hear these points:

- Vs. 21 The person who obeys is loved by God and by Jesus.
- Vs. 21. God and Jesus show themselves to the person who obeys Him.
- Vs. 23 God and Jesus make their home with that person.

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Read Matthew 28:18-20.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

What do we learn from Matthew 28:18-20 about discipleship?

Let the students respond – you'll want to make sure to hear these points:

- God has given Jesus all authority everywhere.
- God wants all people from all nations to become disciples.
- God wants us to be doing the discipleship.
- God wants everyone to be taught to obey Jesus.
- There are disciples to be made everywhere.
- We make disciples by going, by teaching them to obey Jesus, and by baptizing.
- Jesus is always with us when we are doing this.