

3Thirds Discipleship Training Tools

Disciple Multiplication Movement (DMM)

Jonathan Story

This training is named after an amazing OT man who triggered a movement of people back to God – it's the story of Jonathan.

You may remember it from 1 Sam 13-14.

The Situation Was Horrible:

- **The Philistines were attacking Israel and they were horribly oppressing them.** It's about 3,000 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, the author of this book, 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 a 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 even had the ephod with which they were able to consult the Lord. But nothing – tough times!

In ch 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.**

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- Others had fled to the other side of the Jordan River. They left the country!
- Others had betrayed the nation and gone over to the Philistines – they were traitors.

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?

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 Mikmash, 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)

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".

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- He understood that the battle is of the Lord.

He was commanded by God to do this, and he had promises from God that he'd be successful - and we've got the same thing. And the results were wonderful!

He begins to climb up the mountainside. He and his armor bearer attack. In the space of a half acre they kill 20 men and then God begins to act with power and and the ground begins to shake.

- 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 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.