

Mega Transitions - *1 Samuel 14:1, 4-15 Taking Initiative; the Key to Success!*

Message to Conversation Guide

Key Passages

1 Sam 14:1

14 1 One day Jonathan son of Saul said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father. NIV, 2011

1 Sam 14:4-15

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 Mik-mash, 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."

7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

8 Jonathan said, "Come on, then; we will cross over toward them 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."

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."

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

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. NIV, 2011

Discussion Questions

1. What principle is in the quote below of Robert Kennedy that is similar to Jonathan taking initiative in the battle against the Philistines?

"Some men see things as they are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were, and ask why not." Robert Kennedy

2. According to the verse below - when the Philistine army was amassing itself against Israel what was Saul the King doing? Explore the idea of a reactive person versus a proactive person.

1 Sam 14:22

Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeath under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men, NIV, 2011

3. Was Jonathan 100% that the Lord wanted him to attack the Philistine outpost according to the text below?

1 Samuel 14:6

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." NIV, 2011

4. Analyze and discuss the story of Peter walking on the water. Who took initiative in the story to walk on the water?

Matt 14:25-31

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" NIV

5. Discuss the questions we should ask ourselves before taking a bold move: Is there anyone around me that is willing to risk with me?, Do I see some small indication and confirmation in the beginning that God is with me?
6. How does the parable of the talents underscore that God is not upset with us if we try and fail but is extremely upset with us when we fail to try at all! **Matt 25:14-30**

Concluding Statement

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new." – Albert Einstein