

onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion

We need to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death. Instead, we need to start playing offense with our lives because the world needs more people with more daring plans. In this session, we scale the wall with Jonathan, look the opposition in the eye, and dare to do dangerous things.

BIG IDEA: The will of God is not an insurance plan—it is a daring plan.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever run an obstacle or climbed a cliff? Describe the experience.
2. What are the top five things you would like to accomplish or do in your life before you die that would require some risk?
3. What is your greatest fear? What would you attempt to do if you weren't afraid? If you knew it would succeed and could not fail?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Samuel 13:23-14:14.* Why do you think Jonathan didn't tell his father where he was going?
5. How do you see Jonathan's raid on the Philistine outpost:
 - a. Outstanding courage?
 - b. Ten-to-one long shot?
 - c. Foolhardy Presumption?
 - d. Expectant Faith?
 - e. One up-manship over Saul?



Cliffs at Micmash

6. ***Jonathan didn't let his fears dictate his decision.*** Talk about a time in which you made a decision based upon fear. How did it turn out? Were your fears valid?
7. In verses 11-12, what attitude does the Philistine taunt reveal? What sign of God does that reveal? What's the link between the two?
8. What obstacles did Jonathan and his armor-bearer have to overcome to be victorious? What role did faith play in that?
9. Where is Jonathan's dad during all of this? What pattern did Saul have about fighting battles? (1 Samuel 17:8-11; 32)
10. Why do you think Jonathan felt so confident of God's blessing?
11. What *cliffs* do you think God would have you climb for Him? How does your response to life's obstacles compare with Jonathan's?

THINK ABOUT IT

We need to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death. Fear causes us to live life tentatively because we are afraid of making mistakes or taking risks. As a result we play it safe and miss out on the exciting opportunities to see God work in our lives. Where is God calling you to act boldly for him? What situation is God calling you to stand up and have courage?

MOVING FORWARD

Take some time this week to reflect on your life goals. Create a dream list of things you would like to see happen in your life before you die. Ask God to give you “Big Dreams”. Bring your list to the next small group meeting.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“Perhaps the LORD will help us, for nothing can hinder the LORD. He can win a battle whether he has many warriors or only a few!” 1 Samuel 14:6

