

LESSON PLAN

JONATHAN'S VICTORY

1 Samuel 14

Lesson Memory Verse: Proverbs 28:1- "The wicked flee when no man pursues; but **the righteous are bold as a lion.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the bold part of the verse.)

Lesson Aim: The Lord rewards His bold servants, so we need to be bold in doing the Lord's work.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes.)

KEY (for Attention): When we think of a chicken, we think of a bird that is easily frightened. How many of you have ever been on a farm where they had chickens? What happened when you walked up to some chickens? Did they come running to you? Not unless you had some food for them. Did they want you to pet them or hold them? No! They probably flapped their wings and ran away from you. Chickens usually are not very bold. Usually they will not attack you. However, if you find a hen that is trying to hatch eggs by setting on them, she will peck at your hand and try to scare you away from her nest when you try to take her eggs. But most hens will leave their nests when you come near them. They will let you collect their eggs without fighting you. They are afraid of people.

Lions, on the other hand, are usually very bold. They do not get scared when people come near them. Instead of the lions getting scared, what usually happens when lions and people meet each other? (The people get scared.) Have you ever heard of a sissy lion? Never! Lions are bold!!

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse speaks about the kind of believers that are bold. Let me show you Proverbs 18:1 and see if you can find the word that speaks about the kind of believers that are bold. (Have the verse printed on a large sheet of paper so all the class can read it at the same time and have the same opportunity to find the word "righteous," which tells us what kind of believers are bold.

The "righteous" are those who hate sin in their lives and try to please the Lord. They love the Lord and trust Him to take care of them. That is why they are as bold as a lion.

Be sure to explain to the children the following words that are found in this verse:

"Wicked" – they do not know the Lord as Savior and act sin against the Lord

"Flee" – to run away

"Pursues" – to chase or run after someone

"Righteous" – they obey the Lord's commands by the power Jesus Christ

"Bold" – they are brave and not afraid

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. (In the Introductory Notes you will find some help on how to prepare a lesson.) In today's lesson we will see how the Lord rewarded Jonathan, His servant, because he was bold in doing work for Him. We hope that you, too, will be one of the Lord's bold servants. He wants to be able to reward you just as He rewarded Jonathan. (The following outline is given to help the teacher remember the main parts of the lesson. It is not to be taught like a sermon outline. The lesson for children should be taught as a story and make applications to the lives of the children as you tell the story.)

I. **Courage of Jonathan – 14:1-7**

A. **Jonathan showed his courage – 14:1**

Jonathan showed his courage by desiring to fight the Philistines without the help of his father's army. He was willing to fight the Philistines' garrison with only his armor-bearer at his side.

WE: We show our courage when we actually stand up for the Lord against His enemies. It is not enough to talk about being bold in our Bible class; we have to be bold in our homes, on the playground and in our schools

B. **Jonathan received his courage – 14:6**

Jonathan received his courage by trusting the Lord. He believed that the Lord could "save by many or by few." He knew the Lord did not need a multitude of people to be powerful, but rather a multitude of people needed Him to be powerful. Jonathan trusted in the Lord's power and he received courage from the power of the Lord.

WE: We can be powerful and courageous when we trust in the Lord.

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C. Jonathan shared his courage – 14:7

He shared his courage with his armor-bearer and both of them went to fight the Lord's enemies.

WE: We will share our courage when our friends see how brave we are in fighting against Satan.

II. Confidence of Jonathan – 14:8-12)

A. Jonathan's plans showed his confidence in the Lord – 14:8-10.

He did not have complicated plans; they were very simple plans. He did not trust his ability to outwit the enemy of the Lord; he simply trusted the Lord to give him the power that he needed.

WE: We will show our confidence in the Lord by the plans that we make to fight against His enemies. Simple plans show that we truly trust the Lord to give us victory and we do not trust in our plans.

B. Jonathan's actions showed he had confidence in the Lord – 14:11.

He went to the Philistines' garrison and showed himself to them, just like he had planned. He did not change his plans when it was time to do the Lord's work. It was dangerous, but he had confidence that the Lord would take care of him.

WE: We will show our confidence in the Lord by not changing our actions when we see the danger that we face. We simply believe the Lord will take care of us when we do dangerous work for Him.

C. Jonathan's words showed he had confidence in the Lord – 14:12.

When he heard the decision of the Philistines, he told his armor-bearer that the Lord would give them the victory before they fought the Philistines. This shows how strong his confidence was in the Lord.

WE: We will show our confidence in the Lord by what we say to others. If we say the Lord will give us the victory before the battle has begun, it shows we have confidence in Him.

III. Conquest of Jonathan (14:13-23)

A. Jonathan defeated the garrison (about 20 men) with the help of his armor-bearer (14:13, 14).

B. The Lord sent an earthquake to cause the enemy to tremble (14:15).

C. The Philistines fought each other and defeated themselves (14:16, 20).

D. Saul's army joined Jonathan in the battle against the Philistines (14:20).

E. The Hebrews in the Philistines' army switched sides and fought the Philistines (14:21).

F. The Israelites came out of hiding and also fought in the battle (14:22).

G. The Lord honored Jonathan's confidence and rewarded him with a great victory (14:23).

WE: We can conquer the Lord's enemies by His power. He wants to give us great victories and then reward us for trusting Him. Do you want to be one of the Lord's great warriors in His fight against Satan and his evil workers? If so, be like Jonathan.

BE (for Action): If you want to be bold like Jonathan, you must begin where Jonathan began. Where did Jonathan begin in his boldness for the Lord? He wanted very much to do something for the Lord. Do you want to do something for the Lord?

Where did Jonathan get his boldness? (He got it from trusting the Lord.) Do you believe the Lord can use you and help you do some good work for Him? He can, if you trust Him.

How did Jonathan show his confidence in the Lord? (He showed his confidence in the Lord by his simple plans, by his actions, and by his words.) These same things will show how much you really trust the Lord. In fact, your words alone will tell how much you really trust Him.

If you want to be a bold servant for the Lord, do it like Jonathan did. (Have the children pray aloud, one by one, if they want to be a bold servant for the Lord.)