

# Saul and Jonathan

1 Samuel 14:1-30, 42-46

## Teacher Preparation

- Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*  
<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-3-07-saul-and-jonathan.pdf>
- And /or read the entry from the *Sower's Notes*  
<http://www.swedenborgdigitallibrary.org/sower/jj12/1sam35.htm>

## Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

## Read and Discuss

1. Ask if the kids remember what Saul's serious mistake was (offering up the sacrifice himself and not waiting for Samuel as he was supposed to). Unfortunately, Saul makes another mistake. When he didn't obey the Lord, he was unsuccessful in his fights against the Philistines.
2. Read *1 Samuel 14: 1-30; 42-46*
3. The story starts with the Philistines and the Israelites on two sides of a deep valley. It sounds like the Children of Israel aren't doing much, they're just waiting to see what would happen. What does Saul's son Jonathan do? (sneaks over to the enemies' side to take a look) How is Jonathan different from his father? (he trusts in the Lord, and looks to the Lord to guide him)
4. Look at the pictures of the valley between Bozez and Seneh: you can see that it is steep and wouldn't have been easy to cross.
5. Do you know what Jonathan said to his armour bearer when they got there? (If the Philistines say stay there, we'll come to you, but if the Philistines ask us to come up, that will be the sign that the Lord will help us win.) And what did the Philistines say? (to come up) What happened after Jonathan and his armour bearer came up? (they killed 20 Philistines)
6. Then a miracle happened—what was it? (There was an earthquake, so everyone was confused. Philistines started killing other Philistines, but also the Israelites also killed some enemy soldiers—and they won the battle.)
7. So you can see that Saul made many mistakes and didn't trust in the Lord, and therefore couldn't win the battle. Jonathan on the other hand *did* trust the Lord, and he knew that it didn't matter that there were only two of them—if the Lord wanted them to win, then it wouldn't matter how many there were.
8. Jonathan said, "For nothing restrains the **LORD** from saving by many or by few." (*1 SAM 6*) This means that if the Lord wants to help, it doesn't matter how big the army is—one person might be all that it takes. Do you ever feel like you're too small to make a difference? Sometimes, being the only person to do the right thing can be very powerful.

## Read and Discuss (continued)

9. Then there was the part about the honey. Jonathan was hungry and he saw some honey, so he ate it. But Saul had made a rule—do you remember what it was? (no one was allowed to eat until the end of the battle) If you think about it, this is a terrible rule—how well can people do their job if they haven't had enough nourishment? Also, should Jonathan have been punished if he hadn't heard the rule? But Saul was willing to put him to death as punishment because he hadn't obeyed, but the people argued in Jonathan's defence, saying that he had just won the battle for them, so he shouldn't get into trouble. Fortunately, Saul did listen to them.
10. Give the kids a taste of the honey: have them take a popsicle stick and push it into the honey, to get some honey on their sticks to lick off. (Please don't let them put their licked stick back in the honeycomb!) If you want you could cut it into bits and let the kids chew on the honeycomb.
11. The lesson here, with the honey, is that the Lord doesn't try to make following Him difficult. He wants us to try our best, and when we do well, he sends little rewards—like the honey to Jonathan—to sweeten our path. Some people think that following the Lord means giving up all pleasures and delights, but we know that to love the Lord means obeying His commandments, not living a hard life.

## Activities and Project

- Give the older kids their worksheet and ask them to briefly answer the questions.
- Give the younger kids a worksheet. Ask if anyone know the answers to any of the questions, and then guide them through looking through 1 Samuel 14 to find where it tells the numbers and/or answers.
- Kids can do the word search if there is time.

## Supplies

- Copy of the Word—plus several extra copies for the kids' use.
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of these pictures illustrating the story from:
  - <https://holylandphotos.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/ichbvw01.jpg>
  - <https://dwellingintheword.wordpress.com/2010/09/08/353-1-samuel-14/>
  - <https://cccolumbia.org/connect/pastors-blog/1-samuel-14-6-7>
- Craft sticks
- Honeycomb—if you can find some! If not you could just bring in some honey.
- Worksheets printed for younger and older children.
- Word search – one printed per student
- Crayons and pencils

<b>Philistines</b>	<b>Israelites</b>
<b>Chariots:</b>	<b>King:</b>
<b>Horsemen:</b>	<b>Hero:</b>
<b>Soldiers:</b>	<b>Soldiers:</b>
	<b>Help from the Lord:</b>

**“For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.” *1 SAM 6***  
***Numbers mean nothing to the Lord!***

## Worksheet: 1 Samuel 14

Jonathan said: "For nothing restrains the **LORD** from saving by many or by few."

(1 SAM 6) Briefly explain what this means.

---

---

---

Swedenborg tells us in Heaven and Hell 229 and 230 of the incredible power which angels have from the Lord: "Thus I have seen mountains which were occupied by the evil cast down and overthrown. . . Numbers are of no avail against them, nor arts, cunning, and leagues, for they see all and disperse them in a moment. . . . It is to be known, however, that angels have no power at all from themselves, but that all their power is from the Lord; and that they are only so far powers as they acknowledge this. Whoever of them believes that he has power from himself becomes instantly so weak that he cannot even resist one evil spirit." Briefly explain what this means.

---

---

---

---

What is the biggest difference between Saul and Jonathan?

---

---

---

---

# Jonathan and his Armor Bearer

P D Z S U T T N H E W Z O S O  
J H M A J O L S M B U K O S R  
M O I U S O F P R E E U F E O  
N N C L R L H L S G Q S I N S  
Q E H O I U B R L I S R A E L  
N Y M O L S W E R B E H U H V  
T R A P F F T B R E T K O Q P  
A Z S D I J F I B A S Z J U E  
T W H A O R D Q N H Z C H D Q  
S N F J X G B O Z E Z O X W Y  
Y T R W N F J Y I L S P G A S  
W L S F F K A Y G Z S V B G Y  
J A W Z U G V D I X M U V E O  
X O B W N J X U U X O G B F Q  
D E Q Z M J V L H V D W M B B

ARMOR  
BOZEZ  
GIBEAH  
HEBREWS  
HONEY  
ISRAEL  
JONATHAN  
MICHMASH  
PHILISTINES  
SAUL  
SENEH