

11

Brave Hearts

Worship

We praise God for His great love for us.

POWER TEXT

"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'" (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 14:1-23
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 60, pp. 616-626
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 177-181
- Student lesson on page 122 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God will be with them when they do His will.
- **Feel** that their worship of God can be reflected in their work for Him.
- **Respond** by being bold and active for God.

POWERPOINT

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The armies of Israel and the Philistines are preparing for battle. Jonathan, Saul's son, decides (is prompted by God) that some action is needed. Placing his faith and trust in God, he and his armor-bearer advance on the enemy, winning a great victory for God.

This is a lesson about worship.

Our lives can be a living worship to God when we share God's love with our friends, family, and neighbors. Our acts of kindness are often a reflection of our relationship with Jesus. Therefore we need to allow our lives to praise God.

Teacher Enrichment

"**The Lord will work.** Jonathan did not depend so much on his armor as on the unlimited power of God. He simply used that which he had at hand, and God blessed his humble dependence on Heaven. . . .

"**If they say . . .** Jonathan made the call of the enemy to 'come up' a sign that God would fight for them. To scale the perpendicular walls of the northern crag was a seemingly impossible feat, especially with armor. God is honored when men expect great things of Him and attempt great things for Him. . . .

"**The Lord saved Israel.** Here is a noteworthy example of divine power cooperating with human effort. Jonathan longed for deliverance from the incursions of the Philistines. Events of the day leave no doubt but that his aspiration was born of the Holy Spirit. Jonathan saw the impulsive fit of depression that afflicted his father, but this only inspired him with greater confidence in the divine Ruler, who had called Saul in the first place. With every advance step Jonathan felt a surge of power, born of faith, that strengthened him for the next" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, pp. 515, 516).

How powerful do I feel today? In what ways has God used me to "make things happen"? What evidence do I have that God is working for me?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Get Up and Go* *B. Go Where He Leads*	blindfolds, paper, pencils
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 117. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	 10 sheets heavy paper for signs, Bibles Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Feet First*	plain white, flat shoelaces, fabric pens or permanent markers, index cards with two holes punched
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Get Up and Go

Have exactly half of the students sit in a circle. They are the "doers." The other half take their places behind them. They are the "instruction givers." Say: **The people standing are to come to me and get instructions they are going to give the people seated. Then the people seated should immediately do what they were asked to do, not paying any attention to anyone else.**

Call the instruction givers to you and tell all but three to give the instructions: "Just sit still. Don't do anything." (The three you choose for different instructions should be those who will be giving instructions to students who are not extremely shy.) Give the other three simple but obvious instructions, such as: "walk around and give everyone a handshake"; "walk around and say to each student 'Welcome to Sabbath School' "; "go around the circle and give everyone a high five"; etc. Send the "instruction givers" back to their places. Give a signal for instructions to be given. All the "instruction givers" will whisper into the ears of their "doers." Ideally, only three people will get up and do something. Allow the three to carry out their activity for a few seconds and then call for the second round.

Have the "instruction givers" stand behind different "doers." Call the "instruction givers" to yourself again. Give the same "Just sit" instructions to all but two this time. Give the two other simple but active instructions. Send them all back to their "doers." Have them give their instructions.

If it is appropriate, continue one more round so that eventually only one person gets up and does something with all the rest of the students just sitting there.

Debriefing

Ask the doers: **How was it to get up and do something when everyone else was just sitting there? How did it feel to be the only person doing something?** Say: **Our lesson today is about some young men who got up and did something God prompted them to do, unlike the 600 older men who were just sitting around being scared and depressed. Let's say together our power text, 1 Samuel 14:6:**

"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' " (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

When we are willing to get up and act when God prompts us, He can do great things for and through us. Let's repeat the power point:

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ blindfolds

Go Where He Leads

Blindfold half the students. Give each student a sheet of paper and pencil and ask them to follow your directions. Ask them to draw a tree on one side of the paper, then a cliff on the other side. Then they are to go back and draw a figure (Saul) under the tree. Finally, ask them to place two figures (Jonathan and his armor-bearer) climbing up the face of the cliff.

Have the blindfolded students take off their blindfolds and then all the students compare their drawings.

Debriefing

Ask: **What made the difference in the two sets of drawings?** (Some couldn't see what they were doing.) **How is this like our life?**

Say: **God gives us the eyesight of faith through His Spirit to be able to do what He asks us to do. In our story today two young men go and do something rather bold for God. Let's say our power text, 1 Samuel 14:6:**

"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' " (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

When we can see through the eyesight of faith and follow where His Spirit leads us, God can do great things for and through us. Let's repeat the power point,

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 146)
"Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126)
"Side by Side" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 123)
"I'm Yours, Lord" (*Praise Time*, no. 40)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for *youth* and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Invite students to contribute their offerings to God's work. Say: **God will use our time, talents, and our money to do great things.**

Prayer

Say: **The story this week is about a young man who faced a battle for the Lord. He prayed and allowed the Lord to do mighty things through him. What things would you like God to do through you? Let's kneel and ask Him to use us according to His will to accomplish great things for Him.** Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Today we are studying about Prince Jonathan who was King Saul's son. Jonathan was willing to follow God's prompting and act in faith, even if his father and the other soldiers were sitting around feeling depressed and defeated.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ 10 heavy sheets of paper for signs

Experiencing the Story

Assign the following roles and have students each make a sign stating what their role is.

You will need:

Narrator—who will read 1 Samuel 14:1-23, pausing to give time for the story to be acted out.

Jonathan (main character)—begins in the Israelite camp.

Jonathan's armor-bearer—is with Jonathan.

Ahijah (the priest)—is in the Israelite camp.

Saul (the king)—sitting (or sleeping) under the pomegranate tree in the Israelite camp.

Shiny cliff, or Bozez, which means white, shiny or soft, tender—in the middle of the room facing the other cliff.

Thorny cliff, or Seneh, was covered in thornbushes and was easier to climb—in the middle of the room facing the other cliff.

Philistine lookout—who is patrolling the sleeping Philistine camp.

Philistines—half the remaining students at one end of the room (sleeping to begin with).

Israelites—the rest of the students at the other end of the room (sleeping to begin with).

As the narrator reads the story the characters will act out each part.

Debriefing

Ask: **What specific events led to this great victory? Who contributed the most?** (Jonathan) **How was this possible from someone who was so young?** (God called him and empowered him; he stayed connected with God through prayer; he trusted God and was willing to step out and take action for Him.)

Let's repeat the power point:

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Jonathan felt God's prompting, prayed for guidance, and got up and took action for God, through His power. Let's look back on the stories we have studied this quarter and see where we can find this same type of faith and action taking place.**

Divide the students into groups. Ask each group to think of one of the Bible characters they have studied, look over the Bible story about them, and then decide what event in their lives showed faith in action, similar to Jonathan's. Tell them they can go outside of this quarter's lessons if they would like to.

When each group has decided on their character and event, play a game of 20 questions, letting each group answer either yes or no to the questions of the other students until they have guessed that group's character and event.

Possibilities from this quarter include: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, Hannah, Samuel.

Debriefing

Ask: **How were the characters we just guessed like Jonathan?** (They all had a living faith, a faith in action.) **How were they different? How can you be a young person of faith and action?** (Staying connected to God; listening for His prompting; taking action even if others don't.) **Let's say our power text, 1 Samuel 14:6:**

"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' " (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

Remember our power point:

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.

Scenario

Read the following scenario to your students: **Juana and Marta are junior deaconesses at their church. They attend a Sabbath afternoon meeting of the deaconesses. The topic of the meeting is what their church can do to make an impact on their community. Many possible activities are discussed, but they seem rather unrelated to Juana's and Marta's lives. Almost everything that is discussed, someone at the meeting points out obstacles to putting into practice. Most of the obstacles involve time and money. After the meeting, the girls talk about it. They feel God is calling them to do something, but they feel young and alone.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What would you tell Juana and Marta about the way they are feeling? What should they do about it? Can you suggest any actions they can take for God in faith? Remember:**

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ plain white, flat shoelace for each student
- ☐ fabric pens OR permanent markers
- ☐ index cards with two holes punched

Feet First

Have students share if they talked with their family members or other adults about what it takes to have faith in action. Ask: **What did you learn about how your faith in God needs to be a faith that acts? Did you have a chance to put your faith into action this week by praying for someone or standing up for the right? What were your experiences?**

Have the students decorate the shoelaces with dots, stripes, or wavy lines.

Let them write one of the following texts on their cards, before threading the lace through the holes.

1. 2 Samuel 22:34 "He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights" (NIV).
2. Job 23:11 "My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside" (NIV).
3. Psalm 17:5 "My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled" (NIV).
4. Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (NIV).
5. Ephesians 6:14, 15 "Stand firm then, . . . with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" (NIV).

Debriefing

Ask: **Why did you choose the text you did? How can you keep your feet walking God's way?**

Say: **Plan to tell someone that God is able to do for us what seems impossible when we have a living faith and allow Him to work in our lives.**

Let's repeat once again the power point:

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to help you and your students have minds alert to His leading and guidance. Pray that you will all be brave to go wherever He wants you to go.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Samuel anoints David. Our actions can honor God, who knows our hearts.**

Notes

Student lesson

Brave Hearts

Have you ever been frustrated because "bad guys" seemed to be in charge and "good guys" just stood around and did nothing? Have you ever wondered what God wanted you to do about it? Sometimes God asks us to wait, but sometimes He asks us to act in faith. In this story, two young men felt God called them to action.

"How much longer do we need to sit around this camp and do nothing?" Jonathan, the king's son, was frustrated. His father and 600 men were camped out under a pomegranate tree. They were depressed, bored, and the king certainly didn't seem able to motivate anybody. Some of the soldiers had even sneaked off to hide in nearby bushes and caves. Worst of all, the heathen Philistines, their enemies, were just laughing at these people who claimed to worship a powerful God.

The men in this pitiful little band were armed with slings and bows and arrows. No one but the king and his son had swords or spears. The bothersome, arrogant Philistines even had the weapons under their control.

Jonathan, the king's son, felt he should do something. He said to his faithful 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."

"Do all that you have in mind," his faithful friend replied. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul" (1 Samuel 14:6, 7, NIV).

Very early the next morning, after committing their way to God, the two young men tiptoed past the dozing guards and made their way out of camp and down the gorge separating the two camps. As they came to the base of the thorny cliff on the other side, Jonathan had a strange idea: "We will cross over toward them and let them see us," he said. "If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them. 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."

His armor-bearer agreed. And the two young men started clambering about at the bottom of the gorge in full view of the enemy lookout. A Philistine sentry spotted them almost immediately.

"Look!" the Philistines said. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in." They yelled down to the Hebrew boys, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." Little did they know that was exactly what Jonathan planned to do!

Jonathan and his armor-bearer smiled as they heard the sign they were waiting for. "Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel," Jonathan said (verses 8-12, NIV).

The two young men dropped out of sight again and took a secret and difficult path up the cliff face. They took the Philistines by surprise. There was lots of yelling and sword wielding. Then the earth started to tremble, rock, and shake. God made His presence felt in a mighty way in the battle.

The whole Philistine camp was in a panic, with soldiers waking to the ground rocking and the sounds of battle. They didn't wait to see what was happening. All they wanted to do was run. And run they did—in all directions—away from the camp (see verse 15).

The noise and confusion in the Philistine camp caught the attention of the Hebrew lookouts. They ran to Saul and reported what they were hearing. Saul called out to Ahijah the priest, "Bring the ark of God," for he wanted to inquire what the Lord would have them do.

Saul should have done that days ago. Now he was too impatient to wait for the answer. He said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." Instead of waiting for an answer from God, he assembled the Israelites and went to battle.

Saul and his band were able to chase the already-confused Philistines away from the area. Even some of the Hebrews who had been hiding in the hills and caves came out when they smelled the victory, and joined in the hot pursuit (see verses 18-23).

As the day ended, Jonathan and his armor-bearer praised God for the privilege they had had to fight the Lord's battles. Never could they have dreamed of such an amazing victory. These two young men attempted great things for God and He honored their faithfulness. That day God used two brave Hebrew boys to give His people victory over their enemies. God can do great things through you as well if you trust in Him and seek to honor Him in everything you do!

KEY REFERENCES

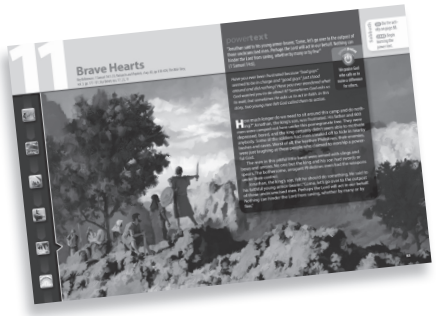
- 1 Samuel 14:1-23
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 60, pp. 616-626
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 177-181
- Our Beliefs, nos. 17, 22, 11

POWER TEXT

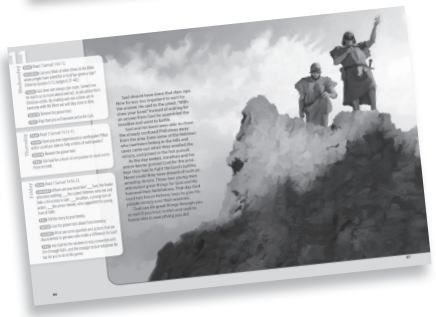
"Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, 'Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few' " (1 Samuel 14:6, NIV).

POWER POINT

We praise God, who calls us to make a difference for others.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Samuel 13:16-23 and this week's story, "Brave Hearts."

WRITE Write the power text out with one word on each line, indenting each word a little from the one above.

DRAW Draw a line down the outside edge of the words—like the side of a hill. Then add a stick figure on its knees on the hill. As you read over the power text a few times, remember that nothing can hinder the Lord from saving you.

PRAY Bow on your knees to pray. At the end of your prayer, stay on your knees and repeat the power text.

Monday

READ Read Ephesians 6:10-20.

NOTE How important is it to wear this spiritual armor?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, list the various pieces of God's armor and illustrate them through a drawing.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for a full suit of God's armor to protect you from the enemy.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 14:1-7.

DRAW On paper or in your Bible study journal, draw a large circle (a shield). Decorate the edges. Write the word "faith" (Ephesians 6:16) in the middle. On the shield, write ways that you can show your faith.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the faith you need to get into action for God.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 14:8-12.

DISCOVER Can you think of other times in the Bible when people have asked for or God has given a sign? (Refer to Genesis 9:13; Judges 6:37-40.)

THINK God does not always give signs. Sometimes He wants us to move ahead and act, or ask advice from Christian adults. By making sure our actions are in harmony with His Word, we will stay close to Him.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that you will become active for God.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Samuel 14:13-15.

THINK Have you ever experienced an earthquake? What action could you take to help victims of earthquakes?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for a heart of compassion to reach out to those in need.

Friday

READ Read 1 Samuel 14:16-23.

CONSIDER Whom are you most like? ___Saul, the leader who does nothing; ___the scared Hebrews, who run and hide until victory is sure; ___Jonathan, a young man of action; ___the armor-bearer, who supported the young man of faith.

TELL Tell the story to your family.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud from memory.

DISCUSS What are some qualities and actions that are characteristic to persons who make a difference for God?

PRAY Ask God for the wisdom to stay connected with Him through faith, and the courage to face whatever He has for you to do in His power.