

Home Group study: week beginning 25th July 2021

Better Together — On Mission

Intro:

When was the last time you did something 'heroic' like Dave's paintballing exploits? Try to pick a silly fun example.

Read: 1 Samuel 14:1-13

Discovery

What are the key character traits that we can learn from this passage about:

- Saul;
- Jonathan;
- the armour bearer;
- the Philistines;
- God.

Understanding

In this story the Philistines possessed the high ground, which made them difficult to attack. Do you agree with Dave's suggestion that the church no longer possesses the moral high ground in our society (but in fact quite the opposite)?

How has this happened and what can Christians do to address it?

The Philistines scoffed at Jonathan's sad attempt to come out of his hole. In what ways can you be discouraged as a Christian today? What should you do to combat this?

One of the most important things that Jonathan did as he embarked on his mission is that he took a mate (aka his armour bearer) with him. What are the key benefits of doing mission together and what are the dangers of 'flying solo'?

Verse 6 is the kingpin verse of the story:

Jonathan said to his young armour-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."

The key aspect of this verse is faith that God is perfectly capable of coming up with the goods. How can we develop this faith in our own lives? In what situations would you like to be able to apply this faith?

Application

Spend time praying for situations and people where you would like to take risks and advance the kingdom. Pray for opportunities to have really significant conversations that break down strongholds and challenge false ideas.