

Leader Guide

Here I AM

Spring 2025 | Week 6

Message Date 5/11/2025

THE GOAL

This week's theme is "remember that God is with you." We're returning to 1 Samuel 14, but this time we focus less on Jonathan's victory and more on the reason behind it: his confidence that God was with him. Jonathan remembered what Saul forgot—that the battle belongs to the Lord, and faith is a tool for offense as well as defense. The goal of this week's study is to help your group identify how remembering God's presence empowers bold obedience, exposes artificial stabilizers, and motivates real action in every life circumstance.

MY STORY

1. If you could take one bold risk knowing God was absolutely with you, what would you try?
2. When life gets stressful, what's your go-to comfort or stabilizer?

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Read 1 Samuel 14:1–23

4. Jonathan remembered that God was with him and took a bold, risky step of faith. What stands out to you about his approach, especially compared to Saul?

Jonathan acted while Saul hesitated. Jonathan moved in faith; Saul stalled in fear. Jonathan remembered God's power; Saul focused on limited resources.

5. Jonathan says, "Perhaps the Lord will help us." What does this say about faith? How do we reconcile faith with uncertainty?

Faith isn't certainty of outcome—it's certainty of God's power and presence. Jonathan shows that bold action isn't about guarantees but about trusting who God is.

6. This story shows Israel surrounded and outnumbered, yet God moves when one man takes a step. Where in your life do you feel outnumbered or surrounded? What would a bold step forward look like?

7. The message said, “Faith isn’t just for defense—it’s also for offense.” What does it look like to go on offense with your faith?

Examples: having a hard conversation, breaking a habit, setting boundaries, making a sacrificial decision, confronting sin, serving boldly.

8. Read 1 Samuel 10:7. Samuel told Saul: “Do what must be done, for God is with you.” What “must be done” in your life right now that you’ve been hesitating to act on?

Read 1 John 4:4 and John 16:33

9. What truth do these verses give us when we feel stuck or inadequate to fight our battles?

We are not alone. The Spirit of God lives in us. Jesus has already won the war—we fight *from* victory, not *for* victory.

10. In the message we were asked: Are you turning to artificial stabilizers instead of God? What might that look like in real life—and what’s a better choice?

Stabilizers might include numbing through social media, substances, overworking, venting, or distractions. Better choices include prayer, Scripture, community, and worship.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions, and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Where do I feel stuck or surrounded right now?
- 2) Am I trusting God’s presence, or just waiting for my circumstances to change?
- 3) What would it look like to go on offense in my faith this week?
- 4) God, show me: Am I relying on any false stabilizers? What do I need to let go of?
- 5) What step do I need to take today to walk the Jesus-path forward?