

SAUL'S FOOLISH OATH

1 Samuel 14:16-52

Key verses: 23-24

Discussion question:

- In what ways do certain decisions and acts hinder us from seeing God's great victory?

Inductive study questions:

1. How did Saul discover that something unusual was happening? (15-16) How did he find out that Jonathan was missing? (17) What did Saul's army find when they arrived at the battle scene? (18-20) Who joined with Saul as the battle progressed? (21-23) Who was the main actor in fighting to save Israel? How does God lead in our fighting our battles?
2. What oath had Saul sworn? (24) Describe what Jonathan did that contradicted the oath? (25-27) What did Jonathan say about the oath when told of it? (28-30) Was Saul's oath wise to make? Explain.
3. What error did the people commit that evening? (31-32) What did the Old Testament say about this? (33-34; Lev 17:14) How was Saul sensitive to God's command?
4. What did Saul want to do that night, and what was done first? (36-37) What conclusion did Saul reach, and how was the guilty party discovered? (38-42) How was Saul being legalistic? What did Saul determine to do, and how did the people prevent it? (43-46) What does this story show regarding Saul's motivations?
5. How effective were Saul's battles? (47-48,52) What can be said about Saul's family, particularly how Jonathan's faith contrasts with Saul's? (49-51)