

ICEBREAKER: Remember a time when you were really fired up about a cause, an event, or something exciting. What was it? How did you show your spirit?

Get in the Game #1

“Christianity is not a spectator sport”

1. I must be willing to get in the game by making a personal stand for God.

To reach the Philistine outpost, Jonathan had to go down between two rocky cliffs that were called Bozez and Seneh... “Let’s go across to the outpost of those pagans,” Jonathan said to his armor bearer. “Perhaps the LORD will help us, for nothing can hinder the LORD. He can win a battle whether he has many warriors or only a few!” 1 Samuel 14:4-6 NLT

One area of my life where taking a stand for God would have a huge impact is: _____

DISCUSSION: How did you answer the above question?

2. I must surround myself with friends who are willing to stand with me and encourage me in my faith.

“Do what you think is best,” the armor bearer replied. “I’m with you completely, whatever you decide.” “All right then,” Jonathan told him. “We will cross over and let them see us. If they say to us, ‘Stay where you are or we’ll kill you,’ then we will stop and not go up to them. But if they say, ‘Come on up and fight,’ then we will go up. That will be the LORD’s sign that he will help us defeat them.” When the Philistines saw them coming, they shouted, “Look! The Hebrews are crawling out of their holes!” Then the men from the outpost shouted to Jonathan, “Come on up here, and we’ll teach you a lesson!” “Come on, climb right behind me,” Jonathan said to his armor bearer, “for the LORD will help us defeat them!” So they climbed up using both hands and feet, and the Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor bearer killed those who came behind them. They killed some twenty men in all, and their bodies were scattered over about half an acre. 1 Samuel 14:7-14 NLT

Who is the person who:

- Can challenge me to pray and read my Bible?
- Encourages me when I am struggling in my faith?
- I can share my sins with when I stumble?
- Knows when I am missing church and will call me on it?

DISCUSSION: How did you answer the above questions?

DISCUSSION: How often do you think about your struggles and challenges as it being a spiritual battle? In what ways do you respond to a spiritual battle?

3. My decision to fight will activate God's power

a. God's power brings about the miraculous

Then panic struck the whole army... it was panic sent by God! 1 Samuel 14:15 NIV

DISCUSSION: Share with the group a time when you made a decision to fight for something that God cared about, and in that fight you saw him work the miraculous. What happened?

[NOTE: If they haven't experienced the miraculous then challenge them to evaluate whether they have really ever taken a personal stand for God. Have them share a time when they think they took a stand and what happened. Maybe God was attempting to tell them something.]

DISCUSSION: How are you opening yourself to God so that He can work through you? In what ways is God working through you?

b. God's power inspires other believers to join the fight as well

Then Saul and all his men rushed out to the battle and found the Philistines killing each other. There was terrible confusion everywhere. Even the Hebrews who had previously gone over to the Philistine army revolted and joined in with Saul, Jonathan, and the rest of the Israelites. Likewise, the men of Israel who were hiding in the hill country of Ephraim joined the chase when they saw the Philistines running away. So the LORD saved Israel that day... 1 Samuel 14:20-23 NLT