

THE STORY. Saul did not know what to do. He sent for Samuel, but Samuel did not come in time to help him. So Saul's little army huddled together waiting for the great army of the Philistines, like a tiny mouse waiting for a big cat to pounce on it.

But brave Prince Jonathan knew God had helped his people in other battles, and he believed that God would help them now. So he asked his armorbearer to go with him over to the camp of the Philistines. Perhaps he was not quite sure just what he should do there, but he had a plan. They slipped away secretly, and no one knew that they had gone.

Jonathan asked God to give him a sign by which he could know that God was surely going to help him. He would call out to the Philistine soldiers as soon as he was near enough to make them hear him. If they called him to come on, then he would know that God was going to help him.

Up behind a great rock, a small company of the Philistines were watching, and when they saw Jonathan and his armorbearer they began shouting to them and making fun of them. "Come up and we will show you a thing," they called, thinking that they would frighten these two Israelites.

"The Lord has delivered the Philistines into our hands," said Jonathan to his comrade, and swiftly he began climbing on his

hands and knees up the great rock. The Philistines were so astonished that they did not try to kill him, they did not even try to run away. Up over the rock scrambled Jonathan and his armorbearer. War is a terrible thing, and Jonathan was gentle and loving, so it must have been very hard for him to kill even these enemies who were waiting to kill him. But he and his armorbearer did it to save their people, and when the next company of the Philistines saw what had happened they trembled and were afraid, and began to go back. More of the army saw them and they grew afraid, and soon the whole great army of the Philistines was trying to get away.

Saul had sent for the Ark of the Covenant, and for a priest of the Lord who was earnestly praying when they heard the great noise in the Philistine camp. What could have happened? Saul sent to ask which of his soldiers were missing, and he found that only two were gone, Jonathan his armorbearer.

When they saw that the Philistines were running away, all the soldiers of Saul went bravely after them. The frightened soldiers who had hidden came out and joined the rest, and they drove that great army back to its own land.

A brave prince had, with God's help, saved his country.

FROM THE PLATFORM

JON. THE COURAGEOUS
CONFIDENT
CONQUERING

Ask the scholars who is the hero of the story told in the lesson (Print JON.). Bring out the qualities which Jonathan showed. With his armorbearer, as his only companion, he faced the whole army of the Philistines in their camp. The scholars will recognize that in doing this, he proved himself to be Jonathan THE COURAGEOUS (Print). Remind the class, however, that Jonathan did not go into the unequal fight in his own strength. Read or have read v. 6 to prove that his confidence was in God. This is why he may be called Jonathan the CONFIDENT. Now question about the outcome of the venture to show that he was Jonathan the CONQUERING. Emphasize the teaching that, in facing our temptations and difficulties, we should manifest the same qualities.