



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 8th October



1 Samuel 14:4-6, Acts 26:22-28 Maybe and Almost

Warm Up

Have you ever done something and been unsure of the outcome when you started?

Have you **almost** done something (bad or good) either deliberately or accidentally?

Background and context

In the first passage there is a “maybe” or “perhaps” situation. Jonathan embarks on a dangerous mission without knowing if God will bring success. He will wait for a sign after he has begun.

In the second passage, Paul is preaching the gospel to King Agrippa, and the king almost decides to become a Christian. He is not totally convinced.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

***READ BOTH PASSAGES IN DIFFERENT VERSIONS.** You might want to read both passages in full) What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. 1 Samuel 14:3 suggests that Jonathan was acting without authority. Why might this have been dangerous? Why do you think he did so?
2. What was the purpose of his actions? To glorify God or to prove himself?
3. Do you think Jonathan was forcing God's hand, to act on his behalf?
4. What might we learn from this story about making decisions?
5. In Acts 26 Paul gives his testimony to Governor Felix and King Agrippa. What was their response?
6. Read v 29. What was Paul's response to them?
7. Read v 30 –32. What is interesting about this conversation? Why might it encourage us today?
8. Why do you think those two educated men rejected the gospel?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

9. Can we ever be sure that God will bring success to all our ventures or ministries?
10. How should we respond when God appears not to bring success to a ministry?
11. Why is it important to reflect carefully on both success and failure and give thanks to God?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

Pray for the brigades this week as they both celebrate national anniversaries. 140 years for the boys and 130 years for the girls. Thank God for the many changed lives experienced through their work.