

THE CORE VALUE: We value \_\_\_\_\_ and expect people to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ big things for God.

1. Bold faith is \_\_\_\_\_

2. Bold faith sees an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_

3. Bold faith \_\_\_\_\_ others

4. Bold faith ignites \_\_\_\_\_

5. Bold faith appears \_\_\_\_\_



### The Take-Off

Today we wrap up the “@ our core” series and we’re doing so by giving you a card that has all the value statements on it because 14 is a lot to remember.

Basically, we’ve taken 14 weeks to look at 14 values which all fit into what we call our “core four” which all basically point to one: Jesus.

Why has this series been so good? Because it’s been 3 and a half months of getting down to what matters most, and because all of us have to deal with the fact that at each of our cores is one thing that can be filled by one person. Eccl. 3:11 says that God has set eternity in our hearts (at our core) and it points to Jesus.

None of these values can be lived without Jesus, and while some churches are known for a lot of things, we’d be happy to be known for one: Jesus. Just let us be the church that points people to Jesus, introduces them to the Redeemer, and walks with them to the cross and forgiveness and I’ll be happy. So, even before we dive into the last core value, you’ve got to ask yourself if Jesus is at your core. By the time we’re done today, you’ll have the chance to answer that question.

Today, we tackle the last core value, and I’m going to let David Letterman introduce it:

[Letterman clip]

Boring doesn’t inspire!

It’s tough to be bored anywhere, but especially in church, in the car on a long drive, in life, or worst of all, in your faith. Being bored tends to lead to falling asleep, and falling asleep can be bad in the wrong place.

ILL: The pastor with narcolepsy who fell asleep in a bad place

So, here’s the deal. The church in America has come to value playing it safe, and as a result we have a faith that could be described as a boring faith. But we don’t value boring faith. Instead...

**We value **bold faith** and expect people to dream and do big things for God.**

It’s one thing to dream, but that doesn’t set us apart.

Dreamers are a dime a dozen, but the doers of dreams - that’s what we want to be!

This morning, I want to walk you through an awesome story of a dreamer and a doer, a man who **made bold moves for God because he had bold faith in God**. I want to introduce you to a man who isn’t even given a name, and I think that’s awesome because it makes it easier to imagine that he could be you or me.

Our story is found in 1 Samuel 14 and when we’re done looking at it, you and I are going to be convinced that our God is a God who is moved by us when we move in bold faith for Him.

#### **1. Bold faith is risky**

Saul is sitting under a tree with 600 men waiting. Jonathan is on the move with one man exploring. The armor-bearer is young and hungry.

Like normal boys, they didn’t tell the dad what they were up to.

Notice the contrast: Saul hiding under a tree while Jonathan was out in the open.

Verses 4-5 describe horrible fighting conditions because the enemy had the high ground

Verse 11 is even more plain: they showed themselves to the enemy

When you and I pray for bold faith, we can expect to be put in situations that are risky, dangerous, and uncomfortable because those are the situations that require faith.

Sitting under a shady tree doesn’t.

#### **2. Bold faith sees an opportunity for greatness**

The question is obvious: why take the risk?

Because bold faith sees an opportunity for greatness!

The last part of verse 12 says “the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel!”

Jonathan didn't see it as an opportunity for his greatness, but for a much greater cause: God's glory and Israel's victory.

Bold faith allows you to see opportunities where others see obstacles.

Ephesians 2:10 says that God has created good works for you, and dreaming of greatness is part of how you find those works.

No one dreams of flipping burgers. We dream of hitting the winning shot and getting the girl, being picked first in the draft, and landing the professional basketball contract.

God wants you to have bold faith because He wants to do something great through you for His glory.

### 3. Bold faith attracts others

Something about Jonathan's bold faith caused a deep commitment in his armor-bearer

Commitment is something we all want from others, isn't it?

Women break up with men if the men won't commit

We commit to a job when we feel like the employer commits to us

Jonathan said to his armor-bearer:

- We're outnumbered
- This could cost you your life
- You could end up alone

The armor-bearer's answer to all this is in verse 7: "I'm with you heart and soul."

Literally means "with my whole being, my innards, everything I've got"

When you move in bold faith, you attract deep commitment in others

You can see this even more in verse 13 when these two bold believers raced each other up the hill

### 4. Bold faith ignites passion

Speaking of that race, look how they moved: "using his hands and feet" - on all fours!

They couldn't get to there fast enough!

They were moving with passion because bold faith ignites passion in each other

Ill: My first kiss - not passionate; a search in the room for a possible million dollars - very passionate!

And all this begs the question: what on earth sparked such a deep commitment and a competitive race up a cliff to an outnumbered fight?

The answer to that question is found in verse 6, and it reveals the last observation about bold faith.

### 5. Bold faith appears reckless

Before I give you the answer, let me frame it this way: we live in a world of guarantees.

If you want to sell something, I can guarantee that you'll sell more of it if you offer a money-back guarantee!

They make the consumer feel more secure in the purchase.

In fact, hang out with Jay P or any other salesperson and you'll hear the phrase, "The confused mind says no" a lot.

We want answers, guarantees, disclaimers.

But the un-named armor-bearer just needed a "maybe."

It's clear from what we've read that Jonathan had a bold plan and a bold dream of victory and it's equally clear that it all hinged on one word: perhaps (v. 6)

If there's one group of people who have learned to hold on to "maybe" it's moms.

Through the worst of circumstances, moms believe that something will turn their kids around

My mom believed that about me. Joe Lucas' mom believed it about him. Many moms here are believing it for your children. Some of you are here with a mom who is believing in "maybe" right now.

It is a word that is the opposite of a guarantee and could be translated "what if?"

We answer the what if questions with all the bad possibilities: what if we fail, we lose, we go broke, we....?

Jonathan and his armor-bearer answered it with the God possibility: what if God does something amazing for us and His glory?

Bold faith is "Abraham" faith (Rom. 4:18-21). He faced the facts and still said "but what if?"

Bold faith doesn't need a guarantee; just an opportunity.

It doesn't need an open door; just a cracked one.

It is ready to jump on perhaps, because people with bold faith in God are always ready to make bold moves for God.

They recognize that God calls us to seemingly reckless things: Peter out of a boat, Jonathan to a fight, David to a giant, His Son to a cross.

Some of us are planners, others fly by the seat of our pants. "Maybe" sounds fun to one group but not the other.

Planning isn't a bad thing - and not working out details can be a bit irresponsible - but only one detail really matters: Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving (v. 6)

That one detail turns the risky into the revolutionary, and that's what propelled 2 young men on the hands and feet up a cliffside to a fight.

Perhaps. Just perhaps.

#### The Landing

- If you only remember one thing, remember this: **bold moves for God require bold faith in God**
- Not bold faith in you, your marketing plan, the number of people who attend The Gathering
- Just God and His ability to save without being hindered
- The question becomes, "Will you believe in Jesus?"
- Ill: the man over the cliff holding the branch
- At the end of the day, as a follower of Jesus and as a leader of this body, I want to let go
- In bold faith, I want to let go and make bold moves for God and just see what happens