

**Sermon Discussion Questions from January 31, 2010**  
***“In the Darkest Hour, Heroes Are Born” Dr. Rod MacIlvaine***  
1 Samuel 31:1-13

1. Based on what you remember from the current sermon series, how would you define the term “refiner’s fire?” Why do you think God allows his followers to experience the refiner’s fire?
  
2. What dire circumstances did Saul and his sons face in verse 1? As the battle approached, what were some of the choices Jonathan could have made and what possible ways might he have justified those choices?
  
3. How does the world define the word “hero?” Name examples modern day heroes? How do the heroes of the world differ from the heroes of the Bible? Based on the outcome in verse 2, do you think Jonathan was a hero? Why?
  
4. What lessons can be learned based on Jonathan’s character and life? 1 Samuel 14:6; 18:1- 3; 19:1-4; 20; Luke 9:24; Philippians 1:21?  
Read 2 Samuel 1:19-27, how was Jonathan remembered and honored by David?
  
5. Read 1 Samuel 31:3-10, how did Saul respond to his impending death? What was Saul’s preoccupation to the very end? What lessons can be learned from Saul’s death? 1 Chronicles 10:13-14; Hebrews 3:12; 6:4-6
  
6. What did the people of Jabesh-Gilead do to honor Saul after he died? Why?  
1 Samuel 31:11-13, 1 Samuel 11:1-11
  
7. What is the precise nature of the heroism exhibited by the people of Jabesh-Gilead? Whose greatness was declared by their sacrificial actions?
  
8. Name some heroes in your own life. What makes these people heroes? How have they influenced your life and the lives of others?