

Where might God be calling you into deeper obedience? Baptism, Bible study, counseling, seeking help for addiction, serving, living generously, donating to the pantry

3. The Resolution

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ... 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." ... 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. - 1 Samuel 17:45, 47, 49-50 NIV

As David faced Goliath he boldly professed what he knew to be true. David stood in service to the Lord Almighty, and God doesn't need our weapons to win His battles. But He uses our obedience for His Glory. How many stones had David collected? How many did he need for victory? It was never an evenly matched fight. Goliath faced a far greater enemy because he wasn't battling David, he was battling God. What enemy do you need God to bring victory over in your life? Do you know what you need to do to walk in obedience into that battle? After David took down Goliath the Israelites stopped cowering and ran into battle, defeating the Philistines. Who can you share your victories and your battles with so that you can serve God together?

WRAP-UP

The story of David and Goliath is about much more than an underdog defeating a giant. It reminds us that real courage comes from trusting God and walking in obedience to Him. David didn't rely on his own strength or skills—he believed that the battle belonged to God. Even while he was still a shepherd and waiting for God's promises to unfold, David faithfully served where he was. His example challenges us to trust God in our own battles, use the gifts He's already given us, and take faithful steps of obedience, knowing that God is the one who brings the victory.

MEMORY VERSE

47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." - 1 Samuel 17:47 NIV

Challenge –

Share a story of God's faithfulness with someone this week. Allow God's deliverance of someone else fill you with faith and hope.

The Oldies- Week 10 David and Goliath

INTRODUCTION

Chances are you were introduced to the story of David and Goliath as a child. We often think of it as the ultimate brave underdog being victorious over the big bully. But let's take a closer look at the story to see what God is revealing in this confrontation. We will find that is more than a story of courage; it is a story of faith and obedience.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever faced an opponent in a contest (physical, academic, skill) you felt you had no chance to win? If so, describe what happened.

Key Passage

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." 48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. - 1 Samuel 17:45-50 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1 The Context and the Cast of Characters

The Philistines squared off against the Israelites, ready for war. This wasn't the first time they had fought. In a past battle the Philistines had even captured the Ark of the Covenant. Shortly after that, Saul had been anointed king to deliver Israel from the Philistines, which he had done.

11 "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." ... 22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you [Saul] have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." ... 28 Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors-- to one better than you. - 1 Samuel 15:11a, 22-23, 28 NIV

The Israeli army was led by King Saul. At this point the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, who was a "lame duck" ruler having been told the kingdom was being taken from him and given to someone better.

Why was Saul rejected by God? What had he tried to substitute to gain favor? What would be the equivalent in our current culture?

It is easy to downplay our disobedience or try to offset it in some other way. But God is clear, if He is our Lord, then He is in charge and we will obey Him.

12 So he sent for him [David] and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah. ... 21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armor-bearers. - 1 Samuel 16:12-13, 21 NIV

Although, as the youngest son, David was an unlikely choice, God looks on the heart. So, David was anointed in the presence of his brothers and the Spirit of the Lord rested on him. But he still tended the sheep and picked up a part-time job as a musician and armor-bearer in the King's service too!

What do you think it was like for David, knowing God chose him as king, but still tending sheep and carrying the armor for another king? Even if David remained among the sheep and served in a menial position, what significant thing happened to him once he was anointed?

David was complicated. He knew God's promise, but it was not yet reality. When he arrived at the battle ground, he was disrespected. Like David, we are children of God and heirs of the kingdom, but we still dwell in this fallen world. David heard the taunts of Goliath as well as the reward offered by the king to anyone who could defeat him. He showed an interest in those rewards, but he also was offended by the mocking of God. Like all of us, David had his flaws, yet God chose to use him. He was called "a man after God's own heart." – that does not mean he had a "perfect heart", but he pursued what is on God's heart.

2. Whose Battle Is It?

36 "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" - 1 Samuel 17:36-37 NKJV

25 For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. 26 And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. - 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 NLT

Word came to Saul that David declared he would fight Goliath. But when Saul saw David, he judged by outward appearances that David was unqualified. Upon what did David base his qualification to fight Goliath and his expectation of victory? How does David's statement above demonstrate that he viewed this as God's battle? Neither this mocking giant nor the Philistine army were God's ultimate enemy. What does 1 Cor 15 tell us is the last enemy to be destroyed? In what way has Christ been victorious and how will that victory be finalized?

5 He [Goliath] had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. ... 38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

- 1 Samuel 17:4-7, 38-39 NIV

Both Goliath and Saul put their faith in their size, equipment and strength. They saw themselves as the combatants. Saul tried to put that same expectation on David, but David trusted in a faithful God who had delivered him from deadly enemies before with only a sling and stone. What has God delivered you from in the past that gives you faith for the future? Do you think we need to abandon all other resources in order to trust in God? David also knew God's promise that he would be king. What promises from God give you strength to face difficult seasons?

40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. - 1 Samuel 17:40 NIV

Trusting God didn't mean doing nothing. David prepared himself to do battle just as he had as a shepherd. He was obedient in the way he knew God had called him. We all want to slay our giants, but we are unwilling, too afraid, or too busy to face the bear and the lion.