

SONRISE

SMALL GROUPS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

OCTOBER 13, 2019

DAVID: FEARFUL FAITH (1 SAMUEL 17)

MAIN POINT

God used David's faith to claim a great victory for Israel. David foreshadowed Jesus who would come as the humble king to gain God's ultimate victory for His people.

INTRODUCTION

- What was a circumstance in your life that caused you great fear?
- When you are confronted with a seemingly unwinnable situation, is your natural reaction one of fight, or flight?

Standing over nine feet tall, Goliath's size and armor made him appear to be an invincible foe. Perhaps you have faced similar "Goliaths" in your life. Maybe your Goliath was a financial debt that appeared to be so high you would never be able to repay it. Maybe cancer was your Goliath, intimidating you, causing you to fear. Or maybe the loss of a job or a home because of economic downturns. If you can relate to any of these circumstances, then you may have a small glimpse of what the Israelites felt when they were challenged to fight Goliath in a "winner takes all" fight.

DISCUSSION

> Read 1 Samuel 17:1-51.

- Besides his height, what made Goliath an intimidating foe? What did Goliath's armor reveal about him?
- What question did David ask aloud in verse 26? How was his response to Goliath's message different than the response of the soldiers?
- Why is it important that David described the army of Saul as belonging to "the living God"? Where did this show he placed His faith?
- In spite of the discouragement from his own people, what evidence did David rely on to trust God?
- How does remembering God's actions on our behalf in the past provide confidence in the present?
- How did David honor God and call attention to Him in his speech to Goliath?
- How did David act in faith in verses 40-51? For you to act in faith in a circumstance you are facing today, what would you need to do?
- How is Jesus the true and greater hero of Israel who has defeated God's people's greatest enemy?
- How does this change your perspective when facing seemingly impossible situations in your life?

APPLICATION

- How might you seek to place your faith in God and His victory, secured for you in Jesus, when facing difficult in life, rather than relying on your own strength? Why is it hard to do this?
- Who might you seek to share the gospel with using the story of David and Goliath?

COMMENTARY**1 Samuel 17**

The Philistines were at war with Saul. Their greatest champion, Goliath (who stood over nine feet tall) taunted the Israelites for their cowardice. In ancient times it was common for champions of opposing armies to face off in a personal duel. No Hebrew had the courage to face Goliath.

Jesse's older sons were in the battle lines, and Jesse sent David to the field with provisions. David heard the defiant words of Goliath and was zealous to defend the name of the Lord by challenging the giant to combat. With the weapons of a lowly shepherd but armed with the power of God, he killed Goliath, and the Philistines scattered in defeat.

The stunning victory caused Saul to inquire of Abner, the captain of Israel's army, about the lineage of David. Since David was already in the service of Saul, the inquiry of Saul and his address to David seem out of place. Some scholars have suggested that the two accounts of David's introduction to Saul come from separate sources. This conclusion is reasonable, but this does not mean that the stories are two garbled accounts of the same event. Since Saul would reward David with his daughter in marriage, David's lineage became particularly important. Saul, therefore, investigated David's background anew.