



It seems that everyone loves to cheer for the underdog. David and Goliath is probably the most used metaphor, especially in the sports world, to describe an underdog doing battle against a bigger and stronger opponent.

This weekend, Pastor Tim is going to teach us that the real story isn't about the battle between these two unlikely foes. It isn't about guts, grit and determination. It's about motivation. The real story is in the question, **why** did this shepherd boy fearlessly accept the challenge of this 9 foot-tall warrior in the first place?

Grace and peace!

Deering Dyer
Small Groups Pastor

Group Study Questions

4. What is the biggest giant in your life? Have you faced this giant? Why or why not?

5. Have someone in your group read 1 Samuel 17:1-11. Discuss the scene. What do Goliath's size, armor and weaponry reveal about him?

3. Now read v. 12-18. What does the text reveal about David?

4. Read verses 19-27. What is David's reaction to Goliath's challenge? Discuss.

- a. He was amazed by his size.
- b. He was offended by his blasphemy and wanted to vindicate God's name.
- c. David just wanted to see a good fight.

5. Read v. 28-30. Discuss the exchange between David and his brother. Why do you think David was not deterred in finding out why no one will challenge Goliath?

6. Eventually, King Saul sent for David. David said, "Let no man's heart fail because of him (Goliath). Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Take note of the first part of David's words in v. 32. Now read Deuteronomy 20:1-4. Why wasn't David afraid of Goliath? What does it say about David that he quoted scripture?

Who was David?¹

The young shepherd boy who became Israel's greatest king is known for many outstanding achievements. As soldier, he expanded the territory held by Israel some 10 times over (cf. map, 2 Samuel) and reorganized the army. As king, David created an effective central government. As spiritual leader, he established Jerusalem as the national religious center, and restructured the worship of his people. He also contributed many of the psalms and hymns used in public worship. His vigor and piety, and his unmatched impact on the history of the Jewish people, mark David as Israel's ideal king. The era of David and Solomon was unquestionably Israel's golden age.

But David is honored more for what he represents than what he accomplished. David is the prophetic prototype of a Ruler to descend from him, destined to establish God's kingdom worldwide. Through this promised Ruler, whom the Bible identifies as Jesus Christ, God's people will ultimately be led to eternal victory and peace.

Yet David's greatest appeal lies not in his theological significance but in his human qualities. The Bible contains more stories about David than any other person except for Jesus Christ. David's appeal is understandable. David is the poor boy who makes good; the humble person who overcomes tremendous odds through trust in God. David is the saint who stumbles and falls, yet through confession is cleansed to walk even closer to the Lord. David is the man who suffers rejection, and yet finds comfort and hope in the Lord. Through it all David shares his deepest feelings freely in his psalms, teaching us that we too can be honest with God, teaching us that God is a sure foundation for our hopes, our confidence in this life and the next.

Favorite stories about David include his victory over Goliath (1 Sam. 17), his friendship with the noble Jonathan (chap. 20), his refusal to take Saul's life (chaps. 24; 26), his willingness to listen to the beautiful and assertive Abigail (chap. 25), his transportation of the ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6), and his repentance when confronted concerning his sin with Bathsheba (chaps. 11-12). In coming to know David well, we learn about our own weakness and how to love God better than before.

¹Richards, Lawrence O.: *The Bible Readers Companion*. electronic ed. Wheaton : Victor Books, 1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996, S. 191

7. Look back to your answer to question #1. Were you afraid of that “giant” in your life? Why or why not?

8. What was Saul’s reaction to David volunteering to fight the giant? Read v. 33 and discuss.

9. David is persistent and gives his credentials to Saul. Read v. 34-37. What was the source of David’s confidence?

10. Why do you think David refused to use Saul’s armor?
 - a. He didn’t want to cover his good looks.
 - b. He had total confidence in himself.
 - c. He’d rather trust God than armor he’d never tested or used before.

11. Instead of armor, David takes the weapon of shepherd boy – a sling and a rock. Why is this significant? Discuss. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-28.

12. Read 1 Samuel 17:41-47 and discuss David’s faith in God.

13. Compare 1 Samuel 17:47 to 2 Corinthians 10:3-4. Discuss.

14. Read v. 48-58. Discuss how the Philistines reacted to the death of their champion? What about the reaction of the men of Israel?

15. Why did David do what no one else was willing to do?

16. Pastor Tim showed us that David believed the **promise** that God made to fight this battle for Him (Deut. 20:1-4). Do you believe the same promise?

17. David also knew from **personal history** that God would protect him (from bears and lions) and he didn't have to live in fear. Does this help you not to live in fear?

18. David lived by a **principle** to honor and defend the name of God. What are some ways you can live by that principle as well?

19. Pastor Tim showed us that "David didn't fight for victory, he fought **from** victory." What does that mean? Read John 16:33. How can we do the same?