

## Courage and Conviction

Dec 10–11, 2022

*It is hard to talk about Jesus' family line without mentioning David. Here was a guy that did not necessarily meet people's expectations at first glance. While the people were more concerned with outward appearances, God was interested in the heart of the man.*

*There is a lot about David we can cover, but we will be specifically looking at the classic story of when David took on Goliath. This is not a story about slaying the giants in your life. Rather, it is a story of a life lived with a pattern of faithfulness and trusting God's strength, rather than your own.*

*As we discuss the passage this week, the goal is to recognize how consistent faith in God allows us to have courage when challenges come our way. But more than that, we have an audience of 8 to 15 people watching our patterns of faithfulness, and how it shapes the way we live. Kicking off your discussion time, you have two options. You can read chapter 17 in its entirety (this is preferred), or you can summarize the story before beginning the discussion. If you choose this option, it is recommended that you prepare your summarization of the story and take notes on it, so you can accurately recount the story.*



### 1. What are things you trust God with daily?

*Icebreaker question. We place our faith in a lot of things throughout the day. We trust that our car's brakes will work when we push the brake pedal at 70 MPH. We trust the structural integrity of a chair every time we sit down, without contemplating whether it will support our weight or not. Have fun with this question and let it get the discussion going.*



### 2. Read 1 Samuel 17:8-11. What was truly appalling about what Goliath says?

*The truly appalling thing Goliath says here was not the threats of violence and death, nor was it his arrogance. What was appalling was his defiance of the living God (verse 26). Goliath was taunting the sovereign Lord of the universe. He was challenging God's people to stand up to him and demonstrate that their God was more powerful than he was.*

*In verse 11, we see that Saul and the rest of his army were terrified. It was Saul's job to accept the challenge on behalf of Israel as king. Rather than trusting God in this situation, he trusted in himself and knew he would not be able to defeat Goliath.*



**3. Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37. Would you say that David blindly put his faith in God? Why, or why not?**

*Absolutely not! David had seen God provide on numerous accounts. Such as when He protected David's sheep from bears and lions. In view of this, David knew God would continue to provide in the fight against the Philistine. God never tells us that our faith must be blind. In fact, the contrary is true. God reveals himself to us through his Word and wants us to know him personally.*

*In a boxing match between a heavyweight and a featherweight, all bets would be placed on the heavyweight. A fighter with a greater reach, more power, and 100+ pounds over his opponent would be the easy wager. Why? Because we make judgements based on what we can observe. David is the clear featherweight and not favored to win by any person's standards.*

*But this is a story about God's power, not our own. Even the Apostle Paul recognized this when he said in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*



**4. Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47. Who is the hero in this story?**

*The hero in this story is God. We tend to want to make David the hero, but even he does not see himself as such. We see him clearly give God the credit for the coming victory. This is an important distinction for us to make, because when David is the hero of this story, we can make ourselves the hero in our own stories when we overcome the difficulties in our lives.*



**5. Why is it problematic to insert ourselves in the role of the hero in the stories we read in the Bible?**

*Inserting ourselves in heroic roles in the Bible has many dangers. One is that it misleads us from understanding that the true hero throughout Scripture is Christ. The ultimate battle over the power of death was won by Jesus on the cross. Inserting ourselves as the hero leads us to view the Bible as a "self-help book", where God wants you to be the best version of you. In reality, the Bible documents a divine rescue mission where an all-powerful, all-knowing God executes a plan of salvation for those that place their faith and trust in Him.*



*Another danger of inserting ourselves in the role of the hero is that we also insert our own context into Scripture rather than understanding the context in which it was originally written. It is important to understand the biblical context if we want to grasp God's Word. Interpreting Scripture with proper context in mind greatly helps understand the Bible's meaning and how it applies to our lives today.*



**6. One of the reasons people love this story is because they view it as a tale about David finding confidence within himself to defeat Goliath. What are some clues from the passage that indicate that this is not what David's story is about? What are some clues from the rest of the Bible that this is not what this story is about?**

*Ultimately, this story is not about David finding himself and channeling God to accomplish some major victory. The story is about God's power that can overcome any obstacle, despite human weakness.*

*As Christians who have trusted Christ as the only way to heaven (John 14:6), we recognize that we find victory by clinging, by faith, to God and His power. The illustration of David and Goliath is one of many examples of the supernatural power of our Lord. He cares deeply for His children and wants only our best. Sometimes that involves trials and battles, but these are ultimately for our good and His glory. James tells us to consider it pure joy when we encounter trials because they test our faith and develop patience and perseverance (James 1:2-4). When we are tested by these trials we can, in the power of the Lord, live by faith, trusting our Savior to win the victory.*



**7. David consistently lived out his faith in a way that ultimately led him to have confidence in the outcome of this battle. How can living like David have an impact on your life and your family?**

*The simple fact of the matter is that people are watching the way we live our lives. Nobody else has a closer view than those that live under the same roof as you. Your kids, spouse, parents, and/or siblings have a front row seat to see you live out your faith. We tend to think that our faith is demonstrated in the big moments. However, it is not just how we respond in the big moments, but also in the mundane. Do the people you live with witness your prayer and devotional time? Do they see your faith in how you prioritize God in your schedule? Do they see you strive to exemplify God's character in your life and make everyday decisions based on that character? Not only does living faithfully to God in the smaller moments prepare you for the bigger ones, it also demonstrates to your relational world the peace of God in your life.*