



January 12, 2025

**The Shepherd King
1 Samuel 17:1-53**

Big Idea: The story of David and Goliath is about faith in the midst of fear and ultimately the amazing victory of Jesus over sin.

Overview: David and Goliath is the most famous Biblical story. A cultural phrase, when one is faced with an insurmountable oppressor, is to reference it as “David versus Goliath” moment. This story is well known and featured in so many different places (art, literature, song, story).

The story features the divine provision of an unexpected warrior against an enormous foe. Little David, a boy still not able to enlist in the military, to stand in for Israel against the archnemesis of Israel, the Philistines. In it we see how God provides for his terrified people, by using a shepherd to defeat and obtain victory over this pagan giant and his army.

Life Group Objectives:

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week’s message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. When we all track together on the sermon series, we learn and grow together as a church.
2. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together. Please have people open up Bibles, seeking clarity, asking questions, sharing insights, and allowing it to guide your time together.
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?

Conversation starters:

- When was the first time you heard the story of David and Goliath?
- Where have you seen this story referenced or spotlighted within culture?
- What is it about the story that has resonated with Christians and non-Christians? What grabs us?

Learning from God’s Word: Bible Study Discussion

Read Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1-51

Questions for Discussion:

1. **The Story vs. 1-51**
 - The Enemy vs. 4-11:
 - Goliath is described as an invincible foe, used to intimidate and control. How does fear intimidate and control us?
 - Verse 11 describes Israel as being dismayed and terrified. One major theme in this story is crippling reality of fear. What makes you afraid in general? What keeps you up at night? Is there anything right now that is stealing your peace and joy?
 - The Fearful Israelites vs. 20-27:
 - What makes David so upset about how Goliath is approaching Israel? Where does David’s courage come from?

- The Battle vs. 40-51:
 - David calls upon the “God of Isreal” who will come through for him in the fight against Goliath. How has God done that for you in the past? Where are you needing him to do it now?
 - After reading vs. 47, what does God want to do through this victory? How can we use the activity of God in our own lives as ways to make Him known?
- The Victory vs. 51b-53:
 - It is the Philistines who eventually turn and run from Israel. This shows complete victory. What does this say about God’s commitment and provision for Israel? What about for us?

2. The Significance

- This story is often applied to modern Christians by saying that we can slay our own giants of fear and intimidation by trusting God. Although being a biblical principle, why is it problematic for us to simply believe in ourselves to slay these giants?
- Are we David who can slay our giants, or are we Israel who are trembling and afraid and need a Saviour to come to deliver us?
- Where do we see Jesus Christ in this story?
 - Hints:
 - An unexpected warrior
 - A shepherd
 - The standoff was 40 days, Jesus was in the desert for 40 days
 - One person went to war, and everyone affiliated with him was given victory
 - One person substituted himself for the sake of everyone else
- How does trusting in Jesus, as our Saviour, deliverer and redeemer, help us work through the most challenging and fear inducing thing we are facing?

Listening to God:

- The Lord speaks, and we need to discern. What are some key themes that have emerged in your time together? What is the Holy Spirit impressing upon us?