



BY FAITH

MAY 24 - AUG 2

(11) "David"

HIGHLIGHT: 1 Samuel 17:24-26, 31-37, 40-50; John 19:28-30

H

Below are excerpts from the overall passage for use with the APPLICATION and RESPOND. It will be beneficial for the group to read the whole passage to understand the entire context.

1 SAMUEL 17 (NLT)

vv.24-26

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. **25** "Have you seen the giant?" the men asked. "He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!"

26 David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"

vv.31-37

31 Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

32 "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

33 "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth."

34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, **35** I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. **36** I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!"

37 The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"

Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the Lord be with you!"

vv.40-50

40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, **42** sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. **43** "Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. **44** "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled.

45 David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! **47** And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. **49** Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.

John 19:28-30

28 Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." **29** A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. **30** When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

E

EXPLAIN

The purpose of this section is to deepen everyone's understanding of the Word.

"Not failure, but low aim, is crime"—James Russell Lowell.

"To every man there open[s] a way, and ways, and a way,
And the high soul climbs the high way,
And the low soul gropes the low.
And in between, on the misty flats, the rest drift to and fro..."—John Oxenham.

There's no better way than to keep your aim high than focusing on "the LORD of Heaven's Armies (1 Sam. 17:45). The LORD the Almighty does not camp out in the foggy land of unbelief. David knew that and faced Goliath successfully.

1 SAMUEL 17

vv.24-26 David was a young lad (see v.33) when he found himself in the service of King Saul (see 16:21-23 and 17:15). The context of 1 Samuel is a battle (more like a cold war) between the Israelites and the Philistines. Goliath of Gath was the Philistines' champion who daily challenged the Israelites to send out a man to fight him. It would be a "winner-take-all" contest. But the "cards were stacked" against Israel because Goliath was huge—over nine feet tall (17:4; the two tallest players in NBA history are Manute Bol and Gheorghe Muresan, both tipping the measuring stick at 7ft 7in). And he was strong (v.5). David is amazed at the paralyzing fear among the Israelite troops; the troops were incredulous at David's boldness: **"Have you [David] seen the giant?"** David responds, **"What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is the pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"** If the Israelite army is not "groping the low way" they are at least stumbling around in the "misty flats" of unbelief. The eyes of their hearts were blinded to the thought of the Living God! The result was a shriveled soul. Life's giants have a way of showing up every now and then. Do you see the giant, or do you gaze into the eyes of the Living God (Eph. 6:10-13 and Heb. 12:1-2a).

vv.31-37 David's oldest brother hears David and accuses him of pride and deceit—that his talk is to draw attention to himself and embarrass Saul's army (vv.28-29). I like the way the KJV translates v.29: "And David said, 'What have I now done? *Is there not a cause?*'" (emphasis mine). I think this is more in keeping with David's amazement that "this pagan is allowed to defy the armies of the Living God" (v.26). Some things are more important than others. They belong to the "high way." To people who are aiming their hearts toward the heart of Almighty God.

King Saul sends for David who convinces him that God will rescue him [David] from this Philistine just as He rescued him the from the claws of the lion and the bear. Saul consents for David to fight Goliath with the blessing, "...may the LORD be with you." Saul, still seeing the odds against David (and against the future of Israel) offers David his armor and sword. How quickly we resort to the old ways of the flesh when we are faced with the impossible—even though those ways have never worked before. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov. 14:12).

vv.40-50 David refuses Saul's armor and uses the tools with which God has spared him in the past: **smooth stones, a shepherd's staff and sling.** David's **trust** is not in **a sword, spear and javelin, but in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies that Goliath has defied.** The God in whom David had put his faith proved sufficient. **The Lord conquered Goliath, and David killed him and cut off his head.** What does the world see when they look at the way we face the giants in our lives? Do they see that our mindset is that **these battles are the LORD'S,** and that we are "strong in the Lord and in His mighty power; [that we have] put on all God's armor so that [we] will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil" (Eph. 6:10-11)?

John 19:28-30 Jesus was fully trusting in the Father as He dangled between heaven and earth on the cross. When hell disgorged itself on Him with all your sin and all my sin—and all the sin of all the people for all time—He trusted in the Father. When He was forsaken by the Father and drenched in eternal darkness, He trusted the Father. When **He bowed His head and gave up His spirit,** He could say, **"It is finished!"** The end—but not "the end" at the close of book that leaves us wondering if there is anything else. But this was "the end"—mission accomplished: "salvation's work is done." Finished, because He

trusted the Father. May we come to the close of each day and say, *It is finished. Father, I trusted you with today and it's battles. I may not have won them all, but I kept my aim HIGH!*

A

APPLY

Be comfortable with some silence as people think back to the sermon or reread the text. Answer honestly. You don't have to answer every question.

1. What stuck out to you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text?
2. How did David demonstrate true faith in God?
3. Speaking to Goliath, David says, "Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head." Why do you think it's important to know that it was the LORD who conquered Goliath?
4. How is Jesus greater than David?
5. When Jesus was on the cross and said "it is finished" what did He mean? What did Jesus do that David could not do?

R

RESPOND

The purpose of this section is to take action with the truths you're learning. Answer honestly. Find someone who will hold you accountable to living out your response to Scripture.

1. In the Scriptures, we can see three glorious moments when God tells us that His work is finished. You will see that we italicized those words for emphasis. First, in Genesis 2:2, after the creation of the heavens and the earth, we read: "And on the seventh day *God finished his work* that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done". Second, when Jesus is about to die on the cross he says, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30). Third, in Revelation 21:6 John is writing about the new heaven and new earth—where God will dwell with His people—John writes: "And [the one seated on the throne] said to me, '*it is done!* I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment'". In difficult seasons, like the one we are in right now, the Scriptures remind us that God always finishes His work. There isn't a person, or a virus, or an enemy, that can stop God. Spend time in prayer this week, specifically asking God to help you find encouragement in His work—and in His faithfulness to you.
2. As we wrap up this series through Hebrews 11, how have you been encouraged? Convicted? Challenged? This week, read through Hebrews 11 again and journal about any growth you have seen. End your journal with a prayer, thanking God for that growth.