

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Are you facing any 'Goliaths' right now? How do you think this Goliath looks to God? What can you do to see this Goliath from God's perspective?
- What steps can you take this week to engage God in your battle with your Goliath?
- Do you see yourself as a person after God's own heart? What can you do this week to more closely align your heart to God's?

PRAYER

- Ask God for a heart that is attuned and aligned to His heart.
- Pray for the boldness and courage to trust God in fighting your battles victoriously for you.
- Scripture says that God's sheep hear His voice. Ask God to hear His voice better so that you may know His will for your life.

NOTES



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WEEK 3: DAVID

CONNECT

- In your experience when there is a huge mismatch in a competition, be it war, business, sports, or some other endeavor, do you cheer for the underdog or the likely winner? Why?
- How do people normally respond when their endeavor seems doomed to failure, when they or their team seem hopelessly overmatched?
- Have you personally experienced a situation where you or your team were huge underdogs yet came out on top? How did it happen?

WHAT

David was a young shepherd boy who defeated the giant warrior Goliath who was not only a seasoned fighter, he was the champion of the vast Philistine army. The battle between David and Goliath looked like a laughable mismatch and Goliath was not only confident of victory, he was offended at the seeming insignificance of his opponent. But David was also confident of victory from the very first time he heard Goliath's challenge. His confidence wasn't based on his own ability, but on God's help in the battle. David won an epic battle which still resounds as the greatest upset in history. What can we learn from David's battle which will help us face our Goliaths?

WORD

“David said to the Philistine, “you come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies you have defied... for the battle is the LORD’S, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

1 Samuel 17:45, 47 (NIV)

1. David’s adversary.

“...whose height was six cubits and a span (9’-9”). He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels...”

1 Samuel 17:4, 7

When David volunteered to fight Goliath, everyone knew he was doomed to failure. Though David had protected his flock from the lions and the bears, the odds against him seemed insurmountable. You might not be facing any 9’-9” tall giants with spears, but what are some contemporary ‘Goliaths’ we face? Are you facing any work challenges, financial challenges, challenges at home, emotional, physical, or relational challenges that seem like ‘Goliaths’?

2. David’s support.

“David said to the Philistine, “you come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies you have defied... for the battle is the LORD’S, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

1 Samuel 17:45, 47

In the battle against Goliath, David was victorious because he depended on God to fight the battle with him. Despite the odds against him, David ran to the battle with boldness and courage because he trusted God for his victory over Goliath. His faith allowed him to see Goliath from a different perspective. For David, Goliath was merely a mortal man defying an all-powerful God. What was David’s part in the fight and what was God’s part? What do you think it means to let God fight the battle for you?

3. David’s heart.

“...The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

God himself testified that David was a man after his own heart (Acts 13:22). This means that his heart (values, motives, desires) was aligned with God’s heart. David’s epic victory came about, not because he was perfect (as a murderer, adulterer, and bad parent, he was far from perfect), but because he was motivated to do whatever was pleasing to God, and knew that when his heart was aligned with God’s, God would help him come out on top. How do we align our heart (values, motives, desires) with God’s heart? How closely aligned is your heart to God’s heart?
