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David: A Faith that Meets Adversity Head-On

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WHEN
HAVE YOU
STRUGGLED
WITH
CONFIDENCE?

The
POINT > Faith acts with confidence in God.

> 1 SAMUEL 17:3-8,32-37,45-47

³ And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. ⁶ And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me."

³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant

used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

“Leopards are the fastest land animal.” This isn’t true, but some people who hear this over and over are likely to believe it at some point. This is called the illusory truth effect.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // GOD

God is omnipresent (all places at all times), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipotent (all-powerful), and exercises sovereignty over all creation.

Confidence is important. For instance, in order to experience success when you step onto the basketball court, you need the confidence to dribble past the opponent and take the shot. When you have to give a presentation in class, confidence helps you to stand in front of the other students and present your ideas clearly and boldly.

Of course, the way we grow in confidence is through reps. This means doing drills over and over and taking thousands of shots to prepare for when you step on the court, and studying the material for the presentation over and over until you feel like you could recite it in your sleep. When it comes to spiritual realities in our lives, confidence is important too. However, our confidence must not be in ourselves. Instead, as we spend time with God every day, we come to know Him deeply and base our confidence in our trust in Him.

In our lives, we will face moments of uncertainty. In those times, we can be bold and confident not because of the skills or knowledge we’ve cultivated, but because of who God is.

1 SAMUEL 17:3-8

1 When have you faced a challenge that revealed a weakness in your life?

2 What habits do you have in place to help you grow in your faith?

1 SAMUEL 17:32-37

3 When have you struggled to trust God during a tough time like Saul?

4 What kinds of “idols” does the world trust for security?

5 Why is it so important to remember how God has worked in the past?

Remembering the ways God has worked in our lives in the past has a powerful impact on our faith. #BSFLRisk-Takers



1 SAMUEL 17:45-47

6 Why shouldn't we view David's “trash talk” as prideful?

7 Why is it appropriate to see Goliath, and not David, as the underdog?

8 What were the results of David fighting Goliath? How does your life produce these same results?



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // GOD

God is omnipresent (all places at all times), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipotent (all-powerful), and exercises sovereignty over all creation.

When we face adversity, we might not naturally be confident about how things will turn out. However, because God is all powerful and because He has promised to take care of us, we can live boldly and with confidence, even in the face of adversity.

> CHRIST

When the soldiers in Israel's army saw Goliath and heard his threats, they were afraid. However, David's choices weren't defined by the challenges he faced but by his confidence in God.

9 How does your life demonstrate this kind of trust and confidence in Jesus?

10 Write down three things that are true of God that give you confidence in Him:



GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

> COMMUNITY

Remembering is important to the Christian life. Israel was called to continually remember the Passover, and we're called to remember Jesus's sacrifice through the Lord's Supper.

11 Think back to a time you faced adversity or struggles. How did Jesus provide strength to live well through these challenges?



12 This week, identify a friend or classmate who's facing adversity. Encourage your friend by sharing how God has strengthened you.

> CULTURE

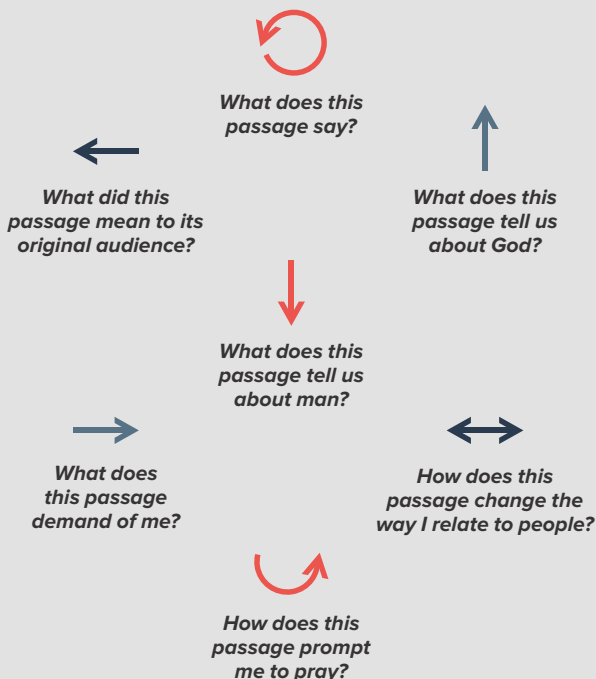
David said that through his victory over Goliath, the nations would learn of Israel's God and the people would know that victory comes from God and not by human strength. We have the opportunity every day to help people around us see these same truths.

13 This week, how will you help others see that God is real and that He gives victory to His people?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One **JAMES 1:2-3**

Joy is like happiness, but instead of it being based on what happens from day to day, joy is founded on faith in God's promises. James told the church to choose joy when we suffer, and in many ways, this makes no sense at all. Why in the world would we be joyful when life is about as tough as we can imagine it? Here's why: When we face struggles that legitimately test our faith, it's an opportunity for us to prove we truly trust in Jesus. It's pretty easy to live generally well when life is smooth. But if that's all we have ever known, then we can never truly know if our faith is strong or not. However, when we face trials and come through with the Spirit's help and our faith intact, we not only grow in endurance, but we can also have an increased confidence in the authenticity of our faith. Although trials might not be easy or fun, they're incredibly valuable in helping us to grow in maturity and Christlikeness.

➤ **What is the difference between joy and happiness?**

➤ **How can we have joy even when we face difficulties?**

Day Two

JAMES 1:4



This is, in a sense, the theme verse of the book of James, and the main idea here is what it takes to be “mature and complete” in Jesus. It’s important for us to understand that there is no maturity without patience and endurance. We live in a world and culture where many people want what they want and they want it now. If this is the way we operate—always in a hurry and with a sense of desperate immediacy—then we will struggle to grow in Christian maturity. “Complete” in this verse means whole and without division. Maturity, from this perspective, points to the follower of Jesus as undivided, or a unified whole. The trials we face have a way of stripping away the parts of us that are selfish and worldly so that what’s left is a person who’s wholly and completely like Jesus. We won’t be sinless and perfect this side of heaven. However, as we endure in faith, we’ll grow more and more complete in Jesus.

- **What contrast do you see between patient endurance and the hurriedness of the world?**
- **What does it mean to be mature and complete in Jesus?**

Day Three

JAMES 1:5

You might have heard that *knowledge* means understanding God’s Word and *wisdom* involves knowing how to live it out. This is not a bad description, but it’s not the whole picture either. Here’s why: True knowledge implies obedience or living it out. To get a clearer picture, we might think of knowledge as understanding what’s revealed through Scripture and wisdom as extracting principles that aren’t necessarily plainly stated. Wisdom is centrally important to the Christian life. After all, even though we can know the Bible is sufficient to lead us in a life of godliness, we’ve probably all wished it was a little more clear in certain areas. This is where wisdom comes in, and if we ever lack wisdom (and we all do, at times!), then we simply need to ask God for it. God desires that we would all live for Him, and when we ask for the wisdom to follow Jesus, God is happy to provide it.

- **In your own words, what is wisdom?**
- **Why is wisdom so important in our lives as followers as Jesus?**

Day Four

JAMES 1:6

There are several different purposes for our prayers. We often pray as worship to God or to express our gratitude for His goodness in our lives. Through prayer, we are called to confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness. Another purpose for prayer is supplication—asking for God to supply the things needed, whether practical earthly needs, relational or emotional needs, or spiritual needs. When we ask God for the things we need, this is a humble expression of dependence upon Him, and this kind of prayer naturally requires faith. However, at times we might simply ask for things but without confidence that God will actually provide what we ask for. John 14:13-14 teaches that whatever we ask in Jesus's name, He will do for us. This doesn't mean we can ask selfishly for anything we want and expect God to give it. But when we ask for things that are in line with Jesus's desires and purposes, we can know confidently that He will provide them. When we ask for wisdom, we should do so with confidence, knowing God desires to give us wisdom to live well.

- **What are the different purposes of prayer?**
- **Why can we have confidence that God will answer our prayers?**

Day Five

JAMES 1:7-8



Double-mindedness points to a person with divided loyalties. In one sense, he or she wants to honor God and experience His blessings. However, there's another part that wants the comforts and pleasures of the world. This kind of person follows God when it's convenient. However, when trials come, rather than demonstrating a steadfast commitment to God, the person falls back into old ways to avoid the struggles that come with following Jesus. When a divided person prays, he or she shouldn't expect anything from God. For those who aren't all-in with Jesus, God isn't obligated to provide anything. However, when we are committed whole-heartedly to Jesus, God is committed to us and will provide the wisdom and strength we need to live well no matter what happens. We can have confidence in this life because we know that God is committed to us in response to our faith.

- **In your own words, what is double-mindedness?**
- **How is God calling you to be more whole-heartedly committed to Him?**