



CREATE A CLEAN HEART FOR ME
UNIT 11 • SESSION 2

DAVID

THE VICTORIOUS KING

MAIN POINT

Jesus defeated the giants of Satan, sin, and death.

1 SAMUEL 17:2-11 • ISRAEL FACES AN ENEMY IT CANNOT DEFEAT

2 Saul and the men of Israel gathered and camped in the Valley of Elah; then they lined up in battle formation to face the Philistines. . . 4 Then a champion named Goliath, from Gath, came out from the Philistine camp. He was nine feet, nine inches tall 5 and wore a bronze helmet and bronze scale armor that weighed one hundred twenty-five pounds . . . He stood and shouted to the Israelite battle formations, “. . . Choose one of your men and have him come down against me. 9 If he wins in a fight against me and kills me, we will be your servants. But if I win against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us.” 10 Then the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me a man so we can fight each other!” 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

1 SAMUEL 17:32-40 • DAVID TRUSTS IN THE LORD FOR VICTORY

32 David said to Saul, “Don’t let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!” . . . David answered Saul, “Your servant has been tending his father’s sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it. 36 Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” 37 Then David said, “The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you . . .” he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pouch, in his shepherd’s bag. Then, with his sling in his hand, he approached the Philistine.

1 SAMUEL 17:48-52 • DAVID WINS THE VICTORY FOR HIS PEOPLE

48 When the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 David put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground. 50 David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone. David overpowered the Philistine and killed him without having a sword . . . He grabbed the Philistine’s sword, pulled it from its sheath, and used it to kill him. Then he cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they fled. 52 The men of Israel and Judah rallied, shouting their battle cry, and chased the Philistines . . .

INTRO OPTION 1

UNDERDOG

SUPPLIES LIST

NO SUPPLIES NEEDED.

Have students come up with examples of when a less-than-favored team won a big game. It could have been a time they themselves were on a team and had a surprise victory or it could have been in a movie they saw, or in a book they read. Have students describe how they felt winning or what they experienced watching or reading about the win. In today's session, we will learn God often wins the victory through unlikely heroes so that all glory goes to Him.

INTRO OPTION 2

WEAK LINK?

SUPPLIES LIST

NOTECARDS AND PENS.

Have students come up with a fictional ideal team or group of five people. Then have them list why they would have chosen those five people. Then, as a leader, do the same. In your list of five, come up with at least one less-than-ideal person. (If it's a team, it can be a person who is a slower runner with not so good stats. If it's a band, have them be a singer without a lot of range.) Then, point out that no matter what, that person is on the team for a reason. Many times, victories can come from the least likely person. In today's session, we will learn God often wins the victory through unlikely heroes so that all glory goes to Him.



SCRIPTURE READING

MAIN POINT

Jesus defeated the giants of
Satan, sin, and death.

1. ISRAEL FACES AN ENEMY IT CANNOT DEFEAT

READ 1 SAMUEL 17:2-11

Israel's most powerful regional enemy during Saul's reign was the Philistines. They would regularly go to battle against this mighty and persistent foe. At this battle, the Philistines put forth their champion, Goliath. He proposed that if he could beat Israel's greatest warrior, then the Israelites would serve them, but if he lost, then the Philistines would serve the Israelites.

HOW DID THE ISRAELITES RESPOND TO GOLIATH'S CHALLENGE? WHAT ABOUT SAUL?

The Israelite army was terrified of Goliath. No one was courageous enough to fight Goliath—even King Saul. Ironically, Saul was chosen as king because he stood tall above the other men of Israel (see 1 Sam. 9:2). He was Israel's "giant," the one they wanted to "go out before us, and fight our battles" (1 Sam. 8:20). But here, their champion king was just as fearful as his army.

WHAT ARE SOME GIANTS THAT WE CANNOT DEFEAT ON OUR OWN?

Our giants are not people; "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood" (Eph. 6:12). But we do face real giants: sin, disease, depression, division, Satan's lies, and more. Like the armies of Israel, we face certain defeat on our own. Even Saul-like leaders cannot deliver us. We need King Jesus. He is a greater David, who defeated sin and death. And the same Spirit that was upon David is within us, empowering us to fight the good fight of faith.

2. DAVID TRUSTS IN THE LORD FOR VICTORY

READ 1 SAMUEL 17:32-40,45-47

When no one else would, David stepped forward to fight Goliath. He was the least qualified soldier, but his confidence was not in himself. He was convinced that the victory would come from the Lord.

WHY WAS DAVID CONFIDENT THAT HE WOULD DEFEAT GOLIATH?

David remembered how God had delivered him in the past and believed God could do it again. He recalled God's rescue from lions and bears—that despite their obvious physical advantages over him, God enabled him to kill them to protect his sheep. David was at a clear disadvantage against Goliath, but he believed God would enable him to kill Goliath to protect God's flock—Israel.



1 SAMUEL 17:2-11

17:2-11. “Easily the most beloved story in 1, 2 Samuel—indeed, in all the Former Prophets—is the account of David killing Goliath. So compelling and well-known is the drama that it has become the primary historical metaphor in Western culture for describing any individual or group who overcomes seemingly insurmountable odds to defeat an oppressor. But the biblical narrative is not primarily a story about human courage and effort; instead, it is about the awesome power of a life built around bold faith in the Lord.”¹⁰

17:4-7. “Goliath’s physical stature, armor, weaponry, and shield bearer must have made him appear invincible. However, the reader has just been warned against paying undue attention to outward appearances. The detailed description of Goliath’s external advantages here suggests that chap. 17 was intended in part to serve as an object lesson in the theology of the previous chapter (cf. 16:7).”¹¹

17:8-11. “The narrative’s description of Goliath’s impressive stature reminds the reader of another impressive leader described as ‘head and shoulders above the rest’ (10:23). In other words, Saul is the best match for Goliath. Indeed, there is an implicit condemnation of Saul in Goliath’s description, since King Saul would be expected not only to motivate his troops but to lead them forth against the Philistines.”¹²

1 SAMUEL 17: 32-40,45-47

17:32-37. “In young David’s mind, all the enemies of God are reduced to the same level . . . Regardless of size or strength, the Lord will provide victory over all.”¹³



BIG QUESTION

WHY DO WE HAVE TO FIGHT SIN IF JESUS HAS WON AND “THE BATTLE IS THE LORD’S”?

The battle belonged to God, but David was the vessel God chose to use. David was an active, human participant in God’s victory over Goliath. God’s Spirit was upon David to defeat Goliath. The same is true of us. Christ has defeated sin. He is undefeated, and yet Paul says that we must put to death what is sinful within us (see Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5). We have been given God’s Spirit not to sit on the sidelines paralyzed with fear, but to take an active role in our spiritual freedom. Philippians 2:12-13 and Ephesians 3:20 remind us that God doesn’t merely accomplish His work for us but also in us. So, “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called” (1 Tim. 6:12).



SCRIPTURE READING

MAIN POINT

Jesus defeated the giants of Satan, sin, and death.

WHAT WAS DAVID'S MOTIVATION FOR STEPPING UP TO FIGHT GOLIATH?

Goliath had not merely insulted the Israelites. He had defied Israel's God. To stand by and do nothing would publicly disgrace the name of the Lord. David was motivated by the glory of God and was confident that God would empower His victory for the sake of God's own name. In this way, it wasn't simply David vs. Goliath, but God vs. Goliath. And God doesn't lose, so David wouldn't either.

3. DAVID WINS THE VICTORY FOR HIS PEOPLE

READ 1 SAMUEL 17:48-52

David stood before Goliath with no sword or armor and ran toward him with a sling and stone. With a single shot, Goliath came crashing to the ground. His own weapon would be used to deliver the final blow. Against all odds, God's anointed secured victory for God's people.

WHAT DOES VICTORY IN CHRIST LOOK LIKE?

David delivered one great knockout blow to his enemy's head. In his triumph, David cut off Goliath's head with Goliath's own sword. Jesus has crushed the serpent's head. He turned the weapon of death on itself, defeating it through His crucifixion. Jesus used the very thing the Jews, Romans, and even Satan wanted to use to defeat Him to secure His victory over all. He did what no one else could do so that God's people could share in His victory.

HOW DID THE ISRAELITES RESPOND TO DAVID'S VICTORY? HOW MIGHT THAT SHOW US HOW TO RESPOND TO JESUS'S VICTORY?

The army that was trembling just a few moments before was now emboldened to pursue its enemies. The Israelites "rallied, shouting their battle cry, and chased the Philistines" (1 Sam. 17:52). The victory of Christ should lead us to the same courage. May we put sin to death and engage in the spiritual battle with all bravery knowing that our champion has won.



BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

17:38-40. “The Lord had clothed David with the Spirit that enabled kingship; now Saul clothed David with the symbols that exemplified kingship. Yet David was unable to grow accustomed to Saul’s military gear, and he removed it. The writer’s inclusion of the clothing incident probably was meant to serve two functions: first, to preserve an unusual but interesting occurrence in the background of the Goliath event, indicating the greater value of divine enablement over human devices; second and more importantly, to symbolize David’s rejection of Saul’s approach to kingship. Saul chose to dress in royal clothing ‘such as all the other nations have;’ David would wear none of it. Instead, he would identify with the great shepherd-leaders of the Torah—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and especially Moses—and live by faith in the promises of God (cf. Heb 11).”¹⁴

17:45-47. “As David viewed it, Goliath was outnumbered and would soon be overpowered, for the Lord would fight with David against the giant.”¹⁵

1 SAMUEL 17:48-52

17:48-51. “Superior strength and military resources are useless against the representative of Yahweh. The contest is over before it begins . . . Yahweh has been true to his word: He saved ‘not by sword or spear’ (17:47). Decapitation is the decisive sign the battle is over.”¹⁶

17:52. “Energized by David’s undreamed-of success and the sight of panic-stricken Philistines, the army of Israel chased the Philistines westward until they came ‘to a valley’ and then along the coastal plain ‘to the gates of Ekron,’ a distance exceeding ten miles.”¹⁷



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

CHRIST’S EXALTATION

Whereas the death of Christ was the ultimate example of His humiliation, the resurrection of Christ from the dead is the first and glorious example of Christ’s exaltation. Christ was exalted when God raised Him from the dead, and Christ was exalted when He ascended to the Father’s right hand. He will be exalted by all creation when He returns. All of these aspects work together to magnify the glory and worth of Christ, resulting in the praise of the glory of His grace in rescuing sinners.



CHRIST CONNECTION

In David, we see a picture of an unexpected warrior. David defeated a seemingly unbeatable enemy with courageous faith in God's power. Jesus is the greater Warrior who no one expected to win the victory over sin and death. Through Jesus's death and resurrection, God is mighty to save.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

WHAT HAS GOD DONE IN HISTORY OR IN YOUR OWN LIFE THAT GIVES YOU FAITH FOR THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE TODAY?

The Scriptures are an incredible source of courage for the challenges we face in our lives because there we find many stories of God's deliverance. Like David, we can also call to mind things we have seen God do in our lives that may bolster our faith for the obstacles and difficulties ahead. Whether looking back to history or even in our lives, it is important that we do look back to gain the strength for what lies ahead.

WHY SHOULD WE BE MOTIVATED TO HONOR GOD'S NAME?

David was moved to action by the dishonoring of God's name. He said that in victory, "all the world will know that Israel has a God" (1 Sam. 17:46). We were created for God's glory, so our lives should bring him honor and praise. Jesus taught us to pray that God's name would "honored as holy" (Matt. 6:9). Our action and inaction will either bring God honor or dishonor. May we be motivated to do only the things that will honor God's name.

HOW CAN JESUS'S VICTORY GIVE US COURAGE TO BATTLE OUR SIN?

Just as David's victory signaled triumph for all Israel, so Jesus's victory secures our own. He has done what we could not do ourselves so that we can experience victory over sin in the battles we face every day. Since the greatest foe has been defeated for good (sin and death), we ought to put sin to death in our personal lives with all assurance that victory is truly possible in Christ.