

## SCRIPTURES FOR 10/29/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

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### **1 Samuel 17:2-4, 8-11, & 16**

Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall.

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

### **1 Samuel 17:22-26**

David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers. As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."

David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

### **1 Samuel 17:32-37**

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

<p>NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed</p>
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**NOTE TO LEADERS:** All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

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This week, Jeff talked about David's example of leadership, displayed in his behavior in the battle with Goliath and the Philistines.

The Israelites are at war with the Philistines. They have won many battles over the years, including the battle of Jericho, and should be pretty confident of God's providence in battle, but this one looks pretty scary. Saul was in a tough spot...

*Have someone read 1 Samuel 17:2-4, 8-11, & 16.*

## **THE GIANT**

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So, there's this scary giant. All the Israelite army has to do is send out one guy who can kick Goliath's butt and everyone goes home. But, as Jeff quoted on Sunday, "Anyone who has never killed a giant would say it was impossible."

Have you ever come up against a giant in your life -- that is, something that it would be impossible for you to overcome without God's help? What did you do?

There was this unlikely shepherd kid from Bethlehem who was sent by his dad to deliver some provisions to his brothers who had been drafted.

*Have someone read 1 Samuel 17:22-26.*

## **THE GIANT KILLER**

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Three things we can draw from this passage:

### **DAVID RECOGNIZED THE CHALLENGE**

He saw Goliath. He had just as much reason to be afraid as everyone else.

### **DAVID UNDERSTOOD THE REWARD**

He heard the guys talking about what would happen if someone defeated Goliath.

### **DAVID REALIZED THE REAL PROBLEM**

He asked the question that everyone was too afraid to ask, "Who does this guy think he is?"

Why do you think David didn't turn tail and run like everyone else?

What were the two rewards for the person who defeats Goliath? (*personal reward, defeat Philistines*) Which do you think David cared most about?

Why do you think David was the only one who could see the REAL giant – the Israelites' lack of faith?

Do you have some REAL giants you need to identify?

## **OTHER OBSTACLES**

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David's oldest brother, Eliab, spots him and accuses him of coming to gawk. "What're you doing here? Who's watching the sheep? This is not a video game; this is a real war!" (*Ed's paraphrase*) David turns away from Eliab and, having assessed the situation, goes directly to King Saul.

*Have someone read 1 Samuel 17:32-37.*

### **DAVID OVERLOOKS HIS CRITICS**

He ignores his brother and his dismissive king.

### **DAVID EVALUATES PAST SUCCESSES**

He is well aware that God has delivered him before.

### **DAVID STEPS OUT**

He takes a step of faith, trusting God, not men.

What made David so special?

If Saul really thought David was delusional, why do you think he placed the fate of the nation in his hands?

Does this establish a case for getting out of the way of courageous leadership or do you think this is a one-time deal?

Do you have some critics you need to ignore?

## **CONCLUSION**

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Is God in the habit of making giant killers? We'll talk about that more next week!