

SCRIPTURES FOR 11/05/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

1 Samuel 17:38-52

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

45 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 of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine

army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

<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>

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

INTRODUCTION:

This week, Jeff finished his assessment of David's early leadership, displayed in his behavior in the battle with Goliath and the Philistines.

David has just offered to take on Goliath, has been rebuked by Saul, then displayed his faith not in his own abilities, but what God can do through him; in other words, rather than self-confidence, David displays God-confidence.

THE GIANT KILLER, CONTINUED

Have someone read 1 Samuel 17:38-40.

Judging from David's experience, when in God-ordained leadership, we are provided with the following assurances:

GOD ALLOWS US TO BE OURSELVES

David had himself and he had God; he didn't need Saul's armor or weapons to boost his confidence.

Have you ever had to rely on God's provision?

When in battle with your "giants," what is hardest for you?

- a. advancing
- b. having courage
- c. enlisting God's help
- d. fatigue
- e. using the weapons (prayer, scripture, etc.)
- f. commitment

In the battle, were you ever tempted to return to the safety of worldly weapons?

Have someone read 1 Samuel 17:41-50.

GOD PROVIDES A HIGHER PURPOSE

Based on the rest of the story, do you think this speech shows David's real motivation or is it just rhetoric?

Who do you think behaved more like a king, Saul or David? Why? (*Was it foolhardy or courageous to let David go after Goliath?*)

When faced with your giants, what are some ways God could be glorified by exchanging self-confidence for God's providence? Does this embolden you to look for giants?

If God were to help you slay your "giant," would you do something different (as far as service or ministry)?

Have someone read 1 Samuel 17:51-52.

GOD SUPPLIES FOLLOWERS

So, David takes out Goliath with one stone and now the entire Israelite army is jazzed. Yee haw! Let's take on the world!

Everybody loves a winning team. Sure, sometimes we root for the underdog, but usually only when it doesn't really impact us one way or the other.

In P.E., did you ever want to get picked for the weaker team? Or at sporting events, have you ever called your team "bums" because they were not playing up to their ability?

What does it tell us about Israel that they so often become disheartened, even though they have seen God in action? About ourselves?

Would suddenly having a bunch of followers excite you or make you throw up?

CONCLUSION

Can you picture it? Not only did God bolster David's identity in Him and show him a higher purpose, but God also completely delivered David AND the nation of Israel, but, even before God delivered them, David **RAN** to the battle line. Can you run at your giants? We can with God...

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen
Ephesians 3:20-21