

# David & Goliath

## Lesson for Sunday, March 24, 2024

### INTRODUCTION:

- Start the lesson with the flannel graph.
  - IDEA: Put all the flannel graph visuals out for people to look at and then have the class put it in order...
- Today's lesson will be familiar to most people who have been in church for a while. But even though it is familiar, many misunderstand the main point.
  - Ask: From what you know about the story, what are the lessons you remember that you can take away from D & G?
- Here's a study principle to always remember when reading your Bible: The main character of every Bible story is God. In every story, we need to look for Him.
  - We saw this in last week's lesson on Esther when God's name is not even mentioned in the entire book, but yet He is front and center the entire time.
  - Let's look at the story of David & Goliath – but let's look for God.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. Goliath taunts Israel (1 Samuel 17:1-16)
  - a. The Philistines were an on-going nuisance to the Israelites.
  - b. Vs. 1-3: Israel and the Philistines are squared off. Both are positioned in the side of mountains with the valley separating the two armies.
  - c. Vs. 4-7: We are introduced to Goliath. What are some of the things the text tells us about Goliath?
    - i. He was the champion of the Philistine army; he was heavily armored and had a javelin and a spear (we learn later that he also had a sword); he was six cubits and a span tall; he was confident in his own strength.
    - ii. Using today's measurements, Goliath's height was about 9'-9" and his armor weighed about 125 pounds!
  - d. Vs. 8-10: We hear Goliath's challenge:
    - i. He offered the Israelites man-to-man combat to settle the battle—the winner's side would rule over the loser's side.
    - ii. Vs. 16 tells us that this went on for forty days, morning and evening.
  - e. Vs. 11: Before we judge the Israelites too harshly, we ought to recognize that their response would be our most likely response. The word "dismayed" has the idea of be broken and terrified.
  - f. Observations:
    - i. Goliath presented a seemingly insurmountable obstacle.
    - ii. On top of that, the Philistine army outnumbered the Israelite army, and likely had superior weapons and armor.
    - iii. We might understand the hesitance of the Israelites knowing that they were outgunned. But they had forgotten a very important part of the battle.
2. Goliath offends David (1 Samuel 17:17-58)
  - a. In verses 12-19, Jesse sends his son David to check on his brothers who were serving in Israel's army.
  - b. In verses 20-22, David arrives at the scene and greets his brother.
  - c. In the middle of catching up, Goliath comes out to make his daily challenge.
  - d. Upon hearing Goliath's challenge, David was stirred to action. See vs. 26.
  - e. David – who was most likely about 20 at the time – went straight to the king to volunteer to fight (vs. 31ff).
3. David confronts Goliath (vs. 40ff)
  - a. An important part of this lesson is understanding what motivated David to fight.

- b. It is interesting to note that David was offended by Goliath's words. Specifically, David references that he "defied" the armies of the living God.
  - i. David repeats the same charge in 26, 36, and 45.
  - ii. Defy means to blaspheme. While most of the onlookers saw only a giant, David saw a mortal man blaspheming almighty God. And this was a major offence to one who was following the God of Israel seriously.
  - iii. David was taking a stand for His Lord. It wasn't about David. It wasn't about the rewards (see vs. 25). This was about God. No one was going to blaspheme God in David's presence without a fight.
- c. Vs. 42-44: Goliath was not impressed with David!
- d. Listen to David's words in verses 45-47. Simply read these verses.
- e. David wanted there to be no misunderstanding:
  - i. David wanted everyone to know that there is a God in Israel (vs. 46)...
  - ii. That the battle was the Lord's...
  - iii. And the outcome was not dependent on the weaponry involved (vs. 47).
- f. David stands in a long line of people who were ready to stand for God no matter the consequences. *Think of Daniel, the Three Hebrew Children, etc.*
- g. APPLICATION: What would it take for you to take a serious stand for Christ in this world?
  - i. Look at David's question in verse 29, "Is there not a cause?"
  - ii. Today, God's name is blasphemed regularly. People have no respect for the things of God or even for God Himself.
  - iii. We will not be called on to physically fight a literal giant, but we may be called on to take a stand that will cost us our job, friendships, public admiration, etc.
- 4. David defeats Goliath (vs. 48-51)
  - a. Using a sling and stone, David struck Goliath in the forehead, bringing him to the ground where David took Goliath's own sword and cut off his head, completing the promise he had made in verse 46.
  - b. In response to his death, the Philistines fled while the Israelites pursued them, emboldened by the defeat of Goliath.
  - c. What does Hebrews 11:32-34 tell us about David's actions? By faith in God, David conquered Goliath and put the army to flight.
    - i. David would not stand for this Philistine enemy to blaspheme God and stand in opposition to the army of God's chosen people.
    - ii. God used David to lead Israel in defeating this army as He empowered David through His Spirit. David knew the character and promises of God, and he acted in faith.
    - iii. This is not a story merely to give us some moralistic incentive to be brave like David or to face up to the "giants" in our lives. Rather, it is a true account of how God showed Himself mighty to save His people from the Philistines.
    - iv. It was by faith, in spite of the lack of numbers and weapons, that they were able to have victory. David trusted in God, and God used David to defeat Goliath.

#### APPLYING GOD'S WORD:

- Don't forget that God is the Hero of 1 Samuel 17. Yes, David was the one who acted to defeat the foreign army, but it was because of his trust in God that he prevailed.
- In this we can see David as at least a shadow of the Good Shepherd who would come to lay down His life for the sheep of God's fold. Jesus, the Son of David, came to conquer an enemy far greater than Goliath. Our sin (and the death it deserved) was defeated by Christ's work on our behalf. As Israel looked to David as king, we must look to Christ and follow Him as King.
- What do we learn from David about placing our faith in God?