



David & Goliath: How To Walk By Faith 1 Samuel 17:1-50

Icebreaker:

Have you ever faced a “Goliath” in your life, where you felt like David facing a challenge much bigger than you?

Prayer Starter:

Say the Lord’s Prayer together as you begin. Say it slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully.

Discussion Questions:

Read the story as a group, verses 1-50, each person reading a paragraph. We might think that the weapon David used to slay Goliath was a sling and stone. But actually his weapon was his faith – his *love* for God and *trust* in God. It’s a weapon God gives to each one of us to use against our Goliaths.

1. The faith that David demonstrated in the story had two parts to it: his belief in God and his commitment to God.

Read Hebrews 11:1, then discuss why getting the right beliefs in your head and heart is important for faith.

Read James 2:17 and Matthew 7:24. It wasn’t enough for David to simply say, “I believe the battle is the Lord’s!” then do nothing. He had to commit himself to taking the field. Why is acting on our faith important if we want to change our lives for the better?

In the teaching we identified 4 scriptural ways to grow in our faith. Let’s go deeper with each idea.

Faith Tip #1: I Will Grow In My Faith As I Grow In My Knowledge Of The Word Of God

2. Read Romans 10:17. Why is it important for my faith that I learn how to think biblically, theologically, and transformationally? (Make sure you understand the difference between these deepening layers of knowledge.)

3. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the devil, he countered each of the lies Satan used with Scriptures that he had memorized. The following are some lies that Satan uses to get us stuck in place. As a group come up with one or two verses that would counter these lies.

You're worthless. Your life has no purpose. Just end it all.

You've sinned so much, God's fed up with you. If you even belong to him.

You'll never change. All you do is fail. This is stronger than you.

Just give in and sin. You can't do without that pleasure. Think of the relief it will give you. Everybody's doing it.

Forgive him? After what he did to you?! Just stay angry. It's the only way to convince him how he's hurt you.

Faith Tip #2: I Will Grow In My Faith As I Grow In My Love For Christ

4. "Faith is only as good as the object of our faith." What do we mean by that? And why is Jesus worthy of all our love and devotion?

5. Read John 14:15 and 1 John 4:18-19. PBC shared the story of a time when he was struggling with a persistent sin, and cried out to the Lord, "This sin is too strong!" To which the Lord replied, "Your love for me is too small." Some obey Jesus out of guilt. Some out of fear. Some out of ritual. Why is love the strongest motivator of all?

Faith Tip #3: I Will Grow In My Faith As I Grow In My Willingness To Take One Step Of Obedience Forward

6. Read Luke 17:5-6. Too often when challenged with the thought of stepping out in faith and changing something in our lives, we protest, "It's impossible! What God is asking me to do is too hard!" It actually wasn't an impossible thought though for David to face Goliath. Why?

7. Let's say you're stuck in endless grief. Is it actually impossible to choose to live again? What would taking a step of faith mean for you? (We can ask the same question about any area where we're stuck. What would a step of faith mean for you if you're stuck in unforgiveness, or in addiction, or in anxiety, or in _____.)

Growth Tip #4: I Will Grow In My Faith As I Grow In My Willingness To Trust Jesus To Walk With Me Through All Things, Even Suffering And Death

8. There is a small but very influential pocket of the wider Church that teaches a false doctrine commonly known as the “health and wealth gospel”, or the “Word of Faith movement”. The essence of their teaching is that if only a person summons enough faith, they will experience healing and prosperity in their lives, guaranteed.

Read Hebrews 11:32-40 (a portion of a great chapter, known as the “Hall of Fame Of Faith”.) Discuss some key lessons these verses teach about having great faith.

9. For Jesus, victory meant a cross. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Why did Jesus endure the cross? And why should we be willing to endure suffering for his sake?

Prayer Requests: