

# David and Goliath's Lesson

Week of Nov. 18 - 24, 2019

## Introduction

David is one of the best known characters of the Bible. He has the relate-ability of the Apostle Peter in the New Testament. Both have a full range of human emotions and characteristics. They are humble, hasty, faithful and fearsome.

David was the grandson of Ruth and ancestor of Jesus. During his life, he traveled extensively around the Holy Land, pursuing Godly goals as well as human distractions. He is known as the Shepherd King because he was the leader of Israel and brought Israel close to God. He was a warrior, a musician, a poet and human. In all his life experiences, we can see ourselves in our own faith journey. In this week's lesson, we follow him into a valley and learn how faith was his strength in the shadow of a giant.

## Lesson 1 Samuel 17:32-50

<sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." <sup>33</sup> Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

<sup>34</sup> 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, <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> 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 the Lord be with you."

<sup>38</sup> Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> 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.

<sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. <sup>42</sup> He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

<sup>45</sup> 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. <sup>46</sup> This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> 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.”

<sup>48</sup> As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup> 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. <sup>50</sup> 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.

## Questions

1. David is described as a young man by King Saul. He was probably a teenager. When have you been discounted by your age; either because you are young or old?

2. King Saul was afraid of Goliath. What are the fears of this world that make us afraid?
3. King Saul tries to help David by offering him his armor and weapons. They did not fit. When have others tried to help you with outsized advice?
4. The opposing forces of the Israelites and the Philistines stood facing each other on opposite ridges divided by the Valley of Elah. In order to engage Goliath, David had to walk down into the valley to face the giant. What did God provide for David when he left the safety of the Israelite camp and descended into the valley?
5. Goliath uses words to attack and slander David. Why do strong people often use words to demean others? How do their words stand up to the Word of God?
6. David uses an unconventional weapon to slay Goliath. When have you witnessed a little thing conquer a big enemy?
7. Although we like to identify with David, when has the church or Christians acted more like Goliath?

## **Prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you for the courage and faithfulness of David. Although he was a youth, you called him to do a mighty act on behalf of your people. Help us each day to follow you and find strength in your Word to bring deliverance and dignity. Amen