

Sermon Scripture References

1 John 5:3-4; Numbers 13:31-33; Genesis 3:15; 1 Samuel 10:23; Genesis 12:3; 1 Samuel 5:1-4; Romans 8:31-39

Sermon Description

The story of David and Goliath is the story of redemption in a nutshell. An enemy too big for Israel to handle threatens to unwind the covenant blessings God bestowed upon His people. A descendant of the Anakim, a people group Joshua drove out of the land during the conquest of Canaan, has returned (Num. 13:33). His name is Goliath. The fear that once paralyzed God’s people from wanting to enter the Promised Land has also returned. No one ones to fight Goliath because no one, it seems, could defeat the towering warrior.

Moreover, Goliath wore “bronze *scale* armor” (17:5). Such a description is designed to identify Goliath and His opposition to God’s people and purposes with another figure dressed in scales—the serpent of Genesis 3. What unfolds on the battlefield of Judah is far more than a military conflict between two nations. It is a crucial moment in the cosmic conflict between “the seed of the woman” and “the serpent” (Gn. 3:15), which is the keynote conflict in the story of redemption. In anticipation of the serpent’s ultimate defeat, a shepherd boy from Bethlehem drops the giant with a stone to the forehead and cuts off his head with a sword. Years later, another shepherd boy from Bethlehem referred to as the Son of David steps forward to deliver the decisive blow. Although Satan would strike Jesus’s heel on the cross, the Savior would crush his head. He provides victory over sin, Satan, and death for all who trust in Him.

*Teaching Tip*

The message emphasized that the meaning of this story is not to “be like David” but to “ look for David.” This does not mean that we should not imitate persons of faith. But, it does mean that imitation is not the primary message to be taken from this story (or from any Bible story, for that matter). We can encourage imitation if we are imitating those who exercise faith in Christ.

“The Gospel and Goliath” 1 Samuel 17

**Big Idea:** Jesus secured victory over sin, Satan, and death for all who trust in the strength of His life, death, and resurrection.

**Sermon Outline**

* + - * An Enemy Too Big to Handle
      * A People Too Afraid to Fight
      * A Hero Too Faithful to Fail

Sermon Outline

Discussion Primer

If possible before your next MC gathers, go to a public space and sit with Matthew 9:35-38. Pray and ask Jesus to open your eyes to see what he sees, stir your heart to feel what he feels, and empower you to serve as he serves. Share your experience with your MC. (If not possible beforehand, do so afterwards and before you next meeting).

Intersection: How does the text intersect with our lives?

* How have you understood the story of David and Goliath prior to Sunday’s message? What is the difference in meaning between trying to “be like David” and turning to “look for David?” Why is that shift in understanding important?
* What is meant by “vicarious victory?” And why is that important for the life of faith?
* How is Jesus our “champion?”
* Are you being bullied right now by sin, Satan, and/or the prospect of death? If so, would you mind sharing how? Take some time to pray for one another to fix the eyes of their faith upon our champion, Jesus.
* Wrap up your time today by having someone read Romans 8:31-39 aloud over the group.

Read ***1 Samuel 16:14-23*** and explore together what the passages reveal about:

1) The character and purposes of God? 4) Our identity in Christ?

2) The fallen human condition? 5) Our obedience to Christ?

3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? 6) Our relationship to others

Replicable Questions

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study.

Is there . . .

• a command to obey? • a beauty to behold? • a mission to fulfill?

• a promise to claim? • a truth to believe? • an example to follow?

• a sin to repent of? • a service to render? • a person to tell?

Application: “So, what now?”

Missional Community Study & Discussion Guide

Week of May 23, 2021

Leader Tips