

The Life of David

• Lesson Two •

David, the Giant Killer

Anything Is Possible When Your Faith Is in God

1. Faith conquers the fiercest enemies
2. In God's battles, the strength of man never determines the outcome
3. Give credit where credit is due

Worship

Psalm 124 is a testimony to God's truth: any obstacle and every enemy can be overcome. Read the psalm responsively:

L: If the LORD had not been on our side—let Israel say—

C: if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us,

L: when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive;

C: the flood would have engulfed us,

L: the torrent would have swept over us,

C: the raging waters would have swept us away.

L: Praise be to the LORD,

C: who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

L: We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare;

C: the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

L: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: the Maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer: O Lord, forgive us when we are afraid to face the enemies of your Word. Give us courage to stand firmly on the truth of Scripture and boldly proclaim your law and gospel. Help us to grip firmly the "sword of the Spirit," namely, your holy Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

Business cards. They create an impression.

"HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL"—A gunslinger's business card. He's serious, deadly, a mercenary.

"HAVE TUNER, WILL TRAVEL"—A piano tuner's business card. The card's catchy, appealing, an attention-getter.

"HAVE SLING, WILL KILL"—A giant-killer's business card. Funny, ridiculous, a joke? It's no joke. It really did happen. The account of David and Goliath is not fiction. The sling took on metal and muscle, and won!

Studying God's Word

William Tell is famous for shooting an apple off his son's head with an arrow. Samson is well known for his physical strength. Although David killed many other enemies, he is best known for defeating the giant Goliath with a sling. That took faith!

Faith conquers the fiercest enemies

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-40

What is faith?

For 40 days no Israelite would accept Goliath's challenge (v. 16). Why not?

How could a young shepherd boy think he could possibly take on a giant warrior like Goliath?

His Word in My Life

David killing Goliath is one of the all-time favorite Bible stories. It's a story of faith. What other Bible accounts of faith do you treasure? Why are these your favorites?

Fear. All of Israel's army, including King Saul and David's brothers, were afraid to face Goliath. Their faith was weak. We too have fears. Discuss how lack of faith and fear go hand-in-hand.

All it takes to move mountains is faith the size of a mustard seed (Matthew 17:20).

In God's battles, the strength of man never determines the outcome

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-58

1. How did a boy with a sling and a small stone overcome a seasoned soldier like the giant Goliath?

2. Scour these verses for evidence of David's trust in the Lord.
3. Why don't God's people need man-made weapons to face the challenges and win the battles that confront them? (See 1 Samuel 17:47: "*All . . . 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.*")

His Word in My Life

You've heard this saying: "The pen is mightier than the sword." How did the "sling" of Luther's pen defeat the powerful "sword" of the Roman Church? Consider the following statement: "Luther never used a sword to fight his battle. Instead, he used the "sword of the Spirit," the Word of God. His many writings, which taught God's truth, won the victory over the errors of the church of his day." Why is it true? What does it mean for us in the church today?

Nonbelievers have been heard to argue with Christians: "Prove to me where God came from and then I'll believe." Look up John 20:29. Explain why insistence on proof is the enemy of faith.

Man's weapons cannot replace faith in God and trust in his promises to win the battle.

Give credit where credit is due

1. Even though this lesson stresses the pure childlike faith of young David, David's faith was important only because it put him in contact with the power of God. Why is this point an important one for us to keep in mind? (See 1 Samuel 17:45-48)
2. When might David's words in 1 Samuel 17:47 be especially meaningful for you? Can you think of a fellow Christian who might need to hear them right now?

3. David gave credit to God for his victory *before* the victory had happened! What can we learn from that?

His Word in My Life

Faith can see the outcome before the battle is fought. Why? Share an example of this from your life. Do you thank God for “victories won” before or after the fact?

Is the Christian being overconfident when he says that he *knows for sure* that he’s going to heaven when he dies?

Hope. In secular conversation the word denotes something we’re looking for in the future. It’s something we’d like to get or expect to get, but it’s not a sure thing. Hope seems to be “iffy.” Christians say, “I hope to go to heaven when I die.” Read the following passage and see if you still think that hope in the Christian context is an “iffy” thing.

“A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time” (Titus 1:2).

All our victories come from God. Thank him. Tell others.

Summary

Goliath’s sword was a “trophy” of David’s faith (1 Samuel 21:9).

Trophies of faith—things that help us remember the victories God has won for us. Do you have any? (People? Things? Pictures?)

Life with God

Memorize Isaiah 55:8: *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.”*

Memorize 1 Samuel 17:47: *“The battle is the LORD’s!”*

Memorize Matthew 17:20: *“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*