

DISCUSSION NOTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-58. Make 5-7 observations. Where is God mentioned in the passage? What action takes place? What is repeated? What stands out most to you?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. How does chapter 17 read like a commentary or illustration of 1 Samuel 16:7? What is notable about Saul? What is notable about Goliath? What is notable about David?
3. Compare and contrast the courage of Goliath with the courage of David. What does Goliath boast about? What does David boast about?
4. In verse 37, David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." What role does his past reliance upon God play in his current dependence upon God? How is this idea reinforced by Jesus in Luke 16:10?
5. In verses 38-40, David tries on the king's armor, and it says that "he tried in vain to go" out in the oversized battle dress. What does this say about where Saul has placed his trust? How might this moment be a dangerous temptation in which David begins to doubt?
6. In verses 45-47, why does David say he is fighting? Where is his focus and trust?

LIVING IT OUT

7. In verse 32, David says about Goliath, "Let no man's heart fail because of him." We all face things in life that can cause us to fear or lose courage. Consider your own experience, and fill in the following blank for a common struggle in your life: Let no man's heart fail because of _____.
8. Dale Davis says, "In God's economy, no experience is wasted...Looking back in faith allows [David] to look forward in faith." Can you name times in your past when God was faithful to deliver you from tough times? How does this truth make you thankful for both the unpleasant times and the pleasant times in your faith journey?
9. How does David's example encourage you to live a "theocentric" or God-centered life? What role does theology have in shaping your day-to-day actions and emotional health?
10. In your life, what does it look like to passionately seek God's honor with both humility and boldness?
11. How is Jesus the "greater David"? Read Isaiah 53:2-5, Romans 8:31-38, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58. How is he overlooked as an unimpressive figure? How does he go beyond risking his life to actually sacrificing his life for his people? How is his victory over Satan, sin, and death greater than David's victory over Goliath?
12. What is one thing from this lesson that you will seek to live out this week?