

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17 – leader's version

For an hour study, just do the starred * questions

Check in – ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

What does the passage say and mean?

90 minutes

*1. **STICKERS** Read 1 Samuel 17v1-11. Why do you think the Israelite army felt dismayed and terrified when they saw Goliath?

2. Do you think they were right to feel this way? (Look at what God had said in Deuteronomy 7:1-6 and 7:17-21 about clearing the land of unbelievers)

From a human point of view, fear seems very reasonable. But in view of what God had said, they should have trusted that God would win this battle.

3. Read v12-19. We know from 1 Samuel 16 that David has been anointed to be the next king of Israel. What is he doing at the moment and what are his older brothers doing?

David is a shepherd, going back and forward from the front line to the sheep to get information for his father (he's also Saul's armour bearer and musician). His brothers are in the army full time.

*4. Read v20-33. How do the Israelites respond to Goliath's challenge? (v16 and v24)

These trained soldiers run from him in fear!

*5. What does king Saul promise to the man who can deal with Goliath? (v25)

Money, marriage into the royal family and exemption from tax – Saul is desperate!

*6. **SHOUT-OUT** Still no-one has come forward to fight the giant – what does this tell us about Saul, David's brother Eliab and the rest of the Israelite army?

Write the answers in 3 columns on the flipchart.

Saul	<i>Afraid to fight Goliath himself and afraid of the giant / the Philistine army – Saul hasn't ordered his army to overpower him. Saul is not fulfilling the role of king - see 1 Samuel 8:19-20 to see what a king was expected to do.</i>
Eliab	<i>A soldier who is afraid to fight Goliath.</i>
Israelite army	<i>They ran in great fear, v24. Imagine the scene, 40 days (v16) of lining up in ranks, being shouted at and mocked by a giant and then running away! As we look at it now, the situation had become comical. Saul, Eliab and the army are not trusting God's promises made to Moses in Deuteronomy.</i>

Questions 7-9 are **SELF-DIRECTED QUESTIONS**. You need to write them on flip-chart sheets for the group to work on in pairs.

*7. **SDL** How does David respond to Goliath's threat and what does this tell us about David? (v26)

His concern is that Goliath is defying the army of God – David reveals that the honour of God's Name is of first importance to him.

8. **SDL** How does David's brother respond to David's questions? (v28)

He burns with anger and criticizes David for inquiring about killing Goliath. Perhaps he's jealous, as he knows that David was anointed by Samuel to be king of Israel.

9. **SDL** How does Saul respond to David's offer? (v33)

He looks at David and thinks he is unable to help.

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David's brother Eliab knows David is the anointed king – he was there in chapter 16 – but he doesn't acknowledge him as his king. Do you acknowledge Jesus as King in your life? Are there ways in which you act like Eliab and ignore or ridicule your King?

*10. Read v34-37. What evidence does David give Saul that he can defeat Goliath?

He knows from his own experience that he capable of killing Goliath, but more importantly he knows that God will defeat Goliath because Goliath is defying God.

*11. Why will Goliath die? (v36)

Because he has defied the armies of the living God – thus he has defied God.

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Read Ephesians 2:1-3. In what way are people today like Goliath, and why is this a problem?

We are sinners (rebels against God) and the Bible says that we are dead in our sins. We follow the ways of the world, the flesh and the devil. This makes us objects of God's wrath (righteous anger), and leads to death both physically and spiritually.

12. Who is in charge of the outcome of the battle between the Israelites and the Philistines?

God is sovereign over all. He is ultimately in control of who wins this battle, regardless of the way it looks from man's point of view.

*13. Read v38-40. Who is acting like a king and who is not?

David is, he's defending the realm. Saul is not – he's sent a young boy out against the warrior his soldiers are afraid of, and he hasn't gone himself. The role of a king was to lead his army. Saul is sat in safety, David is now out in no-man's land, defending God and country.

*14. Read v41-44. On a human level, who do we expect to win?

Goliath

15. Read v45-47. Where does David get his confidence from and who is going to know it?

From God and in God. v47, 'All those gathered here will know... that the Lord saves...' – the Philistines and the Israelites (who hadn't asked God to help).

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Where do you get your confidence from when trouble comes?

How do you think your ability to cope with situations would change if you looked for strength from God instead?

The situation may not change, but our ability to cope with it does when we ask God for help. 'I can do everything through him who gives me strength'

Phil 4:13. As David said, other people may be drawn to find out more about God because of what they see in you as you face trouble with God's strength.

*16. Read v48-58. God's shepherd defeated the enemy of God's people. What battle does this point forward to?

The cross. Look at how Jesus describes himself and what he will do in John 10:11 – David is the pattern of the one to come.

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Read Ephesians 2:4-5. How do you respond to knowing that Jesus has defeated your greatest enemy?

You may need to explain the gospel again here.

17. David killed Goliath and then the Israelite army defeated the rest of the Philistine army. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What does the Bible say is our role, as believers (v10-13) and what is our armour (v14-18)?

To be strong in God's power (not our own), to put on God's armour and stand against the devil's schemes. We are in a spiritual battle. Spend some time unpacking the armour and thinking about how it protects us e.g. the belt of truth, the gospel is the truth of God revealed to us, we know God's word and Satan can't stand against it. When tempted we can respond with Scripture, as Jesus did.

Check out – ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.



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1 Samuel 17

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Saul	
Eliab	

Israelite army	
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14. Read v41-44. On a human level, who do we expect to win?

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