

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 18

### David fights for God's honor

1 Samuel 17:1-58



## DAY 1

Goliath attacked God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:1-11

### READ

1 Samuel 17:1-11

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 17:1-11

What are you afraid of? What do you do when you are afraid? Saul and Israel were afraid. They were once again powerless before the Philistines, and they cowered before a monstrous champion (1 Sam 17:1-3). Goliath was 9 feet 9 inches tall, at a time when 6 feet was unusually tall. Also, at a time when Israelite soldiers did not have metal weapons or armor (13:22), Goliath's armament was stunning. His bronze scale armor weighed 125 pounds, over twice as heavy as even a large soldier would wear. Goliath also wore a helmet on his head and greaves on his shins, and he had a massive shield carried by his armor-bearer. He was loaded with weapons—a straight sword, a javelin, and a massive spear. His spearhead alone weighed 15 pounds, compared to about 1 pound for a typical spearhead. How did Saul and Israel respond? They were paralyzed with fear. They focused on Goliath's external appearance and forgot that God can win even against overwhelming odds (14:6). They did not care enough about God to risk their lives to defend God's honor.

### ASK

- How tall was Goliath?  
*Goliath was 9 feet 9 inches tall.*
- Why were Saul and Israel so afraid of Goliath?  
*They were afraid because they focused only on Goliath's terrifying appearance.*
- What did Goliath trust in??  
*His own strength and weapons.*
- What was so bad about Goliath defying the army of Israel?  
*By mocking the army of Israel, Goliath was also mocking the living God of Israel.*

### DISCUSS

- What are you afraid of? Why are you afraid? Does your fear come from looking at things from a human perspective instead of remembering God?
- Do you hear or see people around you dishonoring God? When they do, how do you respond? This week, how can you speak and act to honor God?

## DAY 2

David was jealous for God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:12–30

### READ

1 Samuel 17:12–30

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 17:12–30

What David saw didn't scare him. It angered him. By defying and insulting the army of the living God, Goliath was defying and insulting God Himself—not a dead, lifeless idol, but the living God who is alive and present with His people (1 Sam 17:26). This simple shepherd from Bethlehem was *jealous* for God's glory. He was so in love with God's honor that he became angry against those who dishonored God. What mattered to David was not Goliath's size but God's *glory*, God's *honor, greatness, and praise*. After all, God's glory is the reason for everything (Isa 43:7; Rom 1:21–23; 9:17; 1 Cor 10:31). David's older brother didn't see things as David did (1 Sam 17:28). Perhaps Eliab was still angry at having his little brother chosen over him (16:6–7), or maybe, like the rest of Israel, Eliab saw only the outside and misjudged David's heart. Either way, Eliab shows once again how radically different David was. What about you? Are you tempted to see things like the world around us, according to human judgment and outward appearance? Instead, see things from the perspective of God's glory.

### ASK

1. Who sent David to visit his brothers?  
*Jesse, David's father, sent David to deliver food to his brothers and their commander.*
2. What was different about the way David responded to Goliath?  
*Instead of being afraid of Goliath's appearance, David was jealous for God's glory.*
3. Why was David's older brother angry with him?  
*Eliab may have been jealous or thought David was showing off. He was judging from a human perspective.*
4. How was David different from the rest of the soldiers?  
*David cared about God's glory more than anything.*

### DISCUSS

1. Normally jealousy is bad thing. Why was David's jealousy a good thing? Is it ever right to be angry (Eph 4:26; Col 3:8; Jas 1:19–20)?
2. What makes you angry? Is it when people offend God's glory? Or is it when people offend you?

## DAY 3

David prepared to defend God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:31–40

### READ

1 Samuel 17:31–40

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Samuel 17:31–40

Does your view of God affect your behavior? Because Saul ignored God, he judged David by his appearance just like Eliab did (1 Sam 17:33). Saul saw that David was not a trained warrior. But David had a right view of God. In fact, David gave his own king a lesson in *theology*, in truth about God (17:34–37). David gave God the credit for his victories over lions and bears. He saw God at

work in the past, so he trusted in God to make Goliath just like all the other wild animals. Some trust in chariots, or in big giants encased in armor, but David trusted in God (Ps 20:7; Ps 33:16–19; Ps 147:10–11). But Saul, who was still consumed with externals, offered David his armor (1 Sam 17:38). The king was supposed to fight Israel's battles, but instead he sent his armor-bearer to fight! Saul became the armor-bearer, and David acted as king. In the end, David rejected Saul's armor and any outward appearance of kingship. Instead, he went out like a shepherd to protect his people (17:40). David's view of God made all the difference.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. Why did Saul think David would be unable to defeat Goliath?  
*Because David was young and Goliath was a veteran warrior.*
2. Why did David expect to beat Goliath?  
*David knew God had delivered him in the past, and David knew God always acts for His glory.*
3. What did Saul put on David?  
*His armor.*
4. What does the arming scene show about David?  
*It shows that David will be a true shepherd of his people, and Saul is not.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Do you know someone who really knows God and trusts Him? How can you tell? How does it affect their attitude and actions?
2. Like Saul, we all naturally fear man and judge by appearance. So what can you do to correct your theology, so that you will have a right view of God?

**DAY 4***David fought for God's glory • 1 Samuel 17:41–58***READ** 

1 Samuel 17:41–58

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of 1 Samuel 17:41–58**

Did you notice that Goliath actually agreed with David on one thing? They both knew this was more than a battle between two men, or even two armies. It was a battle between two opposing worldviews. Is God the true God, or are Goliath's gods the true gods? This perspective motivated David in two ways. First, David was jealous for God's glory (17:45). No matter the risk, he could not sit idly by while godless men dishonored God. He wanted all men to know that God is God (17:46–47). Second, David trusted in God's power. He believed he would be victorious because the victory would be God's, not his own (17:47). David fought for God's glory with confidence because he knew God also fights for His glory—and always wins. So with a run and a whirl, David hurled the stone into Goliath's skull (17:48–49). As Goliath lay dying, he got what he deserved—he was decapitated with his own sword (17:50–51). Just as Hannah predicted, God crushed the proud and gave strength to His anointed king (2:10).

**ASK** 

1. What motivated David to fight?  
*(1) David fought for God's name, so that everyone would know that God is the true God. (2) He fought by faith in God's power.*
2. How did Goliath get what he deserved?  
*David cut off his head with Goliath's own sword.*
3. Who actually won the victory that day?  
*God did. God fights for those who trust Him, because He fights for His own glory.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. David was a man after God's own heart because he valued God above all (1 Sam 13:14). What do you care about the most?
2. David was courageous because he was on God's side and God always wins. How can this truth help you to say no to sin and do what is right even when it is hard or scary?

## DAY 5

Jesus cleanses the temple • Matthew 21:12–17

### READ

Matthew 21:12–17

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 21:12–17

Why does the story of David and Goliath end by mentioning David's hometown of Bethlehem (1 Sam 17:58)? Because 1,000 years later, another would be born in Bethlehem—another humble shepherd jealous for God's glory (Matt 2:6). Jesus showed His jealousy for God's glory when He cleansed the temple. Right after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He drove out everyone selling sacrifices and exchanging money in the court of Gentiles, a large open area that was part of the temple complex (Matt 21:12). He could not bear to see His Father's house—a place of prayer—turned into a house of thieves (21:13). He was jealous for the glory of His Father. In fact, He cared so much about His Father's glory that He died for it (John 21:19). But just as God saved Israel from the Philistines through David, so He now rescues believers from death through Jesus (Rom 6:6–8). Why does He do this? In order that those He saves will go on to live by faith in God (2 Cor 5:7, 9) for the glory of God (1 Pet 2:9–11), just as David did.

### ASK

1. What town is mentioned at the end of the story of David and Goliath?  
*Bethlehem, the home of David and of David's descendant, Jesus.*
2. Who did Jesus drive out of the temple?  
*Those selling animals for sacrifices and those exchanging money.*
3. Why did Jesus cleanse the temple?  
*Because those buying and selling had dishonored the temple, His Father's house.*
4. What do David and Jesus have in common?  
*They were both jealous for God's glory.*

### DISCUSS

1. How do David and Jesus show us the right way to act based on godly anger? Is it a human outburst or is it controlled by God and dependent on God?
2. Who should be afraid of God's passion for His glory? Who should be encouraged by God's passion for His glory? Do you live for His glory?

## NEXT WEEK

### God gives David a friend

1 Samuel 18:1–20:42

