

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 11

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO THE LORD



1–2 SAMUEL



MEMORY VERSE

“Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.”

—2 Samuel 7:16



THE LORD'S BATTLE

CORE PASSAGE: 1 SAMUEL 17:32-40,45-50

CONTEXT

Since the time of Joshua and the judges, notably Samson, the Philistines were a thorn in Israel's side. In 1 Samuel, the Philistines defeated Israel and captured the ark of God, which was returned through the work of God Himself. Later, with the Lord's help, Saul and his army put the Philistines to flight. But in 1 Samuel 17, the Philistines again gathered for battle against God's people, and this time Saul and the entire Israelite army were afraid on account of the Philistine giant Goliath. David, on the other hand, had begun his rise to prominence, and his battle with Goliath solidified that he was God's choice for Israel's king.

KEY CONCEPT

We can trust God to be sovereign over all our battles.

As you read 1 Samuel 17:32-40,45-50:

- Recognize that when Saul and the army lost faith, David trusted in God's faithfulness in the past to help him.
- Understand that God may use us in mighty ways, but He is the One who can claim the victory.



TIMELINE

Saul Disobeys and God Rejects Him as King (1 Samuel 13–15)

SESSION STUDY:
David Defeats Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

David Flees from Saul
(1 Samuel 20–23)

Samuel Anoints David as King,
and David Serves Saul (1 Samuel 16)

Saul Grows Paranoid and Attempts to Kill David
(1 Samuel 18–19)

David Spares Saul (1 Samuel 24)

Daily Readings

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: 1 Samuel 17:1-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: 1 Samuel 17:41-54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: 1 Samuel 17:12-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: 1 Samuel 17:55-58 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: 1 Samuel 17:31-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Psalm 35 |



Scan this QR code
to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

1 SAMUEL 17:32-40

GOD IS THE ONE WHO PREPARES US FOR BATTLE.

Circle the phrase David used about himself three times. What does this reveal about David?

32 David said to Saul, “Don’t let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!” **33** But Saul replied, “You can’t go fight this Philistine. You’re just a youth, and he’s been a warrior since he was young.” **34** David answered Saul, “Your servant has been tending his father’s sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, **35** I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it. **36** Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” **37** Then David said, “The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.” **38** Then Saul had his own military clothes put on David. He put a bronze helmet on David’s head and had him put on armor. **39** David strapped his sword on over the military clothes and tried to walk, but he was not used to them. “I can’t walk in these,” David said to Saul, “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off. **40** Instead, he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pouch, in his shepherd’s bag. Then, with his sling in his hand, he approached the Philistine.

Key Concept: We can trust God to be sovereign over all our battles.



In this passage we jump into a behind-the-scenes conversation before a famous face-off in the Bible. Twice a day for forty days, the Philistine giant Goliath blasphemed the name of God while taunting and terrifying the army of God (vv. 3-11,16), and neither King Saul nor any other warrior had risen to Goliath's challenge.

But then young David, zealous for God's name and concerned for God's people, offered to take down the giant. What gave him such confidence? Through his work as a shepherd, David had been equipped by the Lord with the strength and fortitude needed to face the giant Goliath. Though David detailed his battles against lions and bears, he gave the credit for his success to the Lord (v. 37).

In His providence, God orders our lives in such a way that no moment is wasted. Through our experiences, including the difficult ones, God builds our faith and character for what's next (Romans 5:3-5).

How can we ensure that we are depending on God's power for our battles rather than our own resources?

So David, a young, confident shepherd with a sling, walked forward in faith toward a giant Philistine clothed in

armor from head to toe. The mere sight of Goliath was enough to impart fear to Israel's army (1 Samuel 17:11), but David was full of faith and conviction that God would continue to stand for His people.

Often we are like the Israelites, fighting fear, doubt, and worry as we look at the battles ahead. Throughout the Bible, fear often grips God's people, but God graciously counsels, "Do not be afraid." We have a true and better champion than David in Jesus Christ. When we fix our eyes on Him, we can endure the battles ahead with confidence, knowing He will grant us the ultimate victory.

How can our faith in God transform the ways we typically respond to threatening circumstances in our life?

GOSPEL CONNECTION



David was an unlikely hero who saved the Israelites. His future descendant, Jesus, did even better: He saved the whole world. Jesus is the ultimate victor, defeating our greatest enemies, sin and death.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

1 SAMUEL 17:45-50

WE MAKE IT KNOWN THAT GOD IS THE ONE WHO FIGHTS OUR BATTLES.

Circle words repeated throughout the passage and consider how they contribute to the meaning of the passage.

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with a sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel—you have defied him. **46** Today, the LORD will hand you over to me. Today, I'll strike you down, remove your head, and give the corpses of the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the wild creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, **47** and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the LORD saves, for the battle is the LORD's. He will hand you over to us.” **48** When the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet the Philistine. **49** David put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground. **50** David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone. David overpowered the Philistine and killed him without having a sword.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

GOD: There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all-powerful and all-knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

Key Concept: We can trust God to be sovereign over all our battles.



Goliath had defied the name of God and taunted the people of Israel for forty days, and finally someone answered his challenge, but not one he would have expected. As David approached Goliath, the mismatch between the opponents became apparent. David was “just a youth, healthy and handsome” (v. 42), and Goliath was a giant, battle-worn warrior. But the discrepancy in height and armor did not deter David from standing firm. He did not fight from bravado or arrogance; he faced Goliath to defend God’s honor and demonstrate God’s power.

Often life’s challenges seem larger than life itself. We recognize our insignificance and inability to navigate them by our own power. Yet this is where faith in God helps us move forward. Depleted of our own strength, we learn to rely on the power of God to fight our battles.

How might recognizing your own weakness help you rely on God’s power through life’s battles?

David made it known that God was at work in this fight. David said there would be two results of his battle with Goliath. First, all the world would know that Israel has a God (1 Samuel 17:46). God does not slumber or sleep or leave His faithful people to fight their battles alone. Second, everyone would know that the Lord does not save by sword or spear but by His own hand (v. 47). David’s victory was not determined by his hand, his sling, or his stone—the Lord won the battle. God empowered David to defeat Goliath despite all earthly odds.

No doubt David received many accolades after defeating Goliath, but David knew who deserved the credit. The truth is God may use us and those around us, but He is the only One who can claim victory. When we face life’s challenges successfully, we may be tempted to take the credit for standing firm. We must remember, however, that God provides everything for us, including the breath we need to exist (Job 34:14-15).

How can you make sure God gets the credit for the victories in your life, both small and significant?



SOURCES OF CONFIDENCE

Read the following Scripture passages and write down the various sources of confidence the people relied upon for their battles.

DAVID (1 SAMUEL 17:34-37)

SAUL (1 SAMUEL 17:33,38-39)

GOLIATH (1 SAMUEL 17:45)

DAVID (1 SAMUEL 17:45-50)

How does reflecting on God's faithfulness in the past give us confidence in our present struggles?
What encouragement does this passage give about the difficulties we face in life?

Key Concept: We can trust God to be sovereign over all our battles.



HEAD

How can you better prepare for life's challenges, knowing to expect difficulty as a follower of Jesus?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Pray through Psalm 35, keeping in mind the difficulties you face that require God's help. Focus on verses 9-10 and express gratitude to the Lord for His deliverance. Revisit the ways God has answered your prayers and tell others how He has helped you.



HEART

How does David's battle with Goliath encourage you to be confident in the Lord in the face of your fears?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

How will you rally behind Jesus to pursue the nations with the gospel of Christ?

