

DAVID AND GOLIATH

Salvation belongs to the Lord.

THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 16:14-23

MONDAY

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul marking an end to his reign

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul marking an end to his reign – There is a striking contrast between 1 Samuel 16:14 and 16:18. The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul in verse 14. But the Lord was very much with the young man David. Saul called for the youth and was comforted by David’s music. We, too, are comforted by David’s psalms. In the providence of God, many of David’s psalms have been preserved. Saul made David his armor bearer, but there is no evidence that Saul was even using his armor at that time. In fact, by the end of 1 Samuel 17, Saul can’t even remember who David’s father was (1 Samuel 17:56).

TALK ABOUT IT:

What change happened in Saul’s life in this chapter? (*The Spirit of the Lord left him.*)

Does the Spirit of God still come upon men today? (*Yes. When we become Christians, God fills us with His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with us based on Jesus’ work - not our own. Consequently, the Spirit is with us forever!*)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for the gift of His righteousness and the gift of the Holy Spirit.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 17:1-30

TUESDAY

Goliath challenged Israel, and Saul failed to confront him

Goliath challenged Israel, and Saul failed to confront him – Saul was Israel’s king, the one who was chosen to fight Israel’s battles (1 Samuel 8:20). Saul was also the most qualified. He was described as being taller and stronger than all the other people (1 Samuel 10:23). Instead of rising in faith to meet Goliath, Saul stayed behind the lines, dismayed and terrified (1 Samuel 17:11). Here we see the effects of God abandoning Saul. Not only had he begun to go mad and was tormented by an evil spirit, but he was quite immobilized with fear.

Without God’s Spirit, Saul’s “greatness” was useless to Israel.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did Saul fail Israel in this story? *(He failed to have faith in God's power and might to overcome Goliath and the enemies of God's people. He provided no inspired, godly leadership to his people in a time of crisis. This is what often happens to men when they allow sin to separate them from God and His help.)*

What did David do when he heard the Philistine giant? *(David was upset and began to speak of Goliath's insults as being insults toward God.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help us care about God's honor and trust God as David did.



THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 17:31-39

WEDNESDAY

The key to seeing Jesus in this passage is found in the words of David to the giant:

Where is Jesus?

The Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand. (1 Samuel 17:47)

The Lord saves by His Spirit. King Saul did not understand that David could triumph over Goliath by God's power. Goliath trusted in his own power and mocked David. David understood that his battle would be won not by might, but by the Spirit of the Lord.

The battle for our salvation was won on the cross by God's power in Jesus. Though the crowds tried to force Him to become king, Jesus knew the battle was a spiritual battle that would only be won on the cross.

In 1 Corinthians 15:50-56 we read of the victory that Jesus won for us. Just as David won a victory over the Philistines and saved the Israelite soldiers from death, Jesus won the final victory over death, giving us the opportunity to live forever with Him in heaven.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where was David's trust in the fight with Goliath? *(David placed his trust in the Lord.)*

How is that different from Saul? *(Saul did not believe that David could win. Saul had David put his armor on. This reveals that Saul was still not trusting God but in "sword and spear.")*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you trust in the Lord as you fight the daily battle with our great enemies - the world, indwelling sin, and the devil.



David, speaking for God, confronted and killed Goliath

David, speaking for God, confronted and killed Goliath – When David heard the threats and mocking of Goliath he heard it differently than others did. Rather than hearing only a threat to Saul’s army, David heard Goliath’s remarks as a threat to the armies of the living God. Unlike Saul, David was a man after God’s own heart. God wanted to be the commander of the army and David desired the same. Filled with faith, David confronted Goliath with the truth and power of God.

David refused Saul’s armor saying,

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. (1 Samuel 17:37)

Goliath mocked David and boasted in himself. David boasted in the Lord. Then he spoke a prophetic word to Goliath saying, “The battle is the Lord’s and He saves not with sword and spear” (1 Samuel 17:47). David understood that salvation was the Lord’s. Before the battle had even begun, the victory was prophesied and the credit for the victory was ascribed to the Lord in advance.

David killed Goliath with a stone from his sling and cut off Goliath’s head with Goliath’s own sword. Israel pursued the Philistines and routed them all the way to Gath, Goliath’s hometown. The victory was won by Israel, and Saul was left to watch.

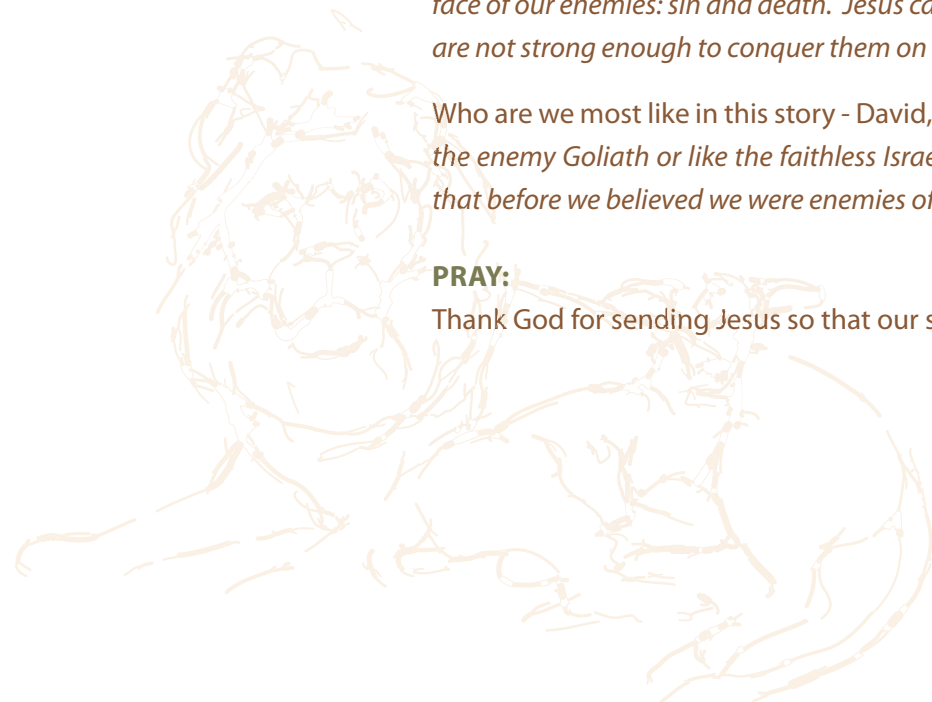
TALK ABOUT IT:

How is David like Jesus in this story? *(David brought salvation to God’s people who were too weak to conquer their enemy on their own. That is exactly our condition in the face of our enemies: sin and death. Jesus came to conquer sin and death for us since we are not strong enough to conquer them on our own.)*

Who are we most like in this story - David, Goliath, or the Israelites? *(We are more like the enemy Goliath or like the faithless Israelites than we are like David. The Bible says that before we believed we were enemies of God.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus so that our salvation could be won!





Christ is the maker of the heavens and the earth (Colossians 1:16). Jesus is the shepherd, and we are the sheep (John 10:9).

On the road to Emmaus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does Psalm 95:3-8 remind you of Jesus? (*Jesus is the creator of all things. He is our shepherd and takes good care of us when we hear His voice.*)

What did the people do at Meribah that we shouldn't? (*Exodus 17:7. The people grumbled because they did not have water. They forgot the Lord and longed to go back to Egypt.*)

Why is complaining foolish? (*We need to be sure to trust the Lord and not follow our cravings. God gives us everything we need. When we lack what we need to do His will, we should simply ask Him in faith for what we need.*)

PRAY:

Worship the Lord for His wonderful work in creating the heavens and the earth. Ask God for grace so that you always remain grateful for what God has done. Ask him to help you never harden your heart against God, but to always hear His voice.

