

The Story: Chapter 11
From Shepherd to King

Pastor Kevin Donoho

June 25, 2023

MAIN SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 17

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX
CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED
INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE**
QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE
LEADER.
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX**
QUESTIONS:

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

This week's story is well known, both in the church world and in secular culture. Together, let's examine the different characters of the story and how they relate to our lives.

Thought #1: The Expected Hero

Read 1 Samuel 17:8-11

"Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel. "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistines' words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified."

The scene was set. This was the moment that Saul, as the King of Israel, could have risen to the occasion and been the King they had dreamt of. And yet, he was "dismayed and terrified".

In 1 Samuel 8:19-20, we read where the people of Israel insisted on a king.

"We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

The main reason they had chosen a King was for him to fight for them. And now when Saul has the opportunity to do just that, he's paralyzed with fear.

In what ways do you relate to Saul in this moment? Have you faced a giant, past or present, that seems too great to overcome? How has this fear caused you to pause, stop or even turn around? When faced with a giant, have there been expectations (your own or others) that you have struggled to live up to? How has this shaped your mindset or belief when facing "giants" in your life?

Thought #2: The Unlikely Underdog

Read the following passages:

1 Samuel 17:14-15

"David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem."

1 Samuel 16:7

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

From the get-go, David didn't appear as the likely hero. He was smaller, younger, and NOT a seasoned soldier. And yet God knew that his **heart** was exactly what was needed to slay this giant.

Where Saul sees Goliath and thinks we don't have a chance, David sees the same giant and knows that with God, Goliath doesn't have a chance.

Where have you seen, either in the past or present, God use an unlikely underdog? This may be you or someone else in your life. Share this story with your group. Where do you feel small, weak, or unskilled as you go into battle?

1 Samuel 17:45-46 says *“David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.”*

David's confidence wasn't founded in his own strength, but rather in the Lord. This distinction is important for us as well. Our confidence isn't linked to our ability but rather to who fights for and with us. David knew this from how he had seen the Lord work in the past and how he had been rescued before. Take time to recognize the same with your group. Share moments of rescue and victory where you have seen the Lord deliver you from the hands of your enemies.

Armed with this, what giant are you currently facing that you can approach with

confidence? How does your perspective shift when you remember who the battle truly belongs to?

Thought #3: The True Hero

Pastor Kevin reminded us that the temptation in this story is to put David in the position of glory. To stare in awe of him when truly this story is an invitation to stare in awe of God.

David was amazing, but not for the reasons the world would have us believe. It wasn't about his talent with a sling, his aim, or even his courage that set him apart. It was his unwavering trust in God.

Where, in either the past or present, have you turned to or relied on your own strength or resources to fight the battle in front of you? Where have you leaned into the belief that if you simply worked harder or strategized better you would see victory? Where have you grabbed for power over surrender?

Why does taking a posture of surrender feel like weakness? Are there specific areas of your life that you struggle to choose surrender? Are there situations you have chosen surrender and seen victory because of it? Share these with your group.

In the days and weeks ahead, how can you choose weakness and surrender in your life? How will this leave space for God to be strong? How will your choice for surrender be a testimony to the true hero in our own story?

Prayer:

As a group, create space to pray specifically over the “giants” that were mentioned during this discussion. Pray that you will be reminded of who fights for and

