

King David of the Bible is an ancient reflection of Luke and Anakin Skywalker. He is the truest of friends—and yet his love is used by fear to cause great damage to himself and his people. We must look at his life and insights to discover the secret to keeping our love from being corrupted and doing damage.

BIG IDEA: The greatest enemy of love is fear. When God is with you, you can love without fear.

SCRIPTURE:

The entire story of David is great...I recommend reading starting in 1 Samuel 16. There's a lot to learn.

David vs. Goliath – 1 Samuel 17

David's most famous victory over fear was when he faced Goliath:

34 David replied to Saul, "Your servant has been a shepherd for his father's flock. Whenever a lion or bear would come and carry off a sheep from the flock, **35** I would go out after it, strike it down, and rescue the sheep from its mouth. If it rose up against me, I would grab it by its jaw, strike it, and kill it. **36** Your servant has struck down both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them. For he has defied the armies of the living God!" (**1Sam 17:34-36, NET**)

David was the most loving of friends:

David protects Saul, his enemy, in the cave – 1 Samuel 24 David refuses to kill Saul again while he sleeps – 1 Samuel 26 David mourns the death of Saul – 2 Samuel 1

David failed to take action with his family, because he was afraid to lose them:

David's son Amnon rapes his sister – 2 Samuel 13 David's son Absalom runs him out of the palace – 2 Samuel 15-19

When God is with us, we can love without fear:

God promised to be with Joshua:

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be <u>frightened</u>, and do not be dismayed, <u>for the</u> <u>Lord your God is with you wherever you go.</u>" (Josh 1:9, ESV)

Did you know that Jesus made us the same promise before He left??? Check out his words...

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt **28:18-20**, **ESV**)

David's understanding of God's presence is recorded throughout the book of Psalms, but most famously in Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, <u>for you are with me</u>; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Ps 23:1-6, ESV)





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Which character in Star Wars are you most like, and why?
- 2. In what areas of life are you fairly fearless?
- 3. (If you are or have been military, describe the process the army used to prepare you for battle and how it helped you deal with fear for your group.)
- 4. What normal life scenarios make you feel uneasy or afraid?
- 5. Is there someone you love, but tend to let fear keep you from taking the hard actions with? (Confrontation with a boss, discipline of a child?)
- 6. Is there someone (or something) you love so much that you've hurt others to protect them or their interests?
- 7. Do you feel that you live with God present in your life? Why or Why not?
- 8. What strategy for spending better time with God have you tried, that did not work?
- 9. What new strategies might help make that change more possible?

