

A background image of a bookshelf filled with books of various colors and sizes. The books are arranged on several shelves, creating a dense, textured backdrop. The colors range from dark blues and greys to warm browns and reds. Some book spines are visible with text like 'ENGLISH HISTORY 19-1943' and 'Oxford'.

Story Tellers

DAVID:
1 SAMUEL 16-18

Read

1 Samuel 18:1-9

As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.² And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.⁴ And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.⁵ And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.⁶ As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments.⁷ And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,

Read More!

“Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”⁸ And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?”⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day on.

Cross Reference: Hebrews 11:32-34

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Ask

David was anointed king in 1 Samuel 16, but his life didn't instantly change—he went back to the field and kept caring for sheep before facing Goliath. Have you ever felt like God was leading you somewhere, but nothing seemed to change? What might God be doing in the 'small' or unnoticed parts of your life right now to prepare you for something bigger, and what would it look like to keep growing instead of checking out?

David remembers how God helped him defeat the lion and the bear (1 Samuel 17:34–37). Why is remembering past faithfulness important when facing new challenges? What was a time when God helped you before that could give you confidence in a current situation?

King Saul tries to put his armor on David, but it doesn't work for him (1 Samuel 17:38–40). What does this teach us about being prepared in the way God has designed us? Have you ever tried to handle a situation by copying someone else instead of trusting how God has uniquely equipped you?

Eliab watched David be anointed as king, yet later he still tears him down in 1 Samuel 17:28. Have you ever felt jealous, insecure, or threatened by someone you knew was doing well or being used by God? What does it look like for you to choose encouragement instead of comparison or ill will?

Gospel Sharing Tool

1) **Ask permission:** “Can I ask you a spiritual question?”

2) **Ask 2 questions:** “What happens when you die?” “If God asked, ‘Why should I let you in?’, what would you say?”

3) **Listen + Repeat back**

4) **Share Gospel in 4:** God / Us / Jesus / Response

5) **Invite:** “Where are you at with Jesus?”

6) **Follow up:** “Want to talk/read more this week?”

7) **Pray for and or with them:** “Can I pray with you?”





THE GARDEN
YOUTH MINISTRY

Sundays
9 AM, *Netcong*
10 AM, *Randolph*
11:15 AM, *Netcong*

Wednesdays
7 PM, *Netcong*

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