

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Check out your notes from this week's sermon. What stood out?
Did you hear anything for the first time? Were you challenged?
Was there anything you found difficult or disagreed with?

INTRO QUESTION

Have you ever backed down from something—not because it was wrong—but because it seemed way bigger than you?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - 1 SAMUEL 17:1-30

What do we learn from the active role of the Philistines ("gathered their forces") versus the passive role of Saul and the Israelites ("assembled")?
How does this ongoing conflict shape our understanding of Saul's leadership and the stakes of this moment?
Why is the narrator so detailed in describing Goliath's size and armor? What effect is that intended to have on the reader—and on Israel?
How does Goliath's challenge in v.8 echo the language of 12:13 ("the king you have chosen")? What is the irony here?
Discuss the contrast between David's eagerness at the front lines (v.22) with Saul hiding among the supplies in 10:22.
David's first recorded words are theologically charged. How does his perspective differ from the rest of Israel?
In what ways do David's words echo Hannah's prayer in 2:10 and Jonathan's declaration in 14:6? What does that say about the kind of faith God honors?
How does the reaction of David's brothers (vv.28–30) parallel the reaction Jesus received from His own family in Mark 3:20–21?

TAKEAWAYS

THE LIVING GOD TRIUMPHS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

1 Corinthians 1:18; Colossians 2:15

Are you overlooking how often God works through people and in ways that no one expects?

Where are you tempted to measure success or victory the way the world does—by strength, popularity, or power—rather than through the lens of the cross?

IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN STAND AGAINST US?

Romans 8:31-39

Do you react more to what you see than to what you believe about God?
Jesus already crushed the real enemy at the cross, though the enemy is still working, do you act like the enemy is winning?

KNOWLEDGE APPLIED

What does this teach us about people? About Jesus? How will we better obey Christ based on what we've just learned? Who will we share this with?