

STORIES OF FAITH

David and Goliath

Emma West

PREPARATION & PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you eyes to see and ears to hear what he wants to say to each of you as you delve into this familiar passage.

READING SCRIPTURE

Read the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-58) together, taking it in turns to read paragraphs out loud. As you read, notice any words or phrases that particularly stand out to you and share these with each other after you've finished reading.

A STORY OF GODLY CONFIDENCE AND STRATEGY

In 1 Samuel 16:7 we learn that God's ways are different to our ways. When Samuel searches for the new King God has chosen he is told that 'The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

God chooses David, the youngest of all Jesse's sons, an unlikely choice for a King. In the story of David and Goliath we learn that God uses unlikely people, he prepares them in unlikely places, and he equips them to do unlikely things.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. What things do we look at to determine someone's suitability? In what ways are our conventional views confronted by this story?
2. What is it that prompts David to volunteer to fight Goliath?
3. What parallels do you see between David and Jesus?

STEPPING OUT

When David puts himself forward to fight Goliath, the first thing he hears from Saul is three reasons why he shouldn't (1 Samuel 17:33). When we step out and put ourselves on the line, we often face pushback. This might come in the form of other people's criticism (e.g Tall Poppy syndrome: 'Who do you think you are? ') or our own inner critic (e.g Imposter Syndrome: 'Who do I think I am?')

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Which voice are you most susceptible to: others' or your own? How do you respond?
2. Notice that David never refers to Goliath by name, instead referring to him as 'this Philistine' or 'this uncircumcised Philistine'. Why do you think this is?
3. When have you stepped out in faith? What happened?
4. Can you identify any opportunities in your life for you to be bold and step out right now?

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

David knew God. He learnt to cultivate a relationship with Him in the hidden place of the field as he tended his father's sheep. He knew God to be faithful and had confidence that 'The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine'. (1 Samuel 17:37)

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Where have you seen God's faithfulness? Tell others the story.
2. Looking back at your life, how might God have prepared you for where you are now?
3. How do you cultivate a relationship with God in the hidden place?

PRAYER

In pairs or small groups, share with each other any battles you are facing at the moment (they may be personal, professional, spiritual). Declare over each other that 'the battle is the Lord's' and ask the Lord to empower you by his Spirit.