

A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a sunburst effect where bright light breaks through a thick layer of dark, heavy clouds. The sun is positioned behind a range of mountains, creating a powerful glow that illuminates the scene. Below the mountains, a wide valley unfolds, showing a mix of green fields, brownish-yellow earth, and scattered trees. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and divine light breaking through adversity.

CALLED

Ephesians 4:1b

**...lead a life worthy of your calling, for
you have been called by God.**

Ephesians 4:16

¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow,** so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Listening to others

1 Samuel 17:32-51

³² “Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!”

³³ “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied.

“There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”

**Don't listen to people who speak
against what God has called
you to do**

³⁴ But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. ³⁶ I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!

37 The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the LORD be with you!”

38 Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again.

40 He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

⁴¹ Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, ⁴² sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. ⁴³ “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

45 David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 Today the LORD will conquer you,
and I will kill you and cut off your
head. And then I will give the dead
bodies of your men to the birds and
wild animals, **and the whole world will**
know that there is a God in Israel!

**Your calling should be used to be
draw people close to God**

47 And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!"

48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him.

49 Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. ⁵¹ Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

**When we obey God we win
and there is always a reward**

**Don't listen to people who speak
against what God has called
you to do**