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## BIBLICAL CHARACTERS

### David: Living in the Face of Disadvantage

Pastor Tom Mercer, *The Oikos Movement*

## 1 Samuel 17

*Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.*

1 SAMUEL 17:1-3 (NIV)

**1** **A C C E P T** the **C H A L L E N G E**.

*A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.*

1 SAMUEL 17:4 (NIV)

## 2 FIGHT the BATTLE.

*David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

**1 SAMUEL 17:26 (NIV)**

## 3 SECURE the VICTORY.

*So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.*

**1 SAMUEL 17:50 (NIV)**

*"Goliath had as much of a chance against David as any Bronze Age warrior would have had against an opponent armed with an automatic .45 pistol."*

**ROBERT DOHRENWEND**

*David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.*

*When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.*

**1 SAMUEL 17:51-52 (NIV)**





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## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 In the story of David and Goliath, what qualities or characteristics did David possess that enabled him to face and defeat Goliath? How can we apply these qualities to our own lives when facing challenges or obstacles?
- 2 Reflecting on the encounter between David and Goliath, what can we learn about the power of faith and trust in God's guidance? How can we cultivate a deeper trust in God during difficult situations?
- 3 Goliath was a formidable opponent, physically intimidating and heavily armored. Despite this, David chose to face him with a different approach. How can we learn from David's unconventional strategy in tackling our own personal "Goliaths"? What creative solutions can we employ when confronted with seemingly insurmountable challenges?
- 4 King Saul initially doubted David's ability to defeat Goliath because of his youth and lack of experience. How can we avoid underestimating others based on outward appearances or societal expectations? How can we encourage and support individuals who may not fit the conventional mold but possess unique gifts and strengths?
- 5 After his victory over Goliath, David's fame grew, and he faced both praise and jealousy from others. How can we handle success and recognition in a way that remains humble and gives glory to God? How can we guard against envy or resentment when others achieve success?



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## Upcoming Events

- 07.04 | Independence Day (Offices Closed)
- 07.08 | Grandparenting Matters  
Summer Playdate
- 07.10 | Venture at Lakeside Begins
- 07.23 | Summer Nights - Country Night
- 07.30 | Summer Nights - Thrive Worship  
& Baptisms