



Jesus, the True and Better David

OPENING: Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group.

Series Overview: David's victory over Goliath points beyond a lesson about facing our personal giants. Israel needed a representative champion and shepherd-king to fight on their behalf. Jesus is the True and Better David—the Champion whose victory over sin and death becomes the victory of everyone who trusts Him.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- When fear rises, what is your most natural response: fight, flee, freeze, avoid, or overthink?
- What is something that looked intimidating from a distance but became more manageable once you faced it?

DISCOVER

Read Together: *If you can prep everyone beforehand to read 1 Samuel 17, that would be great. Or you can read it as a group. The KEY verses to read are 1 Samuel 17:8-11, 26, 32-37, and 45-50.*

Initial observations + Interpreting Scripture:

- Initial Thoughts: What stood out to you from the passages or from the sermon?

Unpack the Story

- The Israelite soldiers focused on Goliath's size, weapons, and threats. David focused on the "living God." How did their different views of God shape their different responses?
- David remembered God's past faithfulness with the lion and the bear. Why is remembering what God has done an important weapon against present fear?
- What does David mean when he says, "The battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47)? How does that truth fit with the fact that David still had to step onto the battlefield?
- Israel's fate rested on the outcome of its representative champion. How does that part of the story prepare us to understand what Jesus has done for us?

Personal Reflection

- What circumstance are you currently framing mostly by what you can see rather than by who God is? How might faith describe that situation differently?
- Where are fear, discouragement, or criticism keeping you from a faithful step God may be asking you to take?

Gospel Connection

David risked his life as Israel's shepherd-champion, but Jesus laid down His life for His sheep. David defeated an enemy with a stone and a sling; Jesus defeated sin, death, and the powers of evil through apparent weakness—nails and a cross. We are not the hero standing in David's place. We are the helpless people whose Champion fights for us. When Jesus becomes our representative, His victory becomes ours (John 10:11; Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

- How does it change the way you face sin, suffering, or death to know that the decisive victory has already been won by Jesus?

APPLY – Practicing Covenant Kindness

- **Fight Against Sin:** What recurring sin or temptation requires renewed dependence on Jesus and honest support from others?
- **Fight for Joy:** What lesser treasure is competing with Jesus for the central place in your heart?
- **Remember God's Faithfulness:** Name one past example of God's provision or presence that can strengthen your faith today.
- **Take the Next Step:** What faithful action can you take while trusting that the outcome belongs to God?

GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group:

- **Praise Jesus:** Thank Him for being the Shepherd-King who laid down His life and the Champion who conquered sin and death.
- **Pray Against Fear:** Ask God for power, love, and self-control where fear has produced hesitation or inaction.
- **Pray for the Fight Against Sin:** Confess specific areas of struggle and ask Jesus, our Advocate, for mercy and strength.
- **Pray for Courageous Faith:** Ask God to help each person show up, step out, and obey while trusting that the battle belongs to Him.

CLOSING

- Close by reading Romans 8:31 aloud: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Encourage the group to remember throughout the week: Jesus has fought for us, His victory is complete, and His victory becomes ours through faith.