

1 SAMUEL 17 The Lord's Chosen King's Victories

What is your favourite underdog winning story?

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-31.

1. Read and note down the physical descriptions of the following people:

- Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:4-7
- Saul: 1 Samuel 9:2, 10:23-24
- Eliab: 1 Samuel 16:6-7
- David: 1 Samuel 16:11-12, 17:33

2. On the surface, who seems the most suitable to fight Goliath? (See also 9:16.)

3. What does Goliath say (17:8-11)? What attitude does he display towards Israel, and towards Israel's God?

4. How do the following people respond to Goliath's challenge?

- Saul: 1 Samuel 17:11, 25

- The Israelite army: 1 Samuel 17:11, 24

- David: 1 Samuel 17:26, 32

6. Goliath challenges the Israelite army to "choose a man" to fight him (17:8). Who has Israel *already* chosen to fight against the Philistines for them (8:19-20)?

Read 1 Samuel 17:32-58.

7. David and Goliath are both supremely confident that they will win the fight. Why?

8. What is the outcome of the fight? What details stand out to you in the account?

9. Look back over verses 38-54. How does the narrative emphasize God's role in giving David the victory?

10. How does 1 Samuel 16:13-14 help explain the differences between David's and Saul's behaviour?

When Saul and the Israelites look at Goliath, they see a monster. But when David looks at Goliath, he sees someone defying the armies of the living God. That is the difference, the Spirit has come on David, and so he can see what the Philistines really are: not a big army led by a giant, but the enemies of the unstoppable God of Israel. God has anointed David, and so has given him the Spirit to do the job of an

Israelite king: delivering God's people by fighting the Philistines (1 Sam 9:16). As it turns out, it is not just anyone who can defeat the enemies of God and his people. It is only the Lord's anointed.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-57.

11. What victory has God won for us through Jesus, his anointed one?

Implications

(Choose one or more of the following to think about further or to discuss in your group.)

- How does Jesus' victory over sin, death and Satan change the way we handle the various kinds of sin and suffering we face in our own lives?

- In what ways do we try and defeat these enemies on our own?

- Read Colossians 2:13-15. Why is this a comfort to us when we are facing off against the enemies of sin and suffering?

Give thanks and pray

- Thank God that he has given us the victory over sin and suffering through the Lord Jesus.
- Apologize to God for the times you have tried to fight these battles in your own strength rather than relying on the grace of God in Jesus.
- Pray that God will help you rely more on Jesus than yourself when you are facing problems in your life.