



THE RISE AND FALL OF A KING

THE LIFE OF DAVID

A Giant Problem

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | 1 Samuel 17:1–50

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

What is a favorite 'underdog' story (in sports, for example)? Why do we like them so much?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Read the story together. Describe the details that make Goliath such a formidable foe.

Compare the attitudes of Goliath, of Saul, and of David.

Who are Goliath and David representing? What does that add to the story?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

How is Jesus a 'true and better' David? Compare who David and Jesus fight for, as well as what David and Jesus accomplish in their victories. Read 2 Cor 5:17-21; 1 Cor 15:1-4 and 1 Cor 15:50-58; Hebrews 2:14-15.

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

For the encouragement of one another, recount some times the Lord provided for you, even in unexpected and incredible ways. The same God (the 'Living God') who delivered David for His Name's sake is the same God today — and tomorrow!

Like David, how does knowing well the true God – and His character – help us when we face the unexpected?

How can that help this week?

Pray for one another.

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

Read and retell the story, highlighting David's perspective and God's role. Share how knowing and trusting God, as David did, gives confidence since God is God. And confidence, since we are His children in Christ. Pray together that you will walk in that confidence in specific situations you are facing.

FURTHER STUDY:

To read more on the Gospel connections in this story, go to www.crossway.org/articles and search for 'David and Goliath Is about More than Having Courage' by Greg Gilbert.

Read A.W. Tozer's classic book 'Knowledge of the Holy' to know better the 'Living God.' Tozer begins: 'What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. ... The most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.'



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QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S SERMON:

Rise and Fall of a King – David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 20:1-42 — January 17/18

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next weekend, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

1. Describe the friendship between David and Jonathan. What was at stake?
2. What do Jonathan's arrows and Saul's spear add to the story? How do they reveal Jonathan's heart and Saul's heart?
3. Describe how this is more than mere friendship. What greater Good unites David and Jonathan?
4. What in this text confuses you?
5. What in this text compels you?
6. Thank God for your friends.