

A CHALLENGE OF FAITH

We put our trust in God knowing that when we face a challenge of faith, He will take care of us.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ In one of the most famous Bible stories, the young David defeats the mighty giant warrior, Goliath, with a slingshot (1 Samuel 17).
- ❖ At the heart of the story is a question of faith: will David believe God when his faith is tested? Do we have the assurance/trust in God that He will take care of us? As David noted: “the battle is the Lord’s” (v. 47).
- ❖ Now, the phrase “He will take care of us” might not mean the same thing to God as it does to us.
- ❖ God is sovereign – the supreme power – and the way that God looks at things is quite different than the way humanity looks at things (see Isaiah 55:8-9). We see this in David’s calling to be King.
- ❖ The first King of Israel, Saul, was not following the direction of the Lord, so God decided to remove Saul and have a new king anointed, i.e., David.
- ❖ The Lord sent the prophet Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king, but did not tell Samuel who it would be; he would be shown at Jesse’s house which son to anoint as the new king (1 Sam. 16:6-7).
- ❖ Samuel began looking at external factors, but God had entirely different selection criteria.
- ❖ Though we may be willing to put our trust in God when we face a challenge of faith, we won’t necessarily know *how* He will take care of us. We just need to have confidence that He will.
- ❖ The scriptures provide a detailed description of Goliath to illustrate the magnitude of David’s challenge (1 Sam. 17:4-7). Goliath was a giant, which represented a significant challenge to young David.
- ❖ In this modern time we are not in conflict with physical giants, but Goliath is symbolic of the types of challenges to our faith in God that we face today, such as unforgiveness, anxiety, doubt, job loss, praying for the impossible, and serving in ministry.
- ❖ It is important for us to recognize these challenges when we encounter them. What we see with our natural eyes is not always all that is in view.
- ❖ In the story of David and Goliath, the casual onlooker would likely see the classic story of the underdog facing the powerful champion.

KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 17:41 - 47

- But David had a different view (1 Sam. 17:45). For David, this was a challenge of faith.
- ❖ He knew the opposition he was facing was about something deeper. It was about something spiritual – his trust in God.
 - ❖ It is important to recognize the challenge of faith that we are facing and respond appropriately in faith.
 - ❖ David declared that he was facing the giant in the name of the Lord. He was fighting a physical giant, but his faith wasn’t in his weapons. His faith was in the Lord. David had a sling but his faith wasn’t in his sling; it was in God (Proverbs 18:10).
 - ❖ It took courage for David to demonstrate faith in God in this challenge, but David’s confidence and faith came from his past experiences with God.
 - ❖ So what does this mean for the challenges of faith that we face today? We need to have assurance in God and in His Word.
 - ❖ When we face challenges of faith such as unforgiveness, anxiety, doubt, job loss, praying for the impossible and serving in ministry, God will take care of us and empower us to overcome.
 - ❖ If we are willing to put our trust in Jesus when we face a challenge of faith, He will take care of us. Like David said: “This is the Lord’s battle.”

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What does faith mean to you?
2. Reflect/Discuss: What types of experiences with God tend to generate faith?
3. Why do you think the story of David and Goliath is so popular?
4. What do you think we can learn from the story of David and Goliath that can help believers overcome challenges of faith?
5. Describe the impact of David’s faith on the nation of Israel. How does our faith impact the people around us?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, please help me to put my trust in You, knowing that when I face a challenge of faith, You will take care of me. In Jesus’ name. amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Do you enjoy extreme amusement park rides? Why or why not? (What are your favourite types of rides?)