

Message Discussion Guide THE IMPROBABLE CHAMPION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

April 11, 2010

1 Samuel 17

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Encourage learners to share what they remember of the story of David and Goliath. Invite them to explain what they have been told is the main application point of the story. Then explain that today you will discuss how the primary objective of the story is to give glory to God.

Option 2

Invite several learners to share about a time in their lives when they were so concerned with God's name that they could not be quiet or remain inactive. Explain that today you will discuss how David could not let Goliath abuse God's reputation and went against great odds to defeat him.

Review the Message . . .

A Chronicle of Redemption...

- Prologue: Creation
- Part 1: Redemption Promised to a Covenant People
- Part 2: The Law of the Land
- Part 3: Failed _____ Kings _____ in a United Kingdom
 - Saul
 - David
 - Solomon

Three Facets of this Story...

- An _____ invincible _____ character.
- An _____ impossible _____ challenge.
- An _____ improbable _____ champion.
 - He was passionate for the _____ glory _____ of God.
 - He was confident in the _____ power _____ of God.

Message Discussion Guide

THE IMPROBABLE CHAMPION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

April 11, 2010

1 Samuel 17

Discussion

- Remind learners that today's message is at the beginning of passages concerning Israel's earthly kings. Ultimately these kings failed the people of Israel as they did not lead His people to follow Him fully.
- Enlist a learner to read 1 Samuel 17:1-11. Invite learners to describe Goliath based on this passage. Explain that his height was approximately 9 feet 9 inches; his armor weighed about 125 lbs; and his spearhead weighed about 15 lbs. Based on this information, why would the Israelite soldiers be afraid of him?
- Inform learners that the word *champion* used to describe Goliath was a term used to describe a man who fought on behalf of his army. How did Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army illustrate his reputation as a champion?
- What was King's Saul's response to the challenges of Goliath?
- Remind learners that Saul was taller than all of the people of Israel from his shoulders upward (1 Samuel 9:2). What does Saul's physical stature and his reign as a representative of God indicate about his responsibility to address Goliath's challenge?
- Enlist a learner to read 1 Samuel 17:12-40.
- Looking at verses 24-26, how did David's perception of the situation differ from that of the surrounding soldiers?
- Focusing on verses 33-37, contrast David's view of Goliath's challenge with Saul's view? What was the difference in their focus?
- Enlist a learner to read 1 Samuel 17:41-54.
- How did Goliath insult God?
- What was David's motivation in challenging Goliath? What was his purpose in battling him?
- Whose power did David put his faith in to defeat Goliath?

Three Levels to this Story...

- Individual History...
 - The character: Goliath.
 - The challenge: Defeat the giant.
 - The champion: David the soon-to-be king
- National History...
 - The character: Surrounding nations.
 - The challenge: Deliver God's people.
 - The champion: David the shepherd king
- Redemptive History...
 - The character: Satan.
 - The challenge: Destroy sin.
 - The champion: Jesus the Savior King

Message Discussion Guide

THE IMPROBABLE CHAMPION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

April 11, 2010

1 Samuel 17

Discussion

- How did David's defeat of Goliath give testimony to God and His choice of David as Israel's future king?
- How did God's defeat of Goliath through David affect Israel as a nation in the middle of hostile nations?
- How did David's leadership as a shepherd lead the entire nation to trust in God?
- How does David's defeat of Goliath parallel that of Jesus' defeat of sin and Satan?
- Read 1 Timothy 2:6. Why is the world in need of a Savior to destroy sin?
- Why is Jesus' defeat of sin a permanent solution to the victory of His followers for all time?

Three Prayers from this Story...

- God, help us to live with passion for Your glory.
 - In every _____ problem _____ we face.
 - In every _____ place _____ we go.
- God, help us to live with confidence in Your power.
 - We do not fight _____ for _____ victory.
 - We fight _____ from _____ victory.
- God, help us to look to Jesus as our champion...
 - In every _____ temptation _____ and sin we encounter.
 - In every _____ trial _____ and struggle we experience.

Application . . .

- David's greatest concern when fighting Goliath was that God's name was glorified. His passion fueled his behavior. What does our behavior indicate about our passions?
- What are we most concerned with when we endure problems or challenges?
- Why do we often think that God is most glorified in the removal of problems/challenges?
- How can we bring glory to God's name despite the existence of long-term challenges (that may not end)?
- When are we to be concerned with the glory of God?
- What places do we consider as inappropriate for sharing Christ? Why do we act like some places do not need to glorify God?
- When we read the story of David and Goliath, which character in the story do we think represents us?
- Why might it be dangerous to view ourselves as David?
- Knowing that Christ has already defeated sin, why should we view ourselves in the role of the Israelites? What are the implications for us when we claim the role of the Israelites?

Message Discussion Guide
THE IMPROBABLE CHAMPION

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

April 11, 2010

1 Samuel 17

- Remembering the meaning of *champion* in this passage, how does looking to Jesus as our victorious Champion affect how we see temptations and struggles in our lives?
- What is a practical way that we can live in victory over sin?
- What is a way to remind ourselves that our Champion is always with us in our struggles?