



August 24, 2025  
*A Man After God's Heart*  
**Confidence in the LORD**  
1 Samuel 17

1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Has there been a time in your life when you had to confront someone in a position of authority or power that you knew was doing something wrong (either morally or legally)? How did you respond? What emotions did you experience during the situation? Did you have the support of others who knew of the problem, or did you need to act on your own?
- b. Who is the tallest (or largest) person you know? Does their height (or size) intimidate you? When you were in grade school, how did your size relative to other students affect what you did and who you played with? How did the importance of a person's size change as you became an adult?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
  - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
  - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. **Least Reached People Group: Oki-No-Erabu of Japan** (*from the IMB "Loving the Lost Through Prayer" guide*)

“The Oki-No-Erabu (OH-kee-noh-eh-RAH-boo) live on a small island southwest of Japan's modern, bustling cities. Fierce samurai once ruled this island. At another time, it was a prison settlement. Today, the island is called “Flower Island” because Easter lilies grow there. Even though Easter lilies are native to their island, the Oki-No-Erabu don't know the Easter story. They haven't heard that Christ rose from the grave, defeating the power of sin and death. Instead of worshiping Jesus, they worship ancestral spirits, and fear unseen powers called “kami” that must be appeased to keep them safe. Pray that the Oki-No-Erabu people will hear and respond to the gospel in faith and begin to glorify God in peace as they work the land and enjoy the beautiful island He made.”

3. **Sermon Key Points**

- a. A Familiar Story Whose Point Is Often Missed.
- b. David Saw What God Saw.
- c. Nobody Can Defy God Forever.
  - i. God is perfectly just and all-powerful, so He won't permit someone to defy Him forever.

- ii. Everyone has defied God - our only hope of escape is through Jesus.
- d. The Lord Will Fight the Battles To Which He Calls You.

#### 4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
  - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
  - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
  - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
  - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

NOTE: This week's focal passage presents one of the most well-known stories from the Bible: David and Goliath. Most learn the story first as children, and because of its familiarity, don't spend much time exegeting the text. Instead, influenced by our childhood instruction, we just assume it teaches us about "facing the giants of our life" (which is probably not the point at all) and move on. This week, as we study the six major sections of 1 Samuel 17, try to put aside what you think you know about David and Goliath and study the chapter as if you had never heard the story before

#### b. Monday:

- i. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11.
- ii. These verses set the stage for the events to follow. What are the most significant facts you learn from them?
- iii. Unlike many other battles in the Old Testament, we are not told the size of the armies facing each other. Read 1 Samuel 13:2 & 5. What does this suggest about the size of the armies facing each other?
- iv. Do a Google search for pictures and maps of the Valley of Elah (or its modern name Wadi en-Sant). How does the valley compare with what you may have imagined from the text?
- v. How would you describe the Philistine's champion? In addition to already being a "big" man, what would the armor do to his appearance?
  - 1. Your Bible may have a note that some early Hebrew texts say four cubits instead of 6. That would make Goliath only about 6 ½ feet tall – still about a head taller than the average Israelite (who were relatively short). If this is a more accurate figure, how would it compare to King Saul (see 1 Samuel 9:2 and 10:23)?
  - 2. How would this lower height make the message of verse 11 even more supportive of God's rejection of Saul as king (see 1 Samuel 15:26)?
- vi. What is your reaction to Goliath's challenge in verses 8-10? Man-to-man combat to reduce bloodshed or precede a full battle was fairly common in these times. Read 2 Samuel 2:14-17.

#### c. Tuesday:

- i. Read 1 Samuel 17:12-23.
- ii. What additional information do these verses provide about the military situation? How long had this standoff been going on? When did Goliath make his challenge?
- iii. Bethlehem is about 12-14 miles from the Valley of Elah. Which of Goliath's daily challenges would David have likely heard? Did David react as we so often do and "put off responding until tomorrow"?
- iv. In David's day, armies did not have the extensive logistical structure we are used to today. They had to live off the land or be supplied by local residents. What does Jesse's voluntary provision for his sons and their commander communicate to Saul? What did Jesse assume was happening but was not?
- v. What does verse 15 suggest about the uniqueness of this trip by David?
- vi. What did David do with the supplies he was bringing? What did he do next? How does David's action compare with Saul's in 1 Samuel 10:21-23? Which action do you think is most fitting for a call of God?

*d. Wednesday:*

- i. Read 1 Samuel 17:24-30.
- ii. What was the reaction of the men of Israel to Goliath? It is often pointed out that fear is contagious. Does that seem to be true in David's case?
- iii. What was the reward Saul was offering to the one who could kill Goliath? Obviously, Saul wanted to win this battle, but what practical reasons would he have for making his daughter part of the reward? What would this suggest about Saul's primary concern?
- iv. From David's response (verse 26), what was his primary concern?
  1. In your own words, how would you characterize David's response?
  2. How does David's description of Goliath in verse 26 differ from that of the other men in verse 25? What does David's reminder about circumcision communicate to the men?
- v. What was David's elder brother Eliab's reaction to his comments? What did Eliab assume David's motive was?
  1. What does this tell us about his brother's understanding of the anointing of David that Samuel performed in chapter 16?
  2. How does Eliab's response validate Matthew 10:36 and Micah 7:6? What lessons can we learn from it?

*e. Thursday:*

- i. Read 1 Samuel 17:31-37.
- ii. Although it is not apparent to us in the description of David's comments in our Bible, what message must they have conveyed to get King Saul's immediate attention?
- iii. How would you paraphrase David's initial comments to Saul (verse 32)? How might a king hiding from an enemy have taken such a comment from a young boy?

- iv. How does Saul's response to David show that he certainly has not learned the lesson Samuel gave in 1 Samuel 13:14? What should have been the standard Saul used to judge David?
- v. What did David point to in his resume to justify his ability to fight Goliath? What was the "trump card" that convinced Saul (verse 37)?
- vi. Given all that was at stake in the outcome of the coming battle, what can we conclude about the source of Saul's command at the end of verse 37?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read 1 Samuel 17:38-51.
- ii. Why would Saul have tried to have David wear his tunic? If David had done so, where would some of the credit for the victory likely have gone?
- iii. What reason does David give for not wearing the armor?
  - 1. Read Paul's description of the armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-17. What relationship do you see between David's refusal to wear the armor because "he was not used to them" and our command to wear the armor? What does this suggest we must do so we don't find ourselves "not used to" God's armor?
  - 2. What was Goliath's reaction to David? What weapon did he assume David was going to use? Instead, what "weapon" did David claim would give him victory (verses 45-46)? How does this compare with what Paul is telling us in Ephesians 6:10-17?
- iv. How did David approach the "battle" with Goliath (see especially verse 48)? How does this compare with how we tend to face the battles we face as Christians?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Finally, read the rest of the chapter, 1 Samuel 17:51-58.
- ii. In addition to victory over Goliath, what else did God provide the Israelites that day? If only Goliath had been defeated, would the outcome have been significant? What did this event show the nation about David?
- iii. Since David didn't capture Jerusalem until much later in his reign as king, what does verse 54 tell us about the order of events described in 1 Samuel? What do verses 55-58 suggest about the relationship between Saul and David before this battle?
- iv. Even though David had been anointed to be king, what does the last sentence of the chapter tell us about how he will respond to Saul in the future?

5. **Application:**

- a. We need to see the evil that we face with the same clarity God does. Since all sin is an offense against God, we should be appalled not because of how it might affect us but because it is an affront to Almighty God. Our goal should always be to honor and glorify Him.
- b. The outcome of this cosmic battle against evil is predetermined – God wins (it isn't even a contest). Paul tells us clearly in Romans 14:10-12 that every "Goliath" will one day bow and give an account to God. Knowing this allows us to face any battle with the same confidence David had. Ultimately, it is God who will fight any battle He calls us to.