

Check in on the app or Text in your attendance to # 208.904.3222 Message: Here

Give in the app

If you are new, download the Real Life Ministries app and create a profile!

Women’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1777

Men’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1822

“ Heart of Courage“

Opening Passage: Psalms 18:28-32

THE STORY

STORY SET UP:

- Israel at the time was at war with the Philistines.
- The Philistines were a major military powerhouse in that region.
- They had better swords, spears, armor – you name it, they had it.
- Throughout the Bible, they were a recurring enemy of Israel.

STORY BEFORE TALKING TO THE KING:

- After David was anointed king, the Philistine army gathered for war, and Saul met them in battle.
- Goliath, the Philistine giant champion, came out and defied the armies of God.
- He shouted, “Come down and fight me. If you win, we will be your slaves, but if I win, you will be ours.”
- He is described as being over 9 feet tall, with armor that was massive and intimidating.
- Saul and the entire army were terrified.
- For forty days, the giant continued coming out to defy Israel and God.
- Jesse, David’s father, sent David to bring food to his brothers who were serving in the army.
- When David arrived, he saw Goliath come out and defy God.
- The men were afraid, but David began asking questions, and word of it got back to Saul.

DAVID TALKS TO SAUL:

- David told Saul, “I will take on Goliath.”
- Saul replied, “There is no way you can beat that giant.”
- But David shared how God had rescued him from lions and bears, saying, “The Lord who rescued me before will rescue me again.”
- Saul answered, “Go ahead, and may the Lord be with you.”
- Saul gave David his armor, but it just didn’t work for him.
- So David went out with his shepherd’s staff and picked up five smooth stones.

1 Samuel 17:40-51 (NLT) He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.⁴¹ Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, ⁴² sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. ⁴³ “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled. ⁴⁵ David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! ⁴⁷ And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!” ⁴⁸ As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. ⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. ⁵¹ Then David ran over and pulled Goliath’s sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

TRUTHS FROM THE STORY

THE COURAGEOUS HEART:

aw-mats'= to be strong, alert, courageous, brave, stout, bold, solid, hard

- Being courageous doesn't mean having no fear. It means potentially being filled with fear and still taking steps forward anyway.

Psalms 56:2-4 (NLT) I am constantly hounded by those who slander me, and many are boldly attacking me. 3 But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. 4 I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

- How do you be Courageous:
 - Trust in the Lord and His promises.
 - Look to His strength, not our own.
 - Throughout Israel's history, they struggled with turning to their own strength
 - Isaiah 30:15-18 (The Lord is waiting for you to come to Him)
 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Aslan example)
 - 1 Peter 5:7 – "Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you."

THE GIANTS WE FACE:

- Refusing to let the world corrupt us (James 1:27)
- The things in this world (1 John 2:15-16)
- Trials and sorrows (John 16:33)

DITCHES TO COURAGOUSNESS:

- I wasn't courageous, I failed, now I can't follow God.
- If you are courageous, the giant always falls (Hall of Faith).

THE GOSPEL:

- Jesus came down to defeat our biggest giant. He did what we could not do when we were utterly helpless.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you in this week's message and why?
2. What does David's response to Goliath teach us about courage when facing overwhelming fear?
3. How does trusting in God's strength instead of our own change the way we face "giants" in our lives?
4. What are some of the "giants" (worldly pressures, sin, trials, fear) you see most clearly in your own life right now?
5. Which ditch do you tend to fall into more: relying on yourself instead of God, or believing failure disqualifies you from following God? Why?
6. How does the truth that Jesus has already defeated our greatest giant reshape how we approach fear and failure?

