

**The Encouraging Story of David's Victory Over Goliath**  
Message 4 of 5 in the series: "Stories to Make Us Bold!"

**A. Bible stories can encourage us to be bold in our faith.**

"...we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders... so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. **So each generation should set its hope anew on God**, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. **Then they will not be like their ancestors— stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.**" Psalm 78:4b & 6-8 (NLT)

*Note:* Saul, Israel's first king, wasn't bold in his faith because he was unwilling to trust God and follow His commands. **"Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.** So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king." 1 Samuel 15:23 (NLT)

*Note:* David, Israel's second king, was bold in his faith because he was willing to do whatever God told him to do. "...God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. **He will do everything I want him to do.**" Acts 13:22 (NLT)

**B. Saul and David both faced a giant test of faith when Goliath challenged the Israelite army to find a man willing to take him on in a fight to the death.**

"The Philistines now mustered their army for battle... Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield. Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. 'Why are you all coming out to fight?' he called. 'I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!' **When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken... For forty days**, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army."  
1 Samuel 17:1-11 & 16 (NLT)

*Note:* Saul was Israel's anointed King and their biggest, most experienced warrior (1 Samuel 10:23), but he was afraid to fight Goliath because the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him. (1 Samuel 16:14)

*Note:* David was only a teenage shepherd boy, but he was willing to fight Goliath because the Spirit of the Lord had come powerfully upon him (1 Samuel 16:13), and he'd learned to boldly trust God through previous battles with wild animals. "'Don't worry about this Philistine,' David told Saul. 'I'll go fight him!' 'Don't be ridiculous!' Saul replied. **'There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win!** You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth.' But David persisted. 'I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats,' he said. 'When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! **The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!**'" 1 Samuel 17:32-37a (NLT)

**Life Application:** The Holy Spirit is our power supply. He gives us the courage and power we need to boldly face our problems and overcome our fears. "For God is working in you, **giving you the desire and the power** to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We need to realize that many of the difficult situations we are going through now are being used by God to mature us spiritually so we can face bigger problems in the future. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4 (NIV)

*Warning:* Others who don't understand what God is calling us to do may attempt to discourage us. "When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, 'Why

have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

1 Samuel 17:28 (NIV)

### C. Because of his faith in the Lord, David was victorious over Goliath.

“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. Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. ‘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. ‘Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!’ Goliath yelled. 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.** 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! 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!**’ As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 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. So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.” 1 Samuel 17:40-50 (NLT)

*Note:* David boldly ran right at Goliath because he trusted in the Lord to protect him. “The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? When evil people come to devour me, **when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.** Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident.” Psalm 27:1-3 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Genuine faith in God changes our perspective on everything. “**If God is for us, who can ever be against us?** Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else?” Romans 8:31b-32 (NLT)

**Life Application:** People of faith focus on God, NOT their problems. “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are **fixed on you!**” Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 09-10-23 • [john@centeringlives.com](mailto:john@centeringlives.com)

### Connect Group Questions:

Read the encouraging story of David vs. Goliath. (1 Samuel 17) Then discuss the following questions:

1. Read Psalm 78:4-8. What’s the value of teaching our kids Bible stories? Which Bible stories did you learn as a kid? How did they impact your life?
2. Acts 13:22 says that God removed Saul as king over Israel and replaced him with David. Why do you think this was necessary? How did Saul respond to Goliath’s challenge? How did David?
3. How had God prepared David for his battle with Goliath? (1 Samuel 17:32-37) How does God prepare us to handle big problems? (James 1:2-4) How might these verses change our perspective?
4. Eliab attacked David’s character. Saul told him he couldn’t win. Goliath promised to tear him apart. Yet, David ran into battle unafraid. Where did David get his courage/boldness? (Psalm 27:1-3 & 138:3) Can we have that kind of courage?
5. How do you think Eliab felt after the battle? Why does Jesus command us not to judge the hearts/motives of others? (Matthew 7:1-2)
6. Describe the biggest fear/problem/scary situation you’ve ever had to face. How did your faith in God help you deal with it? (Romans 8:31-32)
7. Discuss the following verses describing the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives. (John 14:15-21 & 16:5-15, Acts 1:8, & Galatians 5:16-24) How successful will we be if we try to live the Christian life in our own strength without the Holy Spirit’s help?
8. Spend some time praying as a group asking God to give us the desire and the power to do what pleases Him no matter what. (Philippians 2:13)

9. Reflect on these verses: "This is what the Lord says: 'Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things...'"  
Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NLT)