

PORTRAIT OF COURAGE

1 Samuel 17

PAT NEMMERS

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This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- If you could drop into any scene in the Bible, which one would it be? Why did you pick that one?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat pointed us to courage of David, and urged us to be courageous too.**

Context:

- **1 Samuel 17 tells the story of David's courageous encounter with Goliath of Gath.**
 - Paint a picture of Goliath based on the description we read in the text. Now describe David. How does the fact that they are so physically different play into the true story of this text?
 - What are some things you notice about King Saul, or about David's older brothers in this story?
 - 1 Samuel 17:26 contain David's first words recorded in Scripture. What do these first words tell us about David's heart - even early in his life?

Five Stones of Courage:

- 1. Refuse...to be discouraged by the pessimists (King Saul and David's Brother, Eliab)**
 - David had his detractors, but he refused to let their voices overwhelm him. How do faith and courage work hand-in-hand? Have you experienced times when discouragement has overcome your faith? Talk about what you might do differently the next time.
- 2. React...to God's Name being despised (1 Samuel 17:26 and 36)**
 - There are several reactions Christians might have when God's name is maligned: anger, defensiveness, silence, courage, bitterness, etc. How do you usually react (in person or online) when someone around you disparages your God or your personal faith?
- 3. Remember...your past victories (Read Psalm 143:5)**
 - Was David being arrogant when he told King Saul about his past victories against lions and bears? Why or why not? What can you learn from how David leaned on his past in that moment?
- 4. Resort...to the abilities God has given you (1 Samuel 17:40)**
 - In ancient times, slingers were deadly marksmen. David had been preparing for this confrontation for years, even though he didn't know it. What are some abilities God has given people in your group? Go around your group and point out the way God has gifted people for His good works.
- 5. Rely...on the Lord! (1 Samuel 17:45)**
 - David calls on the Lord and His armies to defeat Goliath and the Philistine army. What are some "enemies" that you are facing right now - people, circumstances, struggles that feel like giants in front of you? Have you called on God to give you strength and wisdom in these areas?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Thank God for David, and for the Greater David - Jesus Christ - who did what no one else could do.

