

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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David: A Man After God's Own Heart – Part 2

There is something very satisfying about someone winning out against overwhelming odds. Like a team not picked by the experts to win, we instinctively admire the tenacity and courage it takes and root for that team.

The familiar story of David and Goliath has become a common metaphor for underdogs defeating giants. In this classic confrontation, David meets his first serious test as God's anointed successor to Saul. Visualize the scene: opposing armies amassed for battle, a loud talking warrior with a very large ego, and a young man with five small stones and much faith. God's glory is at stake, and David is ready.

- How do you respond when someone ridicules your faith?

Read 1 Samuel 17

- Who are the players in this chapter? Describe the battle setting.
- Can you paint a word picture of Goliath (verses 4-11). How did Saul and the Israelites respond to the giant's challenge?
- How long did the impasse continue before David's arrival (verse 16)? What effect do you think the continuation of the unanswered challenge would have had on the army of Israel?
- Why was David sent to the battlefield (verses 17-18, 20)?
- What incentives were the men of Israel given to kill Goliath (verse 25)? What was David's incentive (verse 26)?
- How is David despised and rejected throughout the story? Think about conversations with:
Eliab (verses 28-29); Saul (verses 32-39); Goliath (verses 42-44)
How do each of these three look "on the outward appearance" of David? And how does David respond in each of the situations?
- What reason does David give Saul for his confidence (verses 34-37) (also see verses 46-47)?

