

David Shows Courage – Earleyville VBS

Scripture Text: I Samuel 17

This is one of the most beloved Bible stories.

Courage: (defined) “the ability to do something that frightens one.”

In this lesson, I want us to examine three times in the story of David and Goliath where David showed great courage.

### **1. Entering the Battlefield      Verses 1-19**

- 1      Philistines were constant enemies of the Israelites, came to area about 1200 BC  
        Shocoh – 14 miles west of Bethlehem
- 2      Valley – broad, flat
- 3      Valley – Narrow
- 4      Introduction of enemy  
        Gath – closest of the five Philistine cities to Judah  
        6 cubits – 9 feet  
        Span – anywhere from 6 to 9 inches, measured from outstretched thumb to pinky  
        Sometimes measured people from the sole of foot to nose
- 5      Helmet – covered everything but forehead  
        Chainmail coat – 125 lbs.
- 6      Greaves of brass – leg coverings
- 7      Spear – 15 lbs.  
        So much armor, someone had to go before him  
        Could not move too much to actually fight
- 8      Trash talked the Israelites  
        “Choose you a man” – invitation to fight
- 11     Saul should’ve led the armies but he was “greatly afraid”
- 12-14 Younger of Jesse’s sons chosen by God  
        10 younger chosen before elder: Abel, Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Joseph, Ephraim,  
        Moses, David

- 16 40 days – ark on water; Jesus, Moses, Elijah fasted; Ezekiel laid on his right side to bear the iniquity of Israel’s sins; 40 years – Israelites wandered, years of each king of Israel
- 17 ½ bushel of roasted grain to make bread
- 18 Cheese: mentioned 3 times in Bible; also, II Samuel 17:29, Job 10:10  
Bring report back home

**2. Trusts in God** Verses 20-37

- 20 Rose early in the morning – great leaders do this  
Necessary to make the 15-mile journey  
Trench – perimeter
- 22 Left what he was carrying
- 23 Champion – “a man who steps out to fight between the two battle lines”
- 24 sight of Goliath alone enough to scare them
- 25 Winner would get Saul’s daughter’s hand in marriage (he did, Michal)
- 26 Uncircumcised – outside of God’s covenant
- 28 Oldest brother not quite sure why David is there
- 29 Answers in self defense
- 32 David to Saul – “Don’t let Goliath scare you”
- 33 Not able to fight, too young  
Cf. I Timothy 4:12
- 34-36 David gives his credentials for going into the battle
- 37 Source of his confidence: he trusts in the Lord; cf. Romans 8:31, John 16:33

**3. Confronting Goliath** Verses 38-54

- 38 Saul prepares David for the battle
- 39 David could not go with Saul’s armor – he had not proved it  
David would be more of a danger to himself if he used Saul’s armor
- 40 Stones – thought roughly the size of tennis balls  
Also thought to be the same place where Philip met the Eunuch, Acts 8  
Took his normal, everyday items – using what he was familiar with. That is the best tool we can use today as well!

- 42 Goliath judged a book by its cover
- 43 Goliath only saw what he thought was David's weapon – staff – not the real weapon, his sling  
Compared what he thought David was about to do to a man beating a dog with a stick
- 44 Grave insult, viewed almost worse than death itself
- 45 Showing his confidence again in God
- 46 Much like Joshua and Jericho – given into his hand  
Purpose: all the earth to know there is a God in Israel
- 47 Benefits those present as well – much like the events in the life of Christ benefitted those there  
but really for us
- 48 Both went out to meet each other
- 49 David was confident in his God and his slingshot ability  
Sling – hit Goliath in the only spot he was vulnerable  
Estimated the stone to be going 90mph  
Fall forward? Goliath was running towards David. "An object in motion tends to stay in motion."  
Newton's 1<sup>st</sup> Law
- 50 No sword used – yet
- 51 Takes Goliath's massive sword and decapitates Goliath  
All "so confident in Goliath" Philistines flee
- 54 David takes Goliath's head to Jerusalem

**Lessons:**

1. We all have Goliaths we must face.
2. We are most effective with what we are most confident with.
3. If we are with God, no one can stand against us – Romans 8:31.
4. God has a plan for all of us!

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