

Unlikely Unlikely Hope- Session #6 Small Group Notes

Introduction:

Ask these questions to your group:

Are there circumstances that you have encountered in your life that have caused you more fear than others?

When you are confronted with what seems to be unwinnable situation, what tends to be your reaction?

What we are going to learn today from David's encounter with Goliath is how in unlikely situations that we face, with the King in our midst, we are never the underdog.

Discuss:

1. 1 Samuel 17:1-11

- The opposition in front of you is lesser than the King who goes before you. (1 John 4:4)

Explain: The battle for Israel began when the Philistines, constant enemies of Israel during this period, assembled their army on a mountain and on an opposite mountain stood the army of Israel. Their main warrior was Goliath. Different sources give different estimates, but Goliath's armor and weapons together probably weighed somewhere between 150 and 200 pounds. This was a big man, and strong enough to carry and use these huge weapons. For the Israelites, Goliath represented a seemingly unwinnable situation, where the reaction was fear. The lesson that the Israelites had to learn was how with God's presence, there is not situation that is unwinnable.

Ask:

According to Goliath's proposal, what was at stake for both sides?

Why did the Israelites feel helpless against Goliath? What did they forget about the nature of God in this moment?

What is at stake when we give to fear and forget the nature of God?

2. Read 1 Samuel 17:12-31

- The King elevates, we are invited to be obedient.

Explain: Verses 12 through 19 re-introduces us to David, whom we met in I Samuel 16 as he was anointed by God to be Israel's next king. Several of David's brothers had joined King Saul's army and went off to war. Furthermore, until David showed up at the battle, there is no mention of God's name! King Saul and his men were too focused on themselves and their own strength. David quickly ascertained the situation and couldn't believe what he had heard the Philistine giant, Goliath, say to the army of God. David was outraged that a Goliath dared to speak out against God His king.

Ask:

How is David's response to Goliath's message different than the response of the soldiers? How does His response embolden your faith?

Why is it important that David described the army of Saul as belonging to "the living God"? What are ways that we can be reminded whose side we are on when we are attacked spiritually?

3. Read 1 Samuel 17:32-40; Psalm 20:7

- We do not put our hope in lesser things, we put our hope in the King.

Explain: David learned that King Saul had promised a reward to the person who fought and defeated Goliath. But for David, the real reason to fight Goliath was much more rewarding than money or fame—it was an opportunity for God's righteous name to be defended. With thousands of Israelite soldiers feeling fearful and inadequate, David drew courage from his past and trusted in God to provide a victory.

Ask:

In spite of the discouragement from his own people, what evidence did David rely on to trust God? How does remembering God's actions on our behalf in the past provide confidence in the present?

When David shared about fighting lions and bears while protecting his father's flocks, to whom did he give ultimate credit? Why is this important to remember as we face our own difficult situations today?

4. Read 1 Samuel 17:41-52

- God doesn't need a lot to do a lot. All David had was five stones. And all David was used was one.- Tony Evans
- The King before us is greater than any opposition that comes against us.

Explain: David knew something King Saul and his army had forgotten—that the Israelites were God's chosen people, loved and cherished by Him. As the Creator of the universe, God's unlimited power was available to His people, they only had to act in faith to appropriate it. David's confidence to face Goliath was not because of an ill-

placed self-confidence. David trusted that God was fully capable of defeating the Philistine enemy.

Ask:

For you to act in faith in a circumstance you are facing today, what would you need to do?

How can we start to see Jesus as the hero in our battles?

Group Prayer Guide:

- **Local**
 - **Amelia's Closet** Pray for women to be changed by Jesus Christ.
- **National**
 - **CrossPoint Church Family West Virginia** Pray for favor in evangelism. Marriage and family life.
- **International**
 - **CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES** Many Turks in Kosovo work hard to maintain their Turkish language, culture, and religion. Their loyalty to Islam is a significant barrier to the gospel. Pray that they will long for fulfillment, encounter truth through media outreach, and put their faith in Jesus.

Suggested Mission Activity:

Donate pantry items for Last Call for Grace and Greenhouse Ministries
Host a trunk for Fall Fest