
Growth Group Notes: David 2– an unexpected victory

Warm Up...

What battles is the world facing at the moment?

Who or what are the big enemies as you see it?

How about you more personally: are there any battles or “enemies” you face?



background

David is first introduced in the Bible in last week’s passage 1 Samuel 16. Take the time for a quick recap if people weren’t there. The key thing to know is that God has chosen the shepherd boy David to be the next King of Israel, for unlike humans, God looks at the heart.

Last session’s key verse: 1 Samuel 16v7

People look at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart

read 1 Samuel 17

(although it is long, it’s worth doing even if it takes a while and you have less time for questions – you could get people to read different people eg narrator, David, Eliab, Saul etc, stopping at v51 is fine)

What is the big problem, and who is facing it?

Who do you think should have taken on Goliath? (check out 1 Samuel 9v2 for a clue)

How do Saul and all the Israelites actually respond to Goliath?

How does God provide for this problem?

How is David presented by the author?

How do Eliab (v28-29),

Saul (v32-29)

and Goliath (v42-44) all look at the “outward appearance” of David?

What is David’s chief concern throughout the story? (v26,26,45 esp.)

Why do you think David actually succeeds?

How do the Israelites respond to his victory?

DAVID:

A picture of concern for God's honour

David here is deeply concerned for God's honour and name. What lessons can we learn from him in this area?

Can you think of specifics?

A picture of Jesus....

In this passage, David is the unexpected rescuer of all the Israelite people, who all stand by and watch helplessly as he defeats Goliath. As we look at this passage with New Testament eyes, we can see that David here is God's chosen Spirit-filled rescuer and as such is giving us a picture of what Jesus did for us 1000 years later on the cross; where Jesus was God's chosen Spirit-filled rescuer, defeating sin and death on the cross, whilst we watch on helplessly.

Just as people around him thought that David was weak and irrelevant, so today people can fall into the trap of thinking that Jesus, like David, is weak and irrelevant.

Are there any ways in which we (personally or as a whole church) might unwittingly contribute to this wrong view of Jesus?

A picture of faith

David here is unquestionably a boy with faith. What lessons of faith in God can we rightly draw from this passage?

Are there any checks to make sure we don't fall into the trap of thinking we can do *anything* if just have *enough* faith? (*clue: whose battle is this?*)

Reflecting on Battles

Thinking back to the "battles" we were thinking of at the start, which battles do you think God is deeply concerned about and why?

In the New Testament, who or what is the "Goliath" that the church faces and should go into battle against?

(see Ephesians 6:10-12 >>>>)

What do you think this might look like in practice?

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

Pray together

Spend some time thanking God for his provision of Jesus as our Saviour and what we can learn from David in this chapter.

Why not spend some time asking God to help you see the situations you face with his eyes and from his standpoint? And asking if there are any of His battles that He is calling you to engage in?