

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Pursuit
Sermon Title	Preparation
Bible Texts	1 Samuel 17
Date	October 1, 2023

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Have you faced a time when you felt prepared for an unexpected challenge? What past experiences equipped you to succeed?
- Question 2: Have you had an experience where you trusted God despite your fear? What was the outcome?

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

Champion warfare refers to a type of battle in which the outcome of the conflict is determined by a single combat.

"A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp."

- Question 3: What kind of enemy was Israel facing? (1 Samuel 13:5-6, 17:1-7)
- Question 4: How did the reactions of Saul's soldiers and David differ when Goliath taunted the armies of Saul? (17:11 and 17:25-26)
- Question 5: What were Saul's soldiers thinking as they were afraid to challenge Goliath? How did they justify their lack of trust in the Lord?

Slings have been in use since about 10,000 B.C. They require tremendous skill to use effectively, and most sling warriors had trained since childhood.

Sling stones can travel at about twice the speed of a pitcher's fastball and are very hard to defend against. Those skilled with slings sometimes marched in formation in battles behind the archers.

Does this change your perspective on the battle between David and Goliath?

- Question 6: What was David's main motivation for accepting Goliath's challenge?
- Question 7: What reasons did David give to Saul for why he was able to fight the Philistine giant?
- Question 8: Who does David credit for his previous victories while working as a shepherd? What does that reveal about David?
- Question 9: How did David's view of God differ from that of Saul's other warriors?
- Question 10: Despite David's skills and accomplishments, what did his brothers think of him? Why do you suppose that was?
- Question 11: How do we know that God had prepared David for this encounter and that David relied on God as he faced Goliath?

- Question 12: To fight Goliath, Saul recommended conventional military gear, but David chose five stones. What might David have been thinking as he decided how to fight his battle?
- Question 13: How might knowing Christ and understanding the Bible influence how we prepare for significant challenges in life?
- Question 14: After David killed Goliath he took Goliath's sword, cut off the giant's head, carried the head around with him, and kept the Philistine's weapons. What does that tell us about David?
- Question 15: In the New Testament, who are our enemies and what is our armor? (Ephesians 6:10-18) Why is it such a mistake ever to think that people are our enemy?
- Question 16: Which of the pieces of armor listed in Ephesians 6:14-17 stand out as particularly helpful to you as you prepare for a life that is pleasing to God?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 17: How did David's trust in God develop so that he was ready for this day? What lessons can we learn from this?
- Question 18: What difference does it make in our lives to recognize our true enemies and depend upon our true Champion?
- Question 19: Is there a challenge you will soon face that requires preparation? How will you make yourself ready?