

FOLLOW THE LEADER

talk it
over

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 17.33-37

PURSUE GOD

**Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."
But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."**

In the ancient world there was a practice known as the combat by champions. This custom is described as a military conflict decided by two individuals from the opposing sides of battle. While the results of the battle did not solely rest on the results of the fight, it did suggest how the larger battle between the armies would play out. Ultimately, the idea behind this combat was the belief that battles and wars were decided by God, or the gods, and it was the favor of the God(s) that would lead the one side or the other to victory. In a match like David and Goliath, the victory by the shepherd boy over the proven champion was seen as evidence of the supremacy of the Israelite God.

But before David's courageous act he showed up everyday as a shepherd to his flock. He was right where God needed him to be watching the sheep, keeping them safe, and honing his skill as a marksman with a sling. David was ready to fight the champion Goliath because he had the courage to be where he was supposed to be day in and day out. Courage doesn't come down out of heaven in an instant. It's forged in the daily grind. Sometimes we look at the story of David and Goliath and think God gave David an extra measure of courage that morning. But that's not what the text would imply. David had the confidence and courage to kill the champion because of the battles he had previously fought and won. There is no elevator, or secret formula, or magic potion to get to the top, or to be courageous. Sure some are born into a life that they have a head start towards their goals or dreams, but they still have to have courage to fulfill the call. Take your steps. Run your race. Stay in your lane. Be present where God has placed you. Walk everyday with Jesus. Because what He's calling you to do today, He's going to call you to display tomorrow.

LOVE LIFE

Are you where you're supposed to be?