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Campfires Series: Week 3
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THE STORY OF DAVID

What Really Defines Us?

Overlooked, Then Anointed

- People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Are you keeping parts of your life hidden? Past mistakes? Wounds? Weaknesses? Insecurities?
- We all think that the battlefield is what defines us, but really, it's the wilderness that shapes us.

Prepare For Battle

- David volunteers to fight, but he refuses the king's armor. He refused to carry a sword he was never meant to carry. (1 Samuel 17:34-36; 39-40)
- Everybody else trusted armor. Saul trusted experience. Goliath trusted size. Israel trusted numbers.
- David trusted God and that's where he draws his confidence from. (1 Samuel 17:45-47)
- David goes into this battle with all the confidence and power that comes from trusting God with all your heart. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

What Really Defines Us?

- We think that our lives are defined by our greatest failures or our greatest successes, but that's only how the world sees us.
- David's story teaches us that God does not look on appearance or height or stature or major successes or losses in our lives, but the Lord looks at our heart. (Psalm 51:1-2)

Consider:

1. What wilderness has God placed you in to faithfully shepherd today? Your family? Your marriage? Your workplace? Your church? Your children?
2. What hidden part of your life have you kept on the "back lot" that God is inviting you to bring into the light? A wound? A failure? A fear? A gift you've buried?
3. What "sword" are you still gripping? Control? Success? Anger? Money? Pride? Fear? Comfort? What would it look like to choose the shepherd's staff?

Next Steps:

1. Spend 15 minutes each day alone with God, without distractions, just as David learned to know God in the fields.
2. Read **1 Samuel 16–17**, looking for what God values rather than what people value.
3. Identify one area where you're relying on your own "sword" instead of trusting God and surrender it in prayer.
4. Faithfully shepherd the people God has already entrusted to you—your family, coworkers, neighbors, or church—without waiting for a bigger stage.
5. Memorize **Proverbs 3:5–6** or **1 Samuel 16:7** as a reminder that God cares more about your heart than your image.

Key Passages (NIV):

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 17:34-36

³⁴ 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, ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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.

1 Samuel 17:39-40

³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:45-47

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Psalms 51:1-2

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.