



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Chapter 11 From Shepherd to Kind

Listen to *The Story*

Read **Chapter 11** of *The Story* this week.

In our Old Testament reading today, we learn “the battle is the Lord’s.” Remind yourself of God’s willingness to not only fight for you, but to win the victory over our greatest enemy “death.”

Pick up a stone from the basket as you leave the sanctuary and carry it with you into your week to remind you that “the battle is the Lord’s.”

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God’s story and your story connect this week.

David ran to face Goliath. He could only do so because of God’s presence and his confidence in God. God’s word proclaims that “I can do all this through him who gives me strength” [NIV] or in other words, “Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.” [The Message] ~ *Philippians 4:13*.

What is your natural reaction to a fearful situation? Do you run from it or do you run into it? To better answer this – identify the “Goliaths in your life” (circumstances that have left you feeling inadequate or maybe even fearful).

If you want, measure out a place in your home that is at least 9 feet tall. Take out some Post-it Notes and write the scary/intimidating things in your life and post them at that height.

Let this wall become your prayer wall for the week. As you sit or stand before it, pray: “Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.”

You might want to add some *action* to that prayer by throwing a Nerf or cotton ball at your target. Remind yourself that the battle is truly God’s, and it is by His power and grace there is victory.

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

Come alongside an “underdog” and join them on their battlefield this week:

Help out someone much older or

Help out someone much younger or

Help out someone with less resources than you.

This may be as simple as noticing them, opening a door, carrying groceries, or helping them with some other task.

Luther's Explanation

The most known of the Psalms, Psalm 23, is attributed to David. That makes perfect sense because David was a shepherd before he became the king of Israel. Martin Luther said that the Twenty-Third Psalm is “a Psalm of thanks in which a Christian heart praises and thanks God for teaching him and keeping him on the right way, comforting and protecting him in every danger through His holy Word.” (*Psalms With Introductions by Martin Luther*, p. 32)

Luther was also a Hebrew scholar, and knew that Hebrew poetry often placed the most vital part of a poem right in the middle of the piece. If you were to count down 26 Hebrew words from the beginning of the psalm and then count up 26 Hebrew words from the end of the psalm, smack-dab in the middle of the song is the phrase, “Thou art with me.” This is what David—indeed, this is what God—wants us to remember most from this beautiful psalm. No wonder Luther described this psalm as comforting!



PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:
“I am your Good Shepherd. I will defeat even your worst enemy.”

The EXTRA Mile



Announcers love to talk about a “David vs. Goliath” scenario as an underdog team faces a seemingly unbeatable opponent. The NCAA basketball tournament, better known as March Madness, is famous for its upsets. Look for videos on Youtube.com of the most well-known David-like victories.