

BIG Courage

Scripture: “So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.”

~I Samuel 17:50-51

Everyone has heard the story of David and Goliath. It has been taught to us in Kids church, youth group, and possibly even preached by our pastor in the BIG church. You remember the story. David was in the field when the preacher, Samuel, came to anoint the new king of Israel. All his brothers were invited, except David, but he eventually was summoned and subsequently anointed. Then his brothers go off to war. His dad asks him to take food to them and check on the status of the battle. His brothers were embarrassed by him and tried to get him to leave. He was headed out until the 9.5 to 10 foot tall freak of nature showed up and shouted his everyday battle cry. “Choose you a man to fight me in a winner takes all challenge. Whomever wins will rule over both nations.” David, who had his courage to rise up from within, ran to Saul, the king, and said “I’ll fight him.” The winner was promised the king’s daughter in marriage, free taxes for family, and a big payday. David tried on Saul’s armor, but it wasn’t for him. He was use to using slingshots and rocks to take out enemies such as lions, bears, and other predators of his sheep. Therefore, David picked out 5 stones from the brook to fight. By now you should know the rest of the story. David won, married Mical, lived tax-free, eventually became king, was a thrown to the Philistines forever, and was famous throughout the land. What a nice sounding fairy-tale life. However, why did David risk his life when all odds were against him? Why did David pick 5 stones? Did he think he would miss? I am not 100% sure if David was nervous or not, but I would think he might have been slightly, though he didn’t show it. It’s called courage. In the famous movie *The Wizard of Oz*, all the cowardly lion wanted was... you guessed it, courage!

David may have been nervous, but he knew “greater is he that was on his side, than anything the enemy had on their side.” David had God. I believe he chose 5 smooth stones for the other “FOUR” giants, possible brothers of Goliath that were alive during that time. I think David knew that if anyone else wanted a piece of him, with God’s help, he would gladly oblige. David teaches us all a valuable lesson. Even though we may be nervous, scared, lack confidence, or even out of our comfort zone, God will be with us. He will give us his courage to witness to a friends, talk to a girl, pray over our lunch in school, befriend someone who is different, etc. Do you need courage to take a risk or to face a certain situation? Don’t worry, even if you are scared, God has and always will have your back!

Prayer: Lord, give me courage like David to face my giants in life. Don’t let me point people away from you, but rather point them to you. In Jesus name, Amen!

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