

Small Group Material - David 1

David: being formed

1 Samuel 17:1-50

Welcome: (10 mins) Have you ever faced criticism and discouragement for doing something even though you knew it was the right thing to do? What spurred you on to continue with the action/decision?

Worship: (10 mins) Read Psalm 8 as a group, then take time to praise God in prayer using David's words.

Word: 1 Sam 17:1-50 (Please don't feel you need to read the whole passage, the study focuses on a few key sections which you can read ahead of each set of questions or simply go to specific verses noted.)

Times are suggestions only – please spend more or less time as you see fit! If you're doing a shorter zoom, skip to the bit in *italics* for a shorter study.

(5 mins) Before we read Chapter 17, read 1 Sam 16: 16-22 (context – Saul has requested a Lyre player to calm him when an evil spirit descends upon him.)

- 1) Why does Saul choose David to come and play music for him? (V. 18)
- 2) Why is it significant that David enters the service of Saul at this stage? Why might this help David in the future? (Remember he has been secretly anointed as next king in 16:13).
- 3) Do we see God providing us with opportunities to feel more prepared and equipped for where he leads us? Either in the moment or when we look back.

(5 mins) Read 17:3-11

- 1) What does Goliath propose and what is at stake?
- 2) How do the Israelites respond?
- 3) Why does this make David's response later in the passage so surprising? (V. 32 He wants to fight Goliath)
- 4) When we face the prospect of something that seems beyond us, daunting, even terrifying, how do we respond? Are we more like David or the Israelites?

(10 mins) V 12- 18 (you can skim read for the questions)

- 1) Why hasn't David gone to battle with his brothers? (v. 12-14) (also he was serving Saul).
- 2) Did staying back and being alone for large portions of time, tending sheep, help to prepare him in any way do you think? Why might it have given him a different perspective?
- 3) Read Ps 22: 9-10 – what is David's understanding of his relationship to God? What impact might this have on his actions later and his steadfast confidence?
- 4) In what way does our relationship with God impact on our conviction to carry out his work and have confidence in his provision?

(20 mins) So David goes up to the camp to deliver the things for Jesse and finds his brothers. You can go to specific verses rather than reading the whole section. V 23 – 50

- 1) *Why is David's reaction so different to the rest of the Israelites? How does he perceive Goliath? (V.24 Israelites. V. 26 David's reaction.) It is important to note that David doesn't see the Goliath as a giant, he see's him as a man defying God.*
- 2) *V26 – what is David's motivation for wanting to fight?*
- 3) *Does David fight to win a battle? What is the greater goal here?*
- 4) *Does this tell us anything about David, and his heart?*
- 5) *Why do you think David's brother, Eliab, responds so harshly to him in v.28?*
- 6) *Is David deterred by his brother's attitude and criticism?*
- 7) *V45 – 50 – what is significant about the attitude David has here? What equips him for this fight? Why is he so confident? What motivates him?*
- 8) *Why is David victorious? How has God been 'forming' him for this day?*
- 9) *Does the relationship David has with God impact on this moment in his life?*
- 10) *David sets his heart on God and God goes to battle with him, even for him. How might this encourage us in our own 'battles'? What would seeking God's heart look like in our own lives?*

Personal reflection (5 mins) Listen to "Surrounded" the Bethel version on youtube. You could use this time to reflect on how God is preparing you for your "battles", perhaps you could ask him to show you how he is preparing you and pray for David's confidence in your own life.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pz7578ZNwNU>

Witness: (15 mins) pray for our mission partner Open Doors, fighting for justice for those persecuted for their faith. Pray especially for North Korea and Nigeria.

Pray for those on the frontline fighting Coronavirus in our schools, NHS and in all types of social work.

Prayerfully consider how you might be able to volunteer on the frontline here in Chippy – get in touch with the Team if you feel God prompting you in this way.

Study ‘Bite-sized’ (10 mins)

1 Samuel 17:45-50

- 1) How might David’s attitude spur us on in our own “battles”.
- 2) What is so significant about David’s words in verse 47? Why is this encouraging for us today?
- 3) Pray for each other to be equipped, as David was, to have a heart like David’s for God and justice. Pray for each other’s battles.