

Today's Scripture

1 Samuel 17:1-4, 8-11, 32=33, 39b-40, 45-47 (NLT)

(v1-4) The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.

(v4, 8-11) Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!...

...Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

(v32) "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

(v33) "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth."

(v39b-40) "I can't go in these," he protested to Saul. "I'm not used to them." So David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

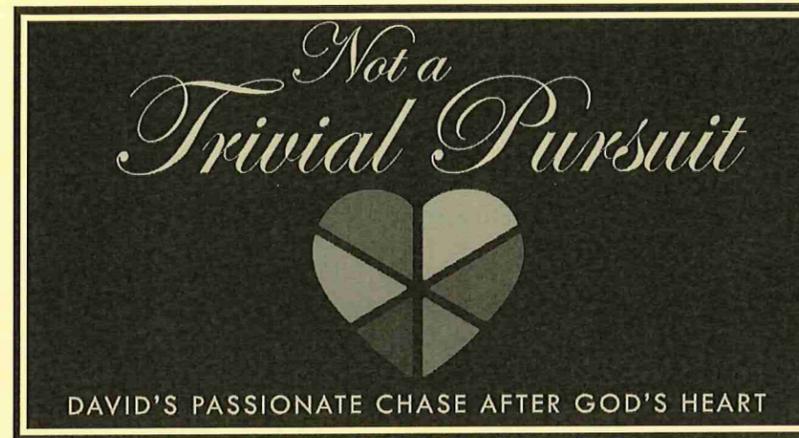
(v45-47) David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. **This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!**"

1 John 4:4 (NLT)

But you **belong** to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, **because** the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

Romans 8:31 (NLT)

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?



Week 2

Courageous

**Courage is not the absence of fear;
it is choosing to trust God anyway.**

Write down what you hear God saying to you:

What to Remember:

Many believers are saved but stalled.

Fear focuses on the size of the problem...

Courage remembers the faithfulness of God.

We don't win because we are better...

we win because we are his!

Ask yourself: Has fear caused you to stall?

Further Conversation

1. Have you ever been stuck or stalled on a decision? What held you back? How did you get unstuck?
2. **Read 1 Samuel 17:1-3** Why do you think the Israelites stalled in attacking the Philistines? Do you know anyone stalled out in their faith?
3. **Ready 1 Samuel 17:4, 8-11** How did Goliath multiply the Israelites fear? What were the Israelites focused on? How does fear stall us?
4. **Read 1 John 4:4** How would this passage suggest we overcome fear? In what ways has remembering God's faithfulness helped you?
5. **Read 1 Samuel 17:32-33** Do you think Saul was right? Would you have sent David against Goliath? Why?
6. **Read 1 Samuel 17:39b-40, 45-47** Was David's faith in his stones? They why did he need them? What gave David courage?
7. **Read Romans 8:31** What enemies to Christ in you have you refused or been too afraid to fight? How has God equipped you to trust him and attack? What are your giants creating false fear?

This Week's Prayer Partner

God works in so many ways in our community and across the globe. Every month, Tabernacle commits to pray for our ministry partners. Please consider sending a note, a donation, or joining their team.

Missionaries to Cambodia

Alger & Joyce Morris

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Go Deeper this Week

Monday - Joshua 1:6-9

God's command to Joshua is not a suggestion—it's a call to trust. "Be strong and courageous" is repeated not because courage comes naturally, but because fear does. Joshua stood on the edge of the unknown, much like David standing before Goliath. The courage God calls for is not self-generated confidence, but God-centered trust. David did not run toward the giant because he felt fearless; he ran because he knew God was with him. God's promise to Joshua—and to us—is not an easy path, but a faithful presence. Courage grows when we stop asking, "Can I handle this?" and start believing, "God is with me wherever I go."

Prayer: Lord, help me trust You when fear tempts me to hold back.

Tuesday - Hebrews 11:6

Faith is not passive belief—it is active trust. Hebrews reminds us that without faith it is impossible to please God, because faith requires believing both that God exists and that He is faithful to act. David pleased God not by knowing the right facts about Goliath, but by trusting God enough to face him. Courage is born when trust replaces hesitation. Fear waits for guarantees; faith steps forward believing God is already at work. Every giant we face is an invitation to trust God more deeply. Courage grows when we believe that God is not only real—but good, present, and faithful to those who seek Him.

Prayer: God, give me faith that moves forward even when I don't have all the answers.

Wednesday - Zechariah 4:6

God's word to Zerubbabel reminds us of a hard truth: human strength will never be enough for God-sized challenges. David understood this instinctively. He rejected Saul's armor because he knew the battle wasn't about strength or strategy—it was about trust in the Lord. Courage does not come from having the right tools, the right experience, or the right confidence. It comes from relying on God's Spirit. Fear grows when we focus on our limitations; courage grows when we trust God's power. When we stop trying to win battles in our own strength, we make room for God to do what only He can do.

Prayer: Spirit of God, help me depend on Your power instead of my own strength.

Thursday - Romans 8:31-39

Paul asks a powerful question: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" David lived out this truth long before it was written. He stood alone in the valley, yet he was never truly alone. Courage is not the absence of opposition—it is confidence in God's unshakable love. No giant, failure, or fear can separate us from God's care. When we are convinced that God is for us, fear loses its grip. Courage grows when we remember that our security is not in outcomes, but in God's faithful love. We can face giants because we belong to Him.

Prayer: Father, anchor my courage in the truth that nothing can separate me from Your love.

Friday - Hebrews 12:1-3

David did not freeze in the valley—he ran toward the giant. Hebrews calls us to the same forward-moving faith, urging us to throw off what hinders and fix our eyes on Jesus. Fear keeps us standing still, rehearsing worst-case scenarios. Courage moves forward, trusting God with the outcome. Jesus endured the cross by focusing on what lay ahead, not on the pain of the moment. When we fix our eyes on Him, we find strength to keep going even when fear whispers retreat. Courage is not about speed or strength—it's about perseverance rooted in trust.

Prayer: Jesus, help me keep my eyes on You and move forward in faith.

Saturday - Numbers 13:31-33

The spies saw the same land, but fear shaped their perspective. They focused on the giants and forgot the promise of God. Fear shrinks faith and magnifies obstacles. Israel stalled because they trusted what they saw more than what God said. David saw a giant too—but he also saw a faithful God. Courage trusts God's promises over fearful assumptions. When fear leads, we exaggerate threats and underestimate God. When trust leads, we see challenges as opportunities for God to work. The question is not whether giants exist, but whether we believe God is greater than what stands before us.

Prayer: Lord, help me trust Your promises more than what my fear tells me.

January 11, 2026
Worship & Devotional Guide

TABERNACLE

METHODIST CHURCH

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