COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL
LESSON 10
GOD'S VICTORY – GOD'S GLORY
1 SAMUEL 17
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15 – NOVEMBER 20

Chapter 17 is one of the most well-known narratives in the Bible and is probably one of the most misread and misapplied passages in all of scripture. This is not a motivational story about personal courage or an account focused on personal confidence. **Chapter 17** is a display of God's sovereign power and the man who zealously trusts in the power and might of the living God to protect and deliver His people from their enemies.

This chapter also paints a very clear contrast between the king chosen by the people and the king chosen by the Lord. We see in David a believer who confidently and whole heartedly trusts in Yahweh. David's confidence in the Lord demonstrates his high view of Yahweh. In contrast, Saul has a fear of man and is threatened by the giant while he gives little to no thought of the power, strength and sovereign control of Yahweh.

From this chapter we are challenged to consider the extent of our trust in God's power, might and His love for and protection of His redeemed ones. We must always look to the size of our God rather than the size of our problem or challenge.

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11 Defiant Enemies and Fear of Israel

1. In these verses, how is Goliath described and how does that description affect the message of this historical account?

2. What is the response of Israel to the taunts of Goliath and what does that response reveal about the Israelites view of God?

Read 1 Samuel 17:12-30 David's Appearance and Theological Perspective

3. From **verses 12-23** describe how God sovereignly involves young David in the showdown with the taunting Philistine.

4. In **verse 26**, how does David interject the first dose of theology into the Goliath narrative? How does David express disdain for the godless Philistine and defend the dignity and majesty of Yahweh?

5. From **verses 28-30,** what does Eliab reveal about his attitude toward David? How does David demonstrate character in his response to Eliab?

Read 1 Samuel 17:31-40 David's Expression of Trust in God's Past Faithfulness

6. From **verses 34-37**, in David's explanation to Saul, how does David express his confidence and trust in Yahweh and his passion to see glory to God expressed in the battle with the Philistine champion?

7. As you reflect on God's past faithfulness, what new and current challenge do you face that can only be resolved by Yahweh who is sovereign, all powerful and loves you with an everlasting love?

"Faith is sustained in the present and for the present as it remembers Yahweh's provision in the past. The rich history of God's past goodness nurtures faith in its current dilemma... It is so crucial to remember God's past deliverances. If you've trouble doing so, invest in a diary. In God's economy no experience is wasted."
1 Samuel, Dale Ralph Davis, pg. 186

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-51 Goliath's Taunts and David's Confident Expression of God's Victory

8. From **verses 41-44** describe Goliath's taunts and curse of David.

9. How does David, in **verses 45-47**, confidently respond to the threats of the Philistine in his great proclamation of trust in the all-powerful and sovereign rule of Yahweh?

10. In **verse 47**, what is David's great battle cry of victory by the hand of the Lord?

11. What statements did David make that clearly show David attributed the victory in this battle to the Lord?

12. When you face challenging, threatening or fearful circumstances, how would you describe your initial response to the challenge, threat or fear? How do the truths of **1 Samuel 1**7 give you confidence in those challenging, threatening or fearful circumstances?

13. Conclude by reading and meditating upon the truths of **Romans 8:31-39.** From this passage, what is the comfort every believer can look forward to with confident anticipation?