

Study 2



Warm Up

1. Greeting / Welcome
2. Prayer Requests
3. Testimony Sharing



Overview of Today's Study

Text:

1 Samuel 17

Lesson Title:

Knowing When to Fight

Lesson Main Idea: As people live out their lives they will face circumstances and people that will oppose them. Not all opponents *should* be fought; but some opponents *must* be fought – and conquered. Today, we will see how close connection with God provides the reason to fight and is the means by which believers can successfully oppose the enemies of their faith.

🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

How do Christians know when it's time to fight?



Connecting the Study

Last week we studied the basis for God's choice for the second human king for the Nation of Israel. We looked at what God valued as the important quality the next King of Israel would have. That quality was seen in 1 Sam. 13:14. *God chose a person who sought relationship with Him.* God had the last Judge of Israel, Samuel, anoint David as King Saul's replacement (1 Sam. 16:13).

So now we will look at David's first public appearance, his confrontation of Israel's opponent, Goliath, the Philistine.

The time is around 1025 B.C. and as you may recall from last week, Israel's current enemy is the Philistines. So let's pick up our study in 1 Sam. 17:1.



Bible Study

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11

A. What do these verses tell us? (What happened? What was taught?)

17:1-3 Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. 3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. *The Valley of Elah is a wide valley about 15 miles southwest of Jerusalem. So Saul and the army of Israel (including David's 3 eldest brothers 17:14) were lined up on one ridge facing the valley and the Philistines were lined up on the opposing ridge.*

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

17:4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose **height was six cubits and a span**. Goliath's height was about 9 feet and 9 inches.

17:5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and **the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass**. Goliath's coat of scale armor weighed 125 lbs.

17:6-7 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his **spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron**: and one bearing a shield went before him. The tip of his spear weighed 15 lbs.

17:8-9 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? **choose you a man for you**, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. Neither army seems too excited to charge into each others' lines so an alternative is offered. One representative from each side will fight and whoever loses, that army becomes the servant of the victorious army.

17:10 And the Philistine said, **I defy the armies of Israel this day**; give me a man, that we may fight together. Goliath defied the armies of Israel. In the original Hebrew, *charaph* (pronounced khaw·raf) our English word "defy" means to *reproach, insult, threaten*, and the big one, *to blaspheme*.

17:11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid. So the bottom line here is that Goliath was a hulk of a guy and the entire army of Israel including King Saul are paralyzed with fear. They're not moving and no one is volunteering to go one on one with this guy.

Now at this point Jesse sends his son David to go check on his 3 sons that are encamped against the Philistines with Saul. David arrives where the two armies are arrayed for battle.

17:22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: **and David heard them.** David heard Goliath defy the army of Israel.

17:26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should **defy the armies of the living God?** David asks the soldiers to tell him again what the reward is for killing Goliath and removing this shame from Israel. When choosing whether or not to take a stand, believers must always be ready to stand up and participate in the fight for their God.

Word quickly gets back to Saul that David is not intimidated by Goliath and Saul sends for David. David is willing to go one on one with the Philistine. But King Saul doesn't think David can handle it.

17:33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. "Listen, you're a kid, and this guys been fighting since he was a kid." Saul doesn't think David is any match for Goliath.

But David's done some fighting of his own. He tells Saul of his battles with a lion and a bear.

17:36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David's been "hand to hand" combat before. Or hand to paw.

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And this is the second time the chapter quotes David as saying “this uncircumcised Philistine” and “the armies of the living God.” Circumcision identified the Jewish believer with Yahweh. This Philistine had nothing to do with Yahweh. Yahweh, the living God, was to be distinguished from all of the graven images of idol worship practiced by the nations surrounding Israel.

17:37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. David was smaller in size and had far less experience in battle than Goliath. But David went down into the valley of Elah to do battle with Goliath. David is not relying on his own ability to defeat Goliath. He is simply going to participate in growing his faith by engaging the enemy. David completely relied on God to defeat the enemy and to save David from being destroyed.

Saul's armor doesn't fit so David shows up to fight without a shield, without a helmet, without body armor, and with no sword. He has a shepherd's rod, a sling, five smooth stones, and enough faith to conquer a giant.

17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: **but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel**, whom thou hast defied. David completely trusted the LORD God to make his inferior weaponry succeed against the armament of his enemy.

17:46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give **the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air**, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. This defeat for the Philistines will not only involve Goliath's head but the whole army of the Philistines will fall to God's army Israel so that the whole world will know that there is a God and Israel's God is He.

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B. What do these verses mean? (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)

Handout Questions

1. Righteous indignation is "okay" when your faith is being **assaulted** and is usually the result of a **close connection** with Christ (17:26).
2. Sometimes those who are on the same **side** as we are won't **support** our acting on our faith (17:33).
3. We must approach present battles with the **expectation** that God will **deliver** us today as He has rewarded faithfulness in the past (17:37).
4. Don't refuse to **fight** because the odds seem insurmountable; God does His best work when there's no way we can take **credit** for the win (17:45).
5. How do Christians know when it's time to fight? Christians are to be leading people into a **growing relationship** with Jesus Christ; when that activity is **restricted**, it's time to **fight**.

C. How should these verses impact my life? (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

- ✓ How do I feel about the assault on the Christian faith that is taking place in our country right now?
- ✓ Does our culture's defiance of God arouse any "righteous indignation" in me? If not, why not? Am I close enough to Christ to have it bother me when He is being disrespected, ridiculed or worse?
- ✓ How supportive am I when a fellow soldier of Christ is acting on their faith to resist the devil's influence on our society?
- ✓ Am I more like David or the Israelite army: *am I in the fight or on the sidelines?*
- ✓ How am I participating in the fight for our faith? What specific things am I doing to help in the battle for truth?

 Bible Baptist Church

Our Purpose is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:18



Group Discussion Questions

(Try to facilitate the group's discussion and not do most of the talking during this time.)

Group Question

Why was David's faith strong enough to face such insurmountable odds? 1. He had experienced God's deliverance in the past when he acted in behalf of others (17:36). 2. Because David had a close connection with God, it hurt him deeply and angered him when someone spoke badly or blasphemed or ridiculed God. Goliath's defiance of Yahweh fueled David's hunger for justice.

Group Question

How is our God being "defied" in our culture today? How about here in Kissimmee? God is systematically being removed from our society through clever use of our own legal system. Laws are being put into place with little or no challenge that restrict discussion about Christ. Complacency toward our faith today will be the end of our faith tomorrow.

Group Question

What are some ways we can fight for our God today? We can participate in the election system and vote for those who promote Biblical principles. We can talk to others who do not hold such values and explain why we believe them and the difference God has made in our own lives.

🔑 Remember Today's Key Question 🔑

If you forget everything else, remember this!

How do Christians know when it's time to fight?

Christians are to be leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ; when that activity is restricted, it's time to fight.