David & Goliath

*Series, Unlikely Heroes – Real people behind your favorite stories*

July 7, 2025

Q: What are your fears?

Q: How do you find the courage to conquer your fears?

1 Samuel 17

1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

Picture it!

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.[a] 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels[b]; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.[c] His shield bearer went ahead of him.

Picture it!

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” 10 Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” 11 On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

Picture it!

32 David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

34 But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Picture It!

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

PICTURE IT

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

50 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.

PICTURE IT

Theme: Christ Jesus **C**  all of your **F**  with true **C** .

1. What is true courage with which you conquer your fears?

Five Most Common Fears:

* Fear of **D .**
* Fear of **F .**
* Fear of **L .**
* Fear of **U .**
* Fear of **R .**

Q: What are your fears?

Two wrong ways to face your fears:

1. You let your fears **C**  you.

On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

You don’t have the courage and become terrified and paralyzed.

1. You **D**  your fears by ignoring or underestimating them.

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.

* True courage is not the **A**  of fear, but doing the **R**  **T**  in the **P**  of fear.
* In a word, true courage is **O**  to God’s will.

2. Christ Jesus conquered all your fears by fighting **A**  your **C** .

* The story is not about being like David…
* Benayim

A champion

“The man between” two armies

Picture It!

David in the valley, the battle ground, between two hills where the armies camped.

* The champion fights **A**  you and **F**  you!

The Doctrine of Substitution

* What **HAPPENS** to the champion **HAPPENS** to you!

The Doctrine of Imputation

Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

* Archégos

A pioneer, author, originator, or champion

David, the unlikely hero, is pointing to Christ Jesus, the True and Ultimate Hero.

Christ, your Champion, fought **A**  **Y** . And what **H**  to Christ, your Champion, **H**  to you. His victory is **Y**  victory!

3. How do you fix your eyes on your Champion?

* aphoraó: To look away from all else at one object, to fix one's eyes upon.

1. Your Champion won, not **I**  **S**  of weakness, but **T**  weakness.

* **B**  in Christ as your champion who fought for you and as you.
* **R**  His victory as your own victory.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

1. With Christ’s true courage **C**  your fears. For He has done it for you already!
2. You become an **U**  hero by helping someone overcome his and her fears this week.

**Prayer and Application**