

DAVID

1. If you were in charge of finding a person to fulfill an important leadership role, what qualities would you look for in prospective candidates?

Read Hebrews 11:32-34. If time allows, read Hebrews 11.

It is not surprising to find David listed in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. A study of his life reveals that "by faith" he did many of the things listed in verses 33 and 34. In this lesson we will look at an incident in David's life in which "by faith" a giant foe was defeated, a foreign army was put to flight, and a great victory was won.

Read I Samuel 16.

2. What do you long for more than anything else in the world? What is your passion?

3. a. How is David described (by God) in Acts 13:22 and I Samuel 13:14?

- b. Of all Jesse's sons was David the most obvious choice to be anointed?  
What did God tell Samuel concerning his criteria for choosing a man?

In Scripture the word "heart" refers to the innermost part of a person. It involves our mind, will, emotions and spirit. When it is said that David was "a man after God's own heart", it means, among other things, that David was the kind of man that God longs for. Of course, the kind of man or woman that God longs for is one who longs for Him.

4. a. What relationship do you see between a heart that longs to know God and Hebrews 11:6?

- b. When God looks beyond your external appearance, what do you think He sees?  
Perhaps He sees a dependent heart, a stubborn heart, a hurting heart, a lukewarm heart, etc. Talk to Him about it. He is in the business of changing hearts.

Read I Samuel 17. Re-read I Samuel 17:1-16.

5. First let's set the scene. Describe the situation that each Israeli soldier faced every morning and evening for forty days.

6. a. What information are we given about Goliath in verses 4-10?

b. How did Saul and all the soldiers of Israel respond to Goliath's challenge?

The dictionary defines a giant as "a person or thing of great size, strength, ..." Goliath was definitely a giant.

7. What emotion(s) might you experience if you were facing a giant who desired your defeat?

There are many things which cause fear. These, then, are the giants we face. There is the fear of being alone, fear of close relationships, fear of being sick, fear of the future, fear of failure and many, many others. Fear paralyzes us. It distorts our view and makes things appear impossible.

8. What are some of your fears?

Read I Samuel 17:17-37.

9. Now a man of faith arrives on the scene and things are seen through eyes of faith. Describe what David saw and heard when he came to the Valley of Elah.

10. a. A person of faith is one who is able to see beyond the situation to the Lord God Himself. What word does David use to describe God in verses 26 and 36?

b. Explain any relationship that you observe between this description of God and Hebrews 11:6.

c. What does it mean to you that God lives? Spend some time here. Be explicit.

Notice what high regard David has for God. Our view of God has a profound affect on our lives.

11. Let's try to get very specific. Think of some "giant" that is plaguing you right now. How might it help you to remember that God:

- is all-powerful? (Revelation 19:1-2, Psalm 62:11)

- loves you? (I John 4:19, Jeremiah 31:3)

- is faithful, dependable? (I Thessalonians 5:24)

- is omniscient? (Psalm 147:5) Omniscience means that God knows everything about everything.

- is \_\_\_\_\_ ?

In verses 28-30 a conversation is occurring between David and his brother.

12. a. What questions was David asking that so angered Eliab?

b. Why do you think Eliab reacted the way he did?

13. In verses 32-37, David told King Saul that he had faced other challenging tests which had helped to prepare him to face Goliath. What specific incidents does he mention?

Faith is realizing that what God is going to do through me will be on the basis of miracle, not man power, and on the basis of His promises, not my goodness, strength, etc. (Pamela Reeve)

14. God had given His people many promises with which David was probably very familiar. Summarize the following promises in your own words.

a. Deuteronomy 20:1-4

b. Deuteronomy 28:7

It is by faith that David laid hold of God's promises and applied them to his particular problem. By faith we can do the same.

15. To which of God's promises are you laying hold of at this time in your life?

Read I Samuel 17:38-54.

With a staff, five stones and his sling, David goes out to face Goliath who is an experienced warrior of enormous size with superior weapons and armor.

16. In your own words tell how Goliath responded when he saw David; and then describe David's reaction to Goliath's response.

17. Eliab had misunderstood David. Saul sought to discourage him and Goliath ridiculed him. What lesson do you see in these various reactions for the man or woman who is living "by faith"?

18. a. To whom or what does David look for deliverance? List specific verses.

b. David knew that the victory did not depend on him. In what area(s) of your life are you living as if the victory depended on you?

c. How might that same area of your life look if seen through the dependent eyes of faith?

We can perceive the world in one of two ways. We can see either through eyes of fear or through eyes of faith. If we choose to see through eyes of fear and doubt, our problems will be magnified; but if we choose to see through eyes of faith, we will be delivered from our fears. (Psalm 34:4)

19. By faith in the living God and in His promises, David defeated a giant. What have you learned about God and/or faith that will help you face your fears:

About God?

About faith?

Take a moment to pray, asking God to help you to remember and to apply what you have learned.

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