



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: 1 Samuel 17

Message for the Week: The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Giant

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What do you remember hearing about the story of David and Goliath when you were a child?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [1 Samuel 17](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What type of power does Goliath rely on? What type of power does David rely on?

How does David approach the battle with Goliath? How does Goliath approach the battle with David?

What is the relationship between vulnerabilities and capabilities? How do these both play out in this story?

What is the real battle that is happening in this story?

How does this story point to Jesus?

Try It:

All of us have both vulnerabilities and capabilities. We all have things we are good at and things that we are not good at. What are you good at? What do you wish you were good at?

How is God present in your capabilities and vulnerabilities?

Where have you pushed God away on account of your capabilities?

Where have you pushed God away on account of your vulnerabilities?

Where is God calling you in your capabilities and vulnerabilities to be obedient to His honor and glory? Trust God and enter into that area.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, thank you for the gracious and abundant gifts that make up who I am. Forgive me for being envious of those who you have equipped differently. In my strengths and weaknesses, use me to bring glory and honor to your name. Remind me that my life is about you and to live accordingly. AMEN.

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Hospitality

During the months of April and May, you are invited and encouraged to engage in the missional practice of [Hospitality](#). Hospitality is about creating welcoming space for the other. The practice of hospitality originated in the ancient world and was expected as travelers would seek shelter and food after traveling great distances. This practice is about living a life of hospitality. Henri Nouwen writes, "Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines."