

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“FROMTO Book of 1 Samuel”
(1 Samuel 17)

Giant Killer June 22, 2008

Questions written by Mark Collins



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group leaders are there any members in your who's ready to step out into leadership? Maybe there's someone who wants to take a greater role within your group? Or could there be people willing to learn and implement leadership principles in their everyday lives. If this is the case we have an amazing opportunity for them. Encourage your members to attend our Foundations in Leadership training Saturday June 21st and June 28th from 9AM to 3PM, Childcare (with pre-registry), breakfast and lunch are provided. During these two Saturday seminars we'll be unpacking the principles leadership, while interactively allowing you to try on some of the skills as we go. I promise that these seminars are not tired, clichéd and boring classroom lectures. You'll have fun, meet new people and maybe, just maybe you'll discover a greater calling and purpose for your life. All you have to do to register is email Danah Davis at danah.davis@therocksandiego.org to sign up. Lets us know if you need childcare and the ages of your children. Although you've missed the first session it's not too late. Even if you haven't pre-registered, just show up this Saturday and we'll catch you up on all you missed last Saturday!

Small Group leaders are you encouraging your group members to join the Rock Army? Your group can catch the vision of becoming a part of a movement that encourages people to become World-Class Christians. To join, check out the ARMY requirements at www.therocksandiego.org/army/

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

As "small groupies," you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. If you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team, just let us know. Mark Collins, the Small Group Pastor, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of his personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org. May God work through your prayers mightily!

Reaching the Lost: Pray that all the small groups continue to develop relationships with those who are far from God, and invite them to their small groups.

Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups: Pray that all of our Small Groups take time to follow up on all the new people trying to get into small groups.

Potential Small Group Leaders: Pray that our current leaders continue to give their ministry away and develop future leaders to reach their full potential in Jesus.

The Rock Body: Pray that the Rock Army grows deeper and deeper in accountability to one another.

MEMORY VERSE

God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – GIANT KILLER

Maybe it's the guy thing but I admit that the David and Goliath story is still one of my all time favorites. In fact, when I think about it I'm always drawn to the stories where great courage and risk are involved; that's why if push come to shove, I could probably watch *Gladiator* and *Braveheart* every night of the week. It still does something to me when I hear interviews with guys in Iraq who have performed incredible feats to rescue comrades at great personal risk. I can remember in the days after 9/11 hearing about firemen running *into* burning, collapsing buildings when everybody else was running out. I read about countries where they not only oppress Christians but actively persecute them and I am in awe of the courage of those Christ-followers who lay it on the line and even *die* for their faith. That's the kind of person I want to be. I don't want to be manipulated by circumstances and crumple into a heap or compromise my convictions. I don't want to give up when it gets hard. I want to be bold and courageous. I think most of us want that as well. The Apostle Paul wrote to a young, fearful guy named Timothy, **God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline** (2 Timothy 1:7). It was like God was letting us know that He doesn't want His people slinking and cowering around because He has given us a **spirit of power, love, and self-discipline**.

It is easy to think that courage is the dramatic stuff that makes it to the TV news. But it takes real courage to face life with the challenges it throws at us every day. Each day we make choices to do the right thing or the easy thing. We choose to stand firm in conviction or shrink back, to tackle a problem or just give in; to trust a God we can't see and don't always understand or do things our way. We certainly need courage to choose right over wrong. It takes strong character to be honest and pure and practice self-control. We are challenged with regards to our ethics at work. Do we keep our word? Do we tell the truth even when it makes us look bad? Do we take unfair advantage of a customer or co-worker because we are in a position of power? It takes boldness to stick to your convictions when people snicker and say you're idealistic or even a religious fanatic.

We need courage to have healthy and thriving relationships. Relationships that are authentic, growing and deep are that way because the participants in those relationships have courage. It's scary to get real about who you are and what you want (and don't want). But for a relationship to flourish, there must be intimacy and it takes guts to be self-disclosing. To have this kind of relationship you've got to push back fear so you can be honest and vulnerable. The tendency is to avoid it; and the relationship disintegrates, not from lack of communication but from lack of courage. It takes courage to raise kids. Every parent knows that it isn't easy. We don't like hearing our children's disapproval but it takes guts to stand firm, and to say "no." It also takes courage to tell your kids "yes" when it's time for them to hear it. When it's time, every parent has to dig down deep and find the strength to let your kids make their own decisions and mistakes (and learn from them). Maybe even more, it takes courage to say, "I'm sorry, I blew it" to your child. The truth is that every day we face a host of "Goliaths" who shout at us, defying us to make courageous choices that deep down we know we should make. Yet, God is ready and willing to help us. What's even more amazing is the fact the with God's help we can defeat our giants with just a single smooth stone. It takes courage to live the Christian life, but God promises to always show up when we walk by faith and not by sight.

GIANT KILLER

Getting Started

When you were younger (maybe when you were in High School or Jr. High) who were the bullies in your life? What were the biggest giants that you faced? Cliques? Personal insecurities? Grades? Drugs? Alcohol? Gangs? Other?

Digging Deeper:

Read 1 Samuel 17

1. Read 1 Samuel 17: 4-7 What does Goliath's armor and weaponry reveal about him?
2. Read 1 Samuel 17: 8-11, 26-28, 41-44. What words and threats has the enemy used against you over and over in your past and present (remember we fight against principalities and powers not of this world) to paralyze you with fear?
3. V. 16 tells us that Goliath taunted the Armies of Israel for 40 consecutive days. Have you ever been in an organization or a group that was gripped with fear? What was that like? What was the cost of inaction?
4. Read 1 Samuel 17: 29-37. Why do you think David volunteered to take on Goliath? What were his motivations? Where did you think his courage came from (killing lions and bears, his great slingshot abilities, God's past deliverance, or his conviction that the Lord would deliver His people)?
5. Read 1 Samuel 17: 38-40. Why do you think that Saul wanted David to wear his armor, even if it didn't fit him? Has someone in authority ever given you advice that you knew just "didn't fit"? How did you handle that situation?
6. Right now what *giants* have drawn the battle line against you and taunting you to come out and fight? Is your attitude more like Saul or David? Why?

Bringing it Home

So, how do we get courage? First, we must face our fears. Our tendency is to assume that courageous people don't have fears. But that isn't true. Many times courage is doing what is needed in spite of your fear. It has been said, "Courage is fear that has said its prayers." Then, begin to focus on God. "Focus" means that you are to cultivate a deep awareness that God really is with you and He really does care for you and He will not let you go. This kind of awareness liberates us from the bondage of fear. end this session with this question:

When it comes to slaying the "Goliath's" that your facing right now, what larger purpose might be accomplished for God if you would turn the battle over to the Lord?