

## Background to 1 Samuel 17

When God commanded Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites for their wickedness, Saul disobeyed God because, in his pride, he thought he knew better than God. So, God rejected him as Israel's king and God's Spirit left him. Then, God chose David as Israel's king and his Spirit came upon David. As an evil/harmful spirit is tormenting Saul, his servants found David to play the harp so that Saul can feel better. After this, David served Saul once in a while.

### Icebreaker

- a) Is honour something important in your culture? Is there someone/something's honour (family, country, etc) that you are willing to defend even if it means suffering?

### Pray

Ask God to help us understand, accept and obey His word even when it is challenging or hard.

### Read 1 Samuel 17 (map in the back)

1. As the Philistines and Israelites prepared for battle, how was Goliath described? (v.4-6)
2. What is Goliath's challenge to the Israelites? How did the Israelites react? (v.8-11)
3. Who is David? (v.12-15, 20) How does he look compared to Goliath?
4. When David showed an interest in the battle, how did Eliab (his brother), Saul, and Goliath react? What were David's responses?

**Pitched:** to set up and fix in position  
**Cubit/Shekel/Ephah:** Ancient measurement  
**Weaver:** A person who makes clothes  
**Subjects:** servants of a ruler  
**Defy:** openly resist, challenge  
**Dismayed:** discouraged  
**Uncircumcised:** irreligious; spiritually impure (or lit. person with foreskin)  
**Conceited:** extremely proud of self  
**Carcasses:** dead bodies  
**Strewn:** scattered/spread messily

Their view of David		David's response?	What is their focus?	What is David's focus
Eliab (v.26-30):				
Saul (v.31-40):				
Goliath (41-47):				

5. Compared to the Israelites, who did David put his faith in during his times of trouble (when facing fierce animals and Goliath)? (v.34-37, 45-47)

a. What is the result of putting faith in themselves/weapons vs. God? (v.11, 24, 32, 45)

6. How many times is the word “defy/defiance/defied” used? How does this help you see what motivates David’s main concern in this chapter?

7. **Read John 2:14-17.** Because of David’s faith in a living God, he was very angry when God was dishonoured. How does this point to or look forward to Jesus?

*In the temple courtyard he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of ropes, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “My great love for your house will destroy me.” –John 2:14-17*

8. What are some ways that you have seen God’s honour at risk or being mocked?

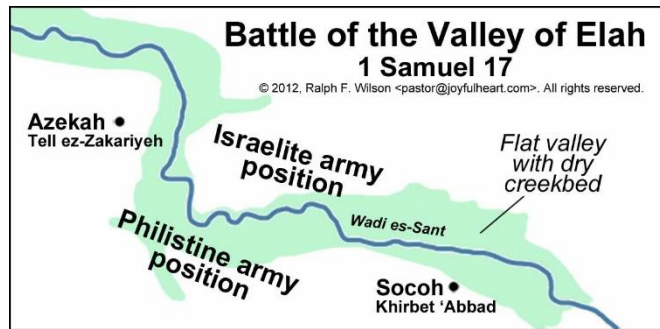
a. When that happens, how do you feel?

b. How can you act to defend God’s honour in those situations?

c. What risks might you experience by defending God’s honour?

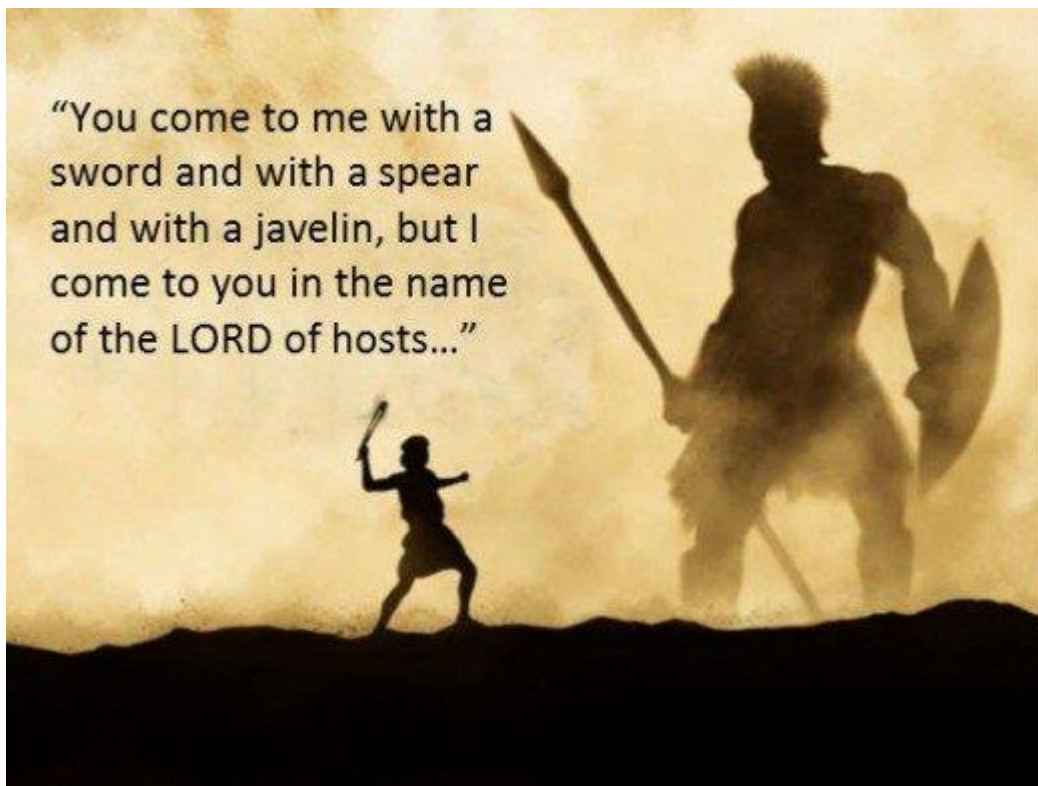
d. Are you willing to endure those risks for the sake of defending God’s honour like David? Why or why not?

Talk Notes





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*David's faith, God's glory*

**1 Samuel 17**