

The Crown: Week 2
Enter the Unknown King

Big Idea: When we face enemies that we cannot overcome, God will provide the representative we need to fight the battle.

Read the Bible:

1 Samuel 17

STUDY

*** Before interacting with this guide, all leaders should study the referenced texts using the REAP Method. It's also important to encourage your group members to read the text using the REAP Method. ***

R: Read the text a couple of times through

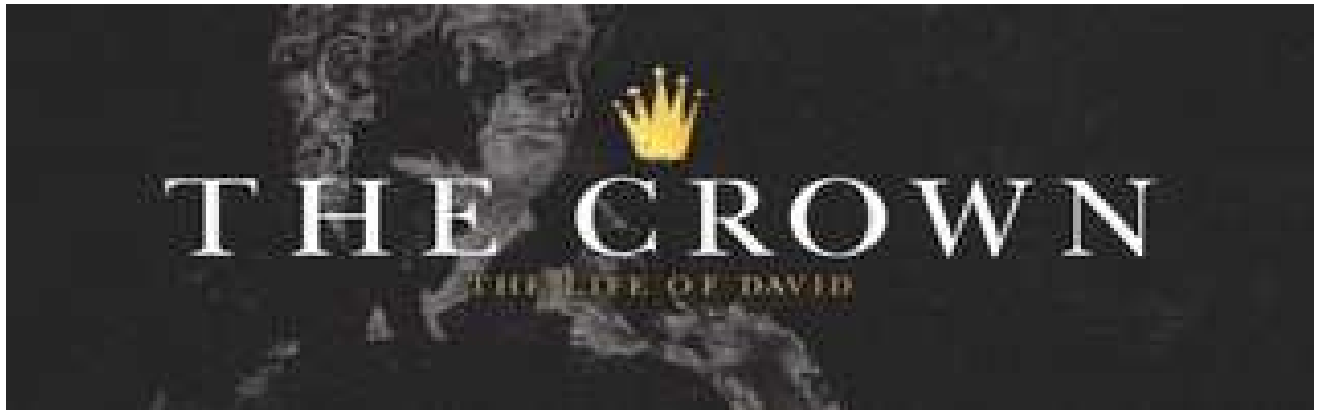
E: Examine the text. What does the text say? What does the text mean?

A: Apply the text. How should the text change your life?

P: Pray to God in response.

Summary

The Philistines and the Israelites were sworn enemies. They both dwelt in Palestine, the Jews were clustered in the mountains and the Philistines lived around the coast. In the early days of Israelite history, the people of Israel and the Philistines would battle. One battle in particular has



become the most famous story in all of antiquity, the battle between the Israelite boy David and the Philistine champion Goliath.

The Philistines had come against the Israelites at the Valley of Elah in order to divide King Saul's territory in two. The two armies encamped opposite each other and looked out across the Ravine in a deadlock, neither side advancing the battle. Ultimately, the Philistines sent their most famous warrior down into the valley to challenge an Israelite warrior to settle the conflict in representative warfare. Only, one person from each army would fight, and the winner would claim the battle while managing minimal blood loss on both sides. The Philistine champion was a giant who struck fear into the heart of the Israelite army. Israel needed a representative to overcome this seemingly unconquerable enemy.

While King Saul, the tallest man in all of Israel should have stepped up to this challenge, he floundered in his tent, afraid. Day after day, the Philistine champion challenged the Israelites, defamed their God, and shamed their men. Fear, shame, and blaspheming God's name. This was the repetitive scene until a shepherd boy showed up.

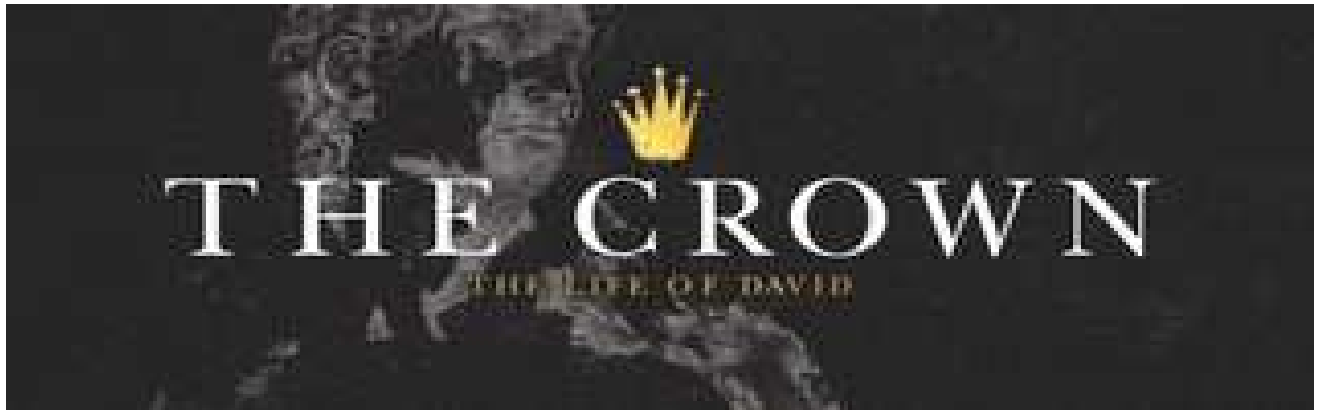
Enter David, the unlikely and unknown king. David hears this giant defaming God and Israel and decides to stand in for Israel and fight this despicable giant. While the rest of the army stands on the sidelines scared David marches into the valley, stands up to the giant, defends the name of God, and puts a stone right between Goliath's eyes before he cuts off his head.

In David we have the ultimate example of godly action and the perfect picture of the savior to come. David shows us what godly action looks like when he refuses to sit idly by and allow the name of God to be defamed. Instead, he trusts in the power of God to act through him. He refused to be paralyzed by fear. He acted when everyone else stood idly by. David also paints the perfect picture of the Savior to Come. When we had met an unconquerable enemy in sin and death and needed a representative to fight the battle for us Jesus went down into the valley and conquered our giant.

No wonder this story is so famous.

Major Lessons

1. Despite circumstances and fear, God's people are called to act boldly for God's glory.



2. Like the people of Israel, when we are faced with unconquerable odds, God provides a representative to fight our battle.

Leading Your Group

Community Time – Start group by asking for Prayer requests and checking in on everyone.

Bible Study

***Have everyone in your group read assigned scripture before meeting. ***

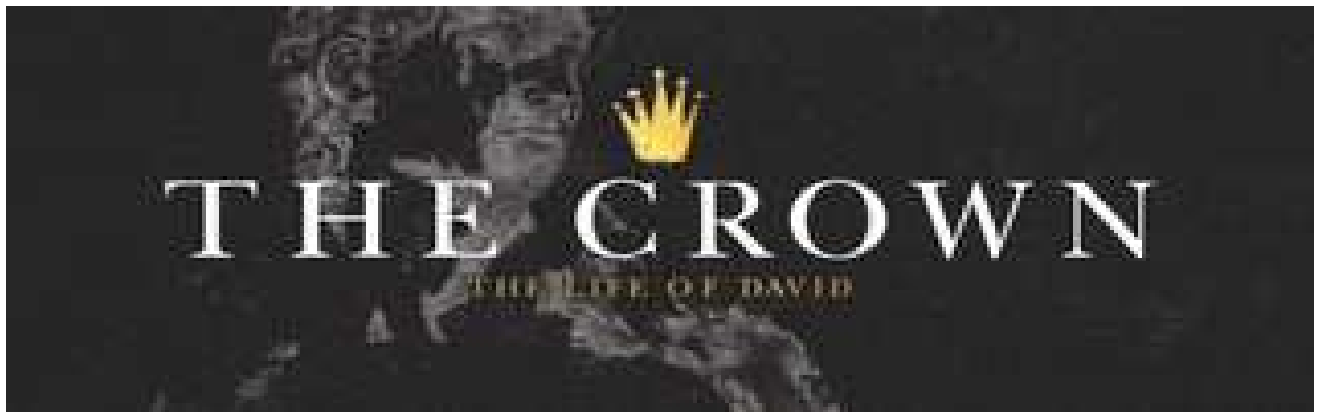
Start Group by Reading 1 Samuel 17:43-54

Discuss (The following questions are meant as suggested questions to guide conversation.)

1. What did this passage teach you about God (Jesus)?
2. Are there times when you feel like the Israelite army, on the sidelines scared to get in the game? Where is God calling you to get in the game right now?
3. How does it encourage you to worship when you realize that Jesus is the champion you need?
4. What giants stand in your way in life and keep you from following Jesus?
5. How can you overcome the giants in your life with Jesus on your side?
6. Is there any other way that this passage challenged you in your relationship with God?

Teaching

1. Make sure to spend some time talking about where we as Christians may be sitting on the sideline and where God may be calling us to act boldly.
2. Go over what the gospel is, "Jesus in my place." Teach the group how this story points us to the gospel.



Resources

1. <https://summitchurch.com/message/david-gods-hero>
2. https://www.amazon.com/Exalting-Samuel-Christ-Centered-Exposition-Commentary/dp/0805499318/ref=sr_1_1?crd=2WMX17U800XTN&dchild=1&keywords=christ+centered+exposition+1+samuel&qid=1628533496&sprifix=1+Samuel+Christ+centered+ex%2Caps%2C205&sr=8-1

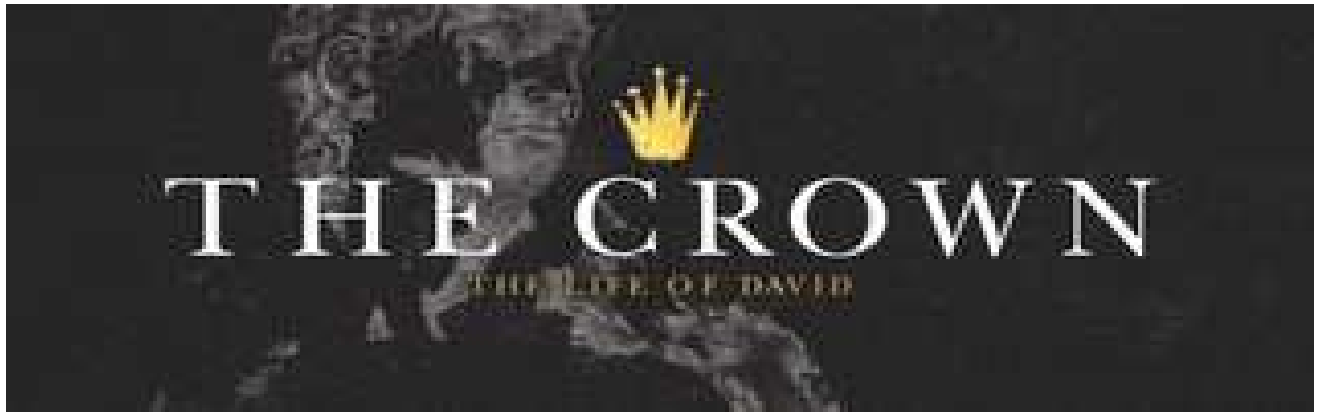
The Bible Teacher's Commentary

David Battles Goliath (1 Sam. 17:1–58)

The passage.—A second account of David's introduction to Saul is found in the story of David's victory over Goliath. In this account David was present on the field of battle, not because he was Saul's armor bearer, but because he was bringing his brothers provisions from home. Until the time of his victory, he appears to have been unknown to Saul (v. 58); but through his newfound prominence, he became a close friend of Jonathan who immediately secured him a place in Saul's court (18:2).

The battle took place in the valley of Elah, one of the major passes from the Philistine plain up into the highlands of Judah. The two armies had retired to defensive positions on opposite sides of the valley, and neither commander was willing to surrender the advantage of height to carry the battle to the enemy. In the stalemate which followed, the Philistines were gaining a psychological advantage through their gigantic warrior who daily challenged the Israelites to individual combat.

Israel's champion was far from the untried boy envisioned by many modern readers. He may have lacked experience in the use of military weapons (vv. 38–39), but he was a strong and experienced fighter (vv. 34–36). Putting aside the normal battle garb, he selected ammunition for his sling from the bed of a stream: five stones, each about the size of a man's fist. With this formidable weapon, he felled the Philistine giant. Using Goliath's own sword, David beheaded his enemy, thus confirming the Israelite conviction that the Lord and not the force of arms



determines the outcome of battle (v. 47). Unnerved by the unexpected defeat of their champion, the Philistines became easy prey for the jubilant Israelites.¹

¹ Philbeck, B. F. (1972). [1 Samuel](#). In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher's Bible commentary* (p. 172). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.