**Old School – Week 8 (David—Courage)**

**July 27-28, 2019**

We finally made it! We are finishing the 8th week of our Old School series and we have covered a lot of ground! We have looked at several different stories…so let’s do a quick recap of each one!

 -Cain/Abel: There wasn't a THP! Remember? You came up with your own!

 -Abraham/Sarah: God’s timing is ALWAYS perfect!

-Shadrach/Meshach/Abednego: Trusting God is always worth it!

 -Samson: God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness.

 -Esther: Compassion moves us to action!

 -Daniel: God gives us wisdom in difficult situations!

 -Joseph: Faithfulness is obeying God no matter what happens!

Now, we are concluding our series by looking at a boy named David…who is most well known in the Bible for two things: he was the king over all of Israel and he helped defeat the Philistine army and its best soldier: Goliath.

I know some of you are probably familiar with the story of David and Goliath, but maybe not everyone has heard it. We will look at it a little closer today, but it is a pretty famous story. I mean…even the phrase “David vs. Goliath” is used in our culture when a really bad team plays a really good team. The underdog always has a chance, right?

Well, before we look at the story a little closer, here is at least one person’s interpretation of what happened between David and Goliath that day. Check this out!

**(Leaders Note: Show “David and Goliath Lego” video)**

Needless to say, this is a pretty crazy story. A giant, Goliath, is leading an army of people that have occupied a hill right next to the Israelites. There is about to be a major battle. All of a sudden, Goliath challenges any soldier from the Israelites who is willing to meet him one-on-one to the death.

**Goliath came for 40 days and not one person agreed to fight him. Enter David!**

Obviously, based on the silly video and for those of us who knew the story beforehand, we know that David eventually kills Goliath and over time becomes the king of Israel. However, I would like to focus on the steps David took just to get to that point.

**Today, we are going to focus on courage. What does it look like to have real courage…courage from God? Is it about beating a giant or is it more about the willingness to actually face a giant? I believe true courage comes from God and not from yourself. That is what our THP is about today!**

**THP: God gives us true courage!**

David told his brothers that he wanted to face Goliath, but they get annoyed and probably just laughed it off. How could someone so small and so young kill Goliath? King Saul, the current king of the Israelites, hears about David’s plan and asks to meet with him. Check out their conversation in 1 Samuel 17:32-37:

*“David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.” Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him: you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”*

David’s courage came from God…not from himself. David may have shown bravery in facing Goliath, but he ultimately believed that only with God’s help could he defeat him. We see another example of David’s courage when he confronts Goliath and talks with him in front of both armies. Check out what he says later in 1 Samuel 17:45-47:

*“David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”*

**David said, “This is the LORD’s battle.” He is essentially saying that God will fight for me and through me. I believe in Him and He believes in me. It doesn’t matter if David was the smallest…he was the most courageous because of his trust in God. Even when you doubt yourself or don’t think you have what it takes, God believes in you!**

Every single one of us has something in common: at one time or another, we have all been afraid. Every single one of us. We have needed God’s courage at some point or another.

**(Share story of how you personally need/needed courage in some area of your life)**

What are the “giants” in your life? Who or what is your “Goliath”? What situations in your life right now do you need God’s courage? If you simply remember that God WANTS to help you and BELIEVES in you, you can find true courage comes from Him. As our THP said today, God gives us true courage!

**(Leaders Note: Move into Gospel presentation at the end of the message.)**