A Gospel-Centered Church
1 Samuel 17:1-11, then 41-51

1. Many of us grew up hearing the story of David and Goliath as a lesson in courage or self-esteem ("little guys can do big things with God's help"). How has that common telling shaped the way you've thought about the story?
2. The preacher argued that we usually put ourselves in David's place, but the text invites us to see ourselves as the fearful Israelites. What details in the passage support that shift in perspective?
3. How does seeing Goliath as a picture of the serpent (scaled armor, bronze/serpent wordplay, falling on his face, head crushed) and David as a picture of the Messiah deepen the meaning of the story?
4. The sermon connected this event all the way back to the proto-evangelium in Genesis 3:15. Why is it important that the whole Bible tells one consistent story of God defeating the serpent through His anointed one?
5. Where do you most naturally slip into a "be like David / try harder / have more faith" approach to the Christian life? How does that differ from resting in what Christ has already done?
6. The preacher listed several marks of a Gospel-centered life (humility, gratitude, repentance, forgiveness, hope in heaven, service from a place of being bought with a price). Which of these feels most needed in your life or in our church right now?
7. If Holy Cross is to be a truly Gospel-centered church, what practical differences might that make in our preaching, relationships, decision-making, and mission?
8. John Newton's final testimony was simply, "I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great Savior." How does that simple confession capture the heart of a Gospel-centered life?