

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Christmas Unwrapped” (pt. 3) – 12.15.2013

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:3-11; 26; 17:42-50 and Luke 24:27

Bottom Line: When we unwrap the story of David, we find Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

It's Christmas! Therefore, important Christmas questions must be asked: 1) Do you prefer to give gifts or receive them? 2) When was your favorite Christmas and why? 3) Santa...when and how did you learn the dreaded truth about his existence?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read 1 Samuel 17:3-11; 26

For 40 days Goliath taunted and mocked all of God's people. The Israelite soldiers would merely turn and run in fear at the sight of the giant. The young David comes out to the field to bring food to the soldiers, but is astonished by what is taking place. David volunteers to take down Goliath and is quickly mocked by all in attendance. He takes out his stones and goes to fight on behalf of God's people.

- 1) What stands out to you in these verses?
- 2) How does this passage of Scripture point to Jesus?

Read 1 Samuel 17:42-50

David is victorious over Goliath and he slays the giant who brought terror to the Israelites. David's victory will bring about unexpected fame and envy from his peers. Through strenuous circumstances David would be placed as the King over all of Israel. When Israel was weak, David was victorious on their behalf.

- 1) How does David's victory of Goliath point to Jesus? How would Jesus be victorious for His people?

Read Luke 24:27

The entirety of the Bible points to Jesus. This is evident throughout the Old Testament as there are several sign posts pointing to the coming Savior. Jesus even points to this truth as he walks to Emmaus with these two men. He takes them back to the beginning of the Scriptures and shows how all things in the Old Testament point to His coming.

1) How does David's life point to the coming of Jesus (see below)?

- David was born in Bethlehem, Jesus was born in Bethlehem
- David was nothing to look at outwardly in David, so with Jesus.
- David went to the valley as Israel's representative to battle their enemy, so Jesus is our representative who went to the cross to battle The Enemy.
- David looked like he would be defeated by the sword and size of Goliath, Jesus looked like he would be defeated by the cross & sword in his side
- David had victory in battle, so Jesus has victory in resurrection.
- David gave into temptation with Bathsheba, Jesus was tempted, but sinless
- David saved his people, brought peace, and unified his kingdom, so Jesus saves, brings peace, and unifies his people in his kingdom forever
- David was God's anointed earthly King, Jesus has always been and always will be God's son and eternal king
- David was a "Man after God's own heart, Jesus is God

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

The story of David is not merely good advice...it is good news! The good news is that God has fought and won our freedom. The opposite way to interpret the story is that we need to have courage and fight our own Goliath's. Viewing the story as moral teaching fuels fear because we better succeed or else. Viewing the story as good news fuels joy because we know we have a God who fights on our behalf and sets us free from our captors. We all will encounter giants we cannot defeat in life, but Jesus has already secured our victory. Jesus is the better David!

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

- 1) All of God's history points to Jesus! Ask yourself, "How does _____ point to Jesus?" How does scripture, prayer, your relationships, your job, your family, your finances and my sin point me/others to Jesus?
- 2) Thank God for winning the battle over sin and death on our behalf.
- 3) Who are you inviting to the Christmas Eve (Eve, Eve) service this Sunday (12.22)? Take time to pray for them with your group.