

10-21-23 Facilitator David, Goliath, and the LORD 1 Samuel 17 Tim Rice

1. **Launchers: What is it like to have your imagination dominated by fear?**

2. **Worship God** – Pick either Option 1 or 2 then read and worship God together.

Option 1 - Worship the LORD for His victory over all His enemies, especially in Jesus' death and resurrection. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that He is the Living God, trustworthy and true.

Option 2 - Read – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, and 1 Peter 1:3-6, 8-9

3. **Sermon Reflection: David, Goliath, and the Lord, 1 Samuel 17**

UNBELIEF & FEAR

- What is it like to have your imagination dominated by fear?
- How do you pursue security?
- When I was 30 years old, in 1990, my brother told me, "TimO, you will never have character or know Jesus cuz you won't go long enough without happy-ing your heart on something?"
- Where do you seek comfort?
- What do you happy your heart on?

FAITH IN GOD'S WORD & POWER

- What does it look like to trust the LORD and His promises even in the face of overwhelming opposition?
- Read the bonus material on the next page "Where do you seek comfort?" a letter by Jack Miller.
- When has God overwhelmed you and showed Himself great in the midst of your circumstances?

LIFE WITH THE VICTOR

- What changes when God takes action for His people?
 - David vs. Goliath with only a stone. Jesus vs. Satan naked and only the Cross
 - Joy in the victory of Jesus produces hope and confidence in this fallen world. Hope in Christ means that even vs. evil, nothing can undo Him.

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: YOU CAN PRAY WITH US**

1. Worship the LORD for His victory over all His enemies, especially in Jesus' death and resurrection. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that He is the Living God, trustworthy and true.

2. How have you lived with more confidence in the things of this world than you have trusted Jesus and His Word? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to change your heart to be truly loyal to Him as your King.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for His victory over selfishness by His faithful obedience. Thank Him for His victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell, by His resurrection, *and that He freely offers His victory to anyone who trusts in Him.*

4. Who do you know that has led you by walking in faith rather than walking in the ways of this world? Pray for them, giving thanks for their influence, and asking the Lord to help them only trust the LORD more.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your trust of God's Word. Pray for the Spirit to work His fruit of faithfulness into your heart, and that you would live out Jesus' victory over the worst things that threaten us!

5. **Mission: Christians seek comfort together. Christian living is low and slow. (Read Page 2)**

- Share the circumstances that overwhelm with your friends in CG.
- Ask God for His Plan.
- Bless God for these "Jesus Circumstances" that make your heart cry out to Him.
- Watch for a plan to emerge.

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This a letter from Jack Miller to the wife of a pastor who has been let go from his church.

Dear Pam,

This Saturday morning, I have been praying for you and for your family. I want to be able to pray effectively for you, and I think I can pray most effectively if I share with you what I have been asking from God. The first thing I have been asking is that all of you may have unity, and oneness as a family in discovering God's purpose in what has happened. But I think that a great hindrance in discovering and following God's will is our difficulty in believing that His will is good- and good for me- . We need to learn to love God's will if we are to be mature believers, but we can hardly love His will if inside ourselves we have not been persuaded that His will is for our good and is itself a good will.

I was in a very shattering experience in Uganda a few months ago, lost in the dark in a small boat during a storm on Lake Victoria. The whole thing seemed senseless, going from bad to worse, without prayers being answered. In the blackness and the rain and the utter misery of the cold, my last comfort was the sound of the Johnson outboard motor. I asked God to keep it going, and hardly asked for it when off it went. We were adrift, very literally powerless, directionless, and exposed to who knows what, including pirates who prowl the seas of the lake. There was just God, seemingly battering us. I don't know how to interpret it all, but I do know that as the water sloshed over my feet, there was a kind of message in it, one that I didn't like. It was simply that God was still a God of infinite love and compassion, but not according to my ideas, but to His; and I had to see that I was not in any way in the same league with Him. Only as I submitted my proud heart to His bigness and majesty and will could I really experience His love.

I don't know if any of that makes sense to you, but it comes down to God's insistence that He is God and only in my accepting that can I know Him. What this has led me to see is a second thing. It is that necessity of stopping, being patient, waiting, listening to God, right in the circumstances that overwhelm, right where I am tempted to feel left out and hurt. There I meet His grace as He meets me in silence. I need the silence; I need the time without easy answers that I may see that God's Fatherhood is not something simply for me to use, but a love of heart to heart and the willingness to walk with Him no matter what is happening.

I hope this makes sense. Life is inescapably a way of pain. The only question finally is where we seek comfort. If we seek our comfort in the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, then we will know joy and fulfillment beyond anything we have ever imagined. In the darkness a plan will begin to emerge. The plan must not be rushed, but it will come. It is much too early for me to presume to suggest what I believe it may be for your family, but be sure it is there, waiting to be discerned through a time of learning to wait and listen to His teaching voice.

In my own life its whole strength lies in that god has kindly imparted a confident knowledge of His Fatherhood. I may have a better knowledge of the Father than do other people. But would believe that this knowledge really began with the death of my own father? He was killed in a hunting accident when I was two years old. A senseless hunting accident. A piece of foolishness. Yet I am not bitter and am grateful to God for the perfection of the plan.

The emptiness, the dark nights when I was afraid as a small child to go to bed for fear I too might disappear, led me by God's grace to seek God as Father, to know what Fatherhood meant, to give up self-pity and self-awareness and walk in the confident knowledge of my heavenly Father 's love. Many people have been helped, converted, built up through God's revealing Himself right in the empty place at the center of my miserable life as God who is awesomely wonderful (John 3:16). I love my Father in heaven and trust one day to see my earthly father and to join him in praising God for the marvel of a plan that is sound beyond ordinary human understanding.

I know that an earthly mind cannot grasp heavenly dealings, and my prayer is that you will together be given a mind that understands heavenly dealings. You are dear to me. Pray for me too; my life is lived in the storm, and your prayers are very important to my growth in submission to God's will. I want you to pray that I will delight in His will as Christ did. "I delight to do thy will, O my God."

Let's not lose touch.

Cordially in Christ,
Jack Miller