



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 9

Lesson Title: David the Giant Slayer

Take Home Point: Trust God with your problems,
both little and big.

Warm-Up:

I want to be sure my daughter has good math skills when she is an adult. So even though she is only five years old, I got a mathematics text for her and am requiring her to read it and do all the exercises. Sounds pretty silly, doesn't it? Of course, she is in no way ready for such advanced material. She needs to learn the basics and gain comprehension and confidence. It's a process that takes years for everyone. Small success is a foundation for greater success. We don't expect our children to immediately be mature in their mental abilities; why do we think it should be different in spiritual things?

Read: 1 Samuel 17

Observation (What happened?):

How did Saul and the Israelite army respond to the challenge of Goliath and the Philistines?

Why was David so confident he would kill Goliath?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you think kept anyone in Israel's army from accepting Goliath's challenge to fight him?

What kind of thoughts might have been going through Saul's mind when he agreed to let David fight Goliath?

Insight:

What keeps God's children from trusting him? For most of us it's a matter of fear. What are we afraid of? We are afraid to trust him because it means we must admit we are not in control. We fear because the perception of our experience is that he isn't always there. The truth is we want a God who is a cosmic vending machine, dispensing what we want when we want it. But that doesn't develop trust; it develops spoiled children, and God is definitely not in the business of raising spoiled children. Do you trust your feelings or his promise to never leave you? Isaiah 12:2 says, *"Look! God is my Savior. I am confident and unafraid, because the LORD is my strength and my song. He is my Savior."* Memorize this verse so the next time you are tempted to not trust him, his word will give you truth and strength.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one or two small (or big) victories God has given you recently. Thank him for his presence and power.

What problem or challenge are you facing that seems impossible to overcome? Think of one action you can do to show God that you are trusting him to give you the victory.