



Week 11: October 27 – November 2

Welcome / Introduce Guests

10min

Open in Prayer
Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: Church is not a place or event. Church is a team sport and the goal is to make disciples!

2min

Retell last week's story: Acts 9:32-43 (Peter, Tabitha and the widows)

4min

Hook Question: Can you think of a time when you were filled with uncertainty as you faced a new or difficult challenge or season of life?

5min

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

There are times in our life when we are faced with the question, "Do I have what it takes?" We are not alone. We all face this question. The truth is, sometimes God asks us to do things that are bigger than us. When we rely on ourselves, we fall short. We must learn to look past our own abilities and circumstances and look to God in faith. Because of the power of the Holy Spirit you are a new creation in Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you have what it takes to do anything God asks you to do.

Today, we conclude our series on the Holy Spirit with a story about a young man who delighted in God and was filled with faith in His power. Today's story is about David. It was the era of the kings in Israel, before the civil war that divided the nation. Saul was God's first anointed king, but Saul's faith in God was weak. He constantly trusted his own judgement and what he could see instead of putting his trust in God. As a result, God removed his anointing from Saul and placed it on David. Saul still had the title as king, but David was now God's anointed and destined to become the future king of Israel.

Today's story is commonly known as the story of David and Goliath; but that's not really what this story is about. This story is really about contrasting David and King Saul.

Our story picks up with the Israelite army (God's holy nation) under attack. The Philistines had invaded their territory and declared war. Saul's army was on one side of a valley, and the Philistine army on the other. The Philistines had a champion named Goliath who was an incredible specimen of a warrior. Goliath drew out from his battle lines and boldly issued a challenge to the Israelite army. This is where our story begins...

12min

Tell the story from 1 Samuel 17:8-54: LONG STORY!! See the guidelines for telling long stories on the next page.

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the WHOLE story from 1 Samuel 17:1-58: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- How do you see the Holy Spirit in this story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God? (Remember, the Holy Spirit is God.)

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- What do you think God is trying to show you right now? How do you need to change?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

**Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week.
Close in prayer.**



Week 11: Leading with the End in Mind

If you've been around long you've heard us say that small groups are not the end, they are a means to an end. Our end game as a church is to faithfully live out the mission Jesus has given us: to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

So how do we know we are making small groups the end instead of the means?

- We only speak with the members in our group once a week at group.
- We know more about the Bible story than we know about what is actually going on in the lives of the people in our groups.
- We only see our group members at small group.
- We never share meals with the people in our small groups.
- We never have fun with people in our small groups.
- We don't think about our small groups until it is time to get together.
- When we think about being a small group leader, we think about leading a story, facilitating discussions, and sharing guidelines.
- We don't celebrate discipleship and relational connections with our small group (see last week's coaching guide).
- We don't share communion (The Lord's Supper) with our small group.
- We aren't there for our small group members when they have a need or are experiencing a crisis. Instead we just catch them after the fact and say we are sorry (as opposed to being in it with them).
- Our small group members feel like they go to a class once a week instead of being a part of a discipleship team working together to grow in love and faith and to connect others to Jesus and His Church.

How are you doing when it comes to keeping the end in mind? What would your small group members say about your group culture if they were brutally honest? What do you need to change to be a small group leader that has the right end in mind? Let's be Jesus's Church! Go... and make disciples.