

How to Defeat Your Goliaths – March 30 & 31, 2019
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Exodus 17:8-16

- Who attacked the Israelites, and where (8)? What counterattack plan did Moses have (9)? What do you think of it? What did Joshua do (10)? Who was on the hill with Moses (10)? What seemed to determine who was winning the battle (11)? How would you describe this situation? A miracle? A testament to robust faith in God? All of the above? Something else?
- What was done when Moses' hands got tired (12)? And what was the outcome (13)? As the Israelites faced this "Goliath," it wasn't Moses alone who overcame it. How can you be like Aaron and Hur – one who comes alongside those facing down a "Goliath"? Pray we'd do more of this as individuals and as a church.
- What did the Lord then instruct Moses to do (14)? Describe the altar Moses built (15-16). The Israelites were often very intentional to memorialize God's past activity. Are you? Are we as a church? Why is it important to remember all the Lord has done?

Day Two: Psalm 23

- To David, who is the Lord (1)? In what ways do *you* think of God as your shepherd? What direction is he providing in this Lenten season? What about for our church's giving campaign; how is he guiding you? Pray for sensitivity and obedience to his direction.
- Why does David "lack nothing" (2-3)? Besides "for his name's sake," what are some other reasons God guides us? What do you think is the "right path" for facing your "Goliaths"?
- What unnerving situation does David describe (4)? Why does he "fear no evil" (4)? What is the "darkest valley" in your life these days? Picture God there with you now. Keep your eyes on him. How is he protecting you? What is he saying to you?
- Where else does David commune with the Lord (5)? In what ways (5)? What does this make him certain of (6)? Can you say the same? If not, ask God to help you in your unbelief.

Day Three: Matthew 4:1-11

- Set the scene of this text (1). Who are the three players (1)? How did Jesus feel after 40 days of fasting (2)? What was the first thing Satan said to him (3)? Summarize Jesus' response (4). What do you think made it possible for him to pass this "test"?
- Describe the second encounter (5-7). Imagine this scene in your mind's eye. What can you see from this vantage point? Note it's the second time Satan begins by saying, "If you are the Son of God..." Why do you think he does this? When you're repeatedly tested in the same way or over the same matter, how can you respond in faith? Pray for grace to walk this out.
- Where did Satan next take Jesus (8)? What did he offer (9)? What was different about Jesus' response this time (10)? What happened next (11)? How do you think Jesus felt at this point? When a season of spiritual testing ends, how do you feel? Victorious? Vulnerable? Invite the Lord into this reflection.

Day Four: Matthew 28:16-20

- It's eight days after Jesus' resurrection; set the scene (16). When they saw Jesus, how did the disciples respond (17)? Despite a spiritually significant mountaintop setting, some doubted. Why? Pray it'd go differently for you; pray for faith to see God at work in

the present. Then begin to reflect: what mountaintop experiences of robust faith are you having during this giving campaign?

- What did Jesus say about himself (18)? What three things did he tell the disciples to do (19-20)? Meditate on his promise that “surely I am with you always, to the very end.” Look at God’s future activity in your life, at Vineyard Columbus and throughout the world. What do you see? Take heart: he will be with us!
- Just one chapter prior, Jesus, full of doubt, faced the ultimate “Goliath” of death. And now, here he is abounding in assurance. Reflect on your own battle of faith vs. fear. In this time of your life and in the life of our church, may faith come out on top!

Day Five: Luke 12:22-34

- What sorts of things does Jesus tell us not to worry about (22)? Why (23)? Is your thought life, use of time, spending habits, etc. in accord with Jesus’ words here? Why or why not? What natural phenomena does Jesus use to illustrate why we shouldn’t worry (24, 27-28)? Which of these illustrations is most impactful? Why?
- In verses 25-26, what rhetorical questions does Jesus pose? How do these questions make you feel? Why *do* we worry so much? During this capital campaign, as you pray about what to give, share your worries with the Lord. Await his response.
- What does the “pagan world” run after (29-30)? What should we believe and do instead (31-34)? Take a few moments to honestly reflect: what is your heart set on? What are some changes you can make so it is set solely on the Kingdom? How can generously giving to the continuation of God’s story here at Vineyard Columbus help you to store treasures in heaven?