

# Foundations Devotional

• FOR THE WEEK OF NOV 15 - NOV 21 •

## MONDAY // 1 SAMUEL 17-18

The story of David and Goliath is one of the most well-known in Scripture. The Philistine army challenged the Israelite army to a battle between their greatest champions. The Philistine champion was the giant Goliath, whose presence was so foreboding no Israelite wanted the seemingly impossible challenge of battling him. David (who was simply delivering lunch to his older brothers in the army) was offended by the mockery Goliath hurled against Israel's God, so he used his slingshot and the power of God Himself to kill the giant. Chapter 18 tells how, in the aftermath of his victory over Goliath, David's life changed both for the better and the worse—he discovered a lasting friend in Jonathan and a bitter rival in Saul. David's defeat of Goliath is a great biblical account, but it's also a picture of the gospel. In Christ, we have an even greater King than David—a King who defeated the giants of sin and death to set His people free.

## TUESDAY // 1 SAMUEL 19-20

Saul's jealousy of David's accomplishments drove him mad, so he ordered David's death. However, Jonathan warned David and he escaped. Once again, Jonathan stands out as a model for believers today. Jonathan understood that God had appointed David to be the next king, and he knew his father's actions did not bring honor to God. Even though Saul was Jonathan's father, Jonathan was submissive first and foremost to the Lord. No one had a greater claim on Jonathan's life than God. David and Jonathan solidified their friendship with a covenant of loyalty to one another and to God. As Jesus teaches in the Great Commandment, loyalty and submission to God are to take first priority in the life of a Christian, but this also naturally encompasses loving others, as Jonathan modeled so well.

## WEDNESDAY // 1 SAMUEL 21-22

Although parts of David's life give a clear foreshadowing of Christ, it doesn't take long for us to be reminded that David was still human. David fled into exile because Saul wanted to kill him, and during that time he made a series of selfish decisions that revealed his lack of faith that God would protect him and bring him into power as He had promised. While David may not have thought much about his actions, they had a devastating impact on Ahimelech and 85 other priests who were all murdered by Saul for the role Ahimelech played in assisting David. But one of the things that makes David a hero of our faith is his example of repentance. When David learned of these deaths, he acknowledged his sin and attempted to make it right. Throughout his life, David would sin many times, sometimes with tragic consequences, but he always repented and returned to the Lord. Even more importantly, God always accepted him back and continued to use David to make His name known. Like David, we sin often, but God is quick to forgive us and shower us with His grace when we repent of our sins and return to Him.

## THURSDAY // PSALM 22; 1 SAMUEL 24-25:1

During his life, David penned many of the psalms that are now included in the Bible. Psalm 22 came from a time in David's life when he found himself in great despair. David knew the plans God had for his life, but at that moment they felt unattainable and God felt absent. However, by the end of his prayer, David's pleas turned to praise and he acknowledged that although God felt far away, David knew He was not. While we don't know from what specific circumstances this psalm stemmed, David's experience in 1 Samuel 24 parallels it well. Saul's pursuit of David forced him to hide in a cave, an isolated place where he undoubtedly felt helpless. But when presented with the opportunity to kill Saul, David did not. In that moment, David chose to claim God's promises for his life and his future and to trust God to bring them to fruition. This is the same example Jesus gave us on the cross when He echoed David's cry—"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"—but even so, both Jesus and David surrendered their very lives to the plans of their Father.

## FRIDAY // 1 SAMUEL 28;31

These final chapters of Saul's story tell a tragic end to his life and reveal the consequences of his failure to trust God, just as his early years foreshadowed. After years of Saul failing to listen to God, God finally quit speaking to him. When confronted with a new threat from the Philistines, Saul approached a medium—a witch—in hopes that she could speak with Samuel's spirit and get him the spiritual wisdom he needed for this battle. This act was done in direct disobedience to the laws of God—laws Saul had previously sought to uphold by banning the practice of mediums altogether. Through the power of God, Samuel did speak to Saul, and his words summarized Saul's great failure in life—"You did not obey the Lord." Samuel then predicted what chapter 31 proved to be true: the Philistines would defeat the Israelites, and Saul and his sons would die in the battle. What Samuel didn't reveal, though, is that Saul would take his own life. From beginning to end, Saul's life shows us the missed opportunities and spiritual unrest of a person who refuses to live in submission to God.

## WEEKEND // FINISH UP ANY YOU DIDN'T DO