

## **Worksheet for the video on 1 Samuel 17, ‘Giant-Slaying in the 21<sup>st</sup>- Century’**

Hello, and welcome to the worksheet for this video!

Below, please find a number of questions. Please bear in mind that there are no ‘right’ answers, and there are no ‘wrong’ answers. Rather, these questions are designed to help you experience the video a little more deeply and, thereby, perhaps to enable you to consider more deeply, and come to know yourself, and your place in the world, a little more helpfully!

The biblical text behind this meditation is 1 Samuel 17:32-49:

The Philistine army invaded Israel and gathered on a hill overlooking the valley of Elah. King Saul and the Hebrew army took up positions on the other side of the valley. Then a monster of a man named Goliath came out from the camp of the Philistines. He stood 6’ 9” tall and was dressed to kill. Goliath shouted out, “Choose a man for yourselves and let him come to me. If he is able to kill me when we fight, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him, then you shall be our slaves. Today I defy the ranks of Israel – send me a man and let us fight together! But when Saul and his soldiers heard these words of the Philistine, they were terrified and, for many days, they did not know what to do, and couldn’t find anyone to fight Goliath.

Now David was a young shepherd whose three older brothers were in the Israelite army. Every day he went back and forth between his home, where he raised the family’s sheep, and the battlefield, where his brothers needed to be fed. [So, we remember, armies did not travel with canteens in the ancient world!] David grew increasingly angry at the nerve of Goliath, and increasingly ashamed of his country’s army. He said, “Who is this pagan Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” So, David went to King Saul and said, “Let me fight Goliath!” “But David,” the King replied, “You are just a boy, and he is a huge man!” But David persisted, “I guard the sheep for my father and whenever a lion or a bear comes to take a sheep I go after it and strike it down. The Lord who has saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will surely save me from the hand of this Philistine!” King Saul finally consented, saying “May the Lord be with you!” Saul even tried to dress David with his armour, but it was too heavy. Instead, David simply took his staff and, putting five smooth stones in the pouch next to his slingshot, went out to meet Goliath.

When Goliath saw David walking out to challenge him, he roared, “Am I a dog that you send children to me with sticks? Come here, you whelp, and I will give your flesh to the wild animals of the field!” But David replied, “You come to me with the sword and the spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord.” And David took out a stone, put it in his slingshot, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. Goliath fell face down

on the ground, dead. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and fled from the country.

- Have you encountered any ‘Goliaths’ in your life? What other kinds of threatening giants are ‘out there’ that I neglected to mention? (Make a list!)
- What other kinds of David’s ‘smooth stone’ qualities can help us to withstand life’s giants?
- How do you suppose that prayer and meditation can make a spiritual difference for us as we got about the business of facing our giants?
- Do stories from the Hebrew Scriptures, of the Old Testament pose more difficulty for you to ‘process’ than stories from the Christian Scriptures, or New Testament? Is so, do you have any idea why that might be?
- If David is a hero as a young man, are you aware of what happens to him later in his life? I’m thinking particularly here of what happens to Bathsheeba. Well, can you relate to David as a ‘flawed hero?’