

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ are confident in their God-given identity (Eph. 2:10).

SCRIPTURE

1 SAMUEL 17:4–11, 33, 41–47

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

A consistent foe for the nation of Israel was the Philistines, and there was probably no greater Philistine warrior than Goliath. He was so enormous and imposing that the mere sight of him caused soldiers to run and hide (v. 24). Instead of the entire Philistine and Israel armies going to battle, which would have brought about the loss of many people on both sides, Goliath threw out a challenge: he would fight Israel's best warrior, and the winner of that fight wins the war. The problem for Israel is that no one was willing to stand toe to toe with Goliath...until David heard the giant's defiance (v. 23).

Check out the *Teacher Prep Video* for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/1064810686>



OPENING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MEDIA AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

1. Play background music (optional)
2. Display **SERIES TITLE Slide** and announcement slides in a loop or customize the provided **PowerPoint**.
3. Play a 5-minute Countdown Timer 5:00 minutes before you start.

GAME or ICE BREAKER

Based on your group's size, choose a **Game** from **Deep Discipleship Games** OR use the **Ice Breaker** prompt.

- **Game**—We recommend **Name 'Em** or choose another screen game from **Deep Discipleship Games**
- **Ice Breaker**—What gift or talent do you have that most people don't know about?

DEEP DISCIPLESHIP GAMES

Find free games in **Deep Discipleship Games**. It's already included with your Deep Discipleship subscription. View the game in advance in case you need supplies or slides.

WORSHIP

Craft a time of worship with a live band or sing along to a playlist.

- Check out our curated Spotify list. We understand that every church has a different theological view of worship. These songs are suggestions, please pick what works best for your church.
- <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2xmeIKGUjkEE7bJYSCbRwe?si=d254ec715a4749e5>

SLIDES (optional)

Use **SERIES Background & Blank Slides** or **PowerPoint** to create lyric slides.

TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Include a brief element that transitions students from worship to teaching time, like a prayer or video. This will keep students focused and prepared for the message while the band leaves the stage.

VIDEO (optional)

Show **SERIES Promo Video** or **LESSON Intro Video** after the last worship song.

MESSAGE

Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.

POINT 1: Gifts, talents, and abilities

Read or have someone in your group read 1 Samuel 17:4–11

God has created everyone with specific gifts, talents, and abilities that are intended to be used for God and his Kingdom. However, our sin often drives us to use them for ourselves, to build ourselves up to be the heroes, champions, or kings of our lives. Goliath was that man for the Philistines. He was the biggest, strongest guy on the block and was 100% okay with everyone knowing it. His whole identity and value in the community were tied to what he could do.

ILLUSTRATION: Introduce the idea of spiritual gifts (Eph. 4:11–16) but emphasize how they are intended to be used to build God's Kingdom and not our own.

Our gifts, talents, and abilities are part of how God has created us. But when we place our identity in those gifts, we become like Goliath, but God calls us to be more like David.

SLIDES (optional)

Use the **SERIES PowerPoint OR** the **Background & Blank Slides** to create these slides to support your message:

- 1 Samuel 17:4–11
- Point 1

POINT 2: You're not good enough

Read or have someone in your group read 1 Samuel 17:33

David was the opposite of Goliath. He also had gifts, talents, and abilities, but instead of using them to serve and glorify himself, he used his God-given talents to give God glory (vv. 45–46). David didn't allow others to define his worth and value. Everyone told David to stay out of this situation with Goliath, saying he was too young, not a warrior, and incapable of fighting. People looked at him and declared, "You're not good enough." In reality, David wasn't good enough. But he had confidence in God's ability to work through him.

ILLUSTRATION: Share a story of a time you were overlooked or someone declared you were not "good enough." How did it make you feel?

Like David, we will all have people in our lives who think we are not "good enough," but like David, we are called to put our trust in God and his ability to work through us.

SLIDES (optional)

- 1 Samuel 17:33
- Point 2



POINT 3: Jesus is the source of our power

Read or have someone in your group read 1 Samuel 17:45–47

SLIDES (optional)

- 1 Samuel 17:45–47
- Point 3

God had exactly what David needed, and when David trusted God as his power source, he defied expectations and overcame the giant. God has given you gifts, talents, and abilities. It's hardwired into how he created you, but God is your power source—not those gifts. Instead, those gifts are the tools you have been given to be God's hands and feet to glorify him (1 Peter 4:10–11).

ILLUSTRATION: Share a story about how God has used you to bring him glory with your God-given gifts, talents, and abilities.

When we center our identity on Jesus, we use our gifts, talents, and resources to build his Kingdom and give him glory. In his power, we can do more than we ever thought or imagined.

CLOSING

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ are confident in their God-given identity (Eph. 2:10).

SLIDES (optional)

- Mark of a Disciple

FACILITATOR NOTE: DO YOU HAVE SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION RIGHT AWAY?

- If YES, then **STOP HERE**, divide into groups, and provide Small Group Leaders with the **Small Group Breakout Questions** on the next page.
- If NO, then end your gathering with the **Reflect & Respond** questions and **Prayer** prompt below.

REFLECT & RESPOND

Give the students time to silently think through what they have heard and contemplate these questions:

- What do you think are your God-given gifts, talents, and abilities?
- How are you using your gifts for God versus yourself?

SLIDES (optional)

Use the **SERIES PowerPoint** OR the **Background & Blank Slides** to display the **Reflect & Respond** questions.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Don't rush this part. Give the students a few minutes to really consider if they are using their gifts, talents, and abilities for Jesus or themselves.

PRAYER

Take time to pray that God will give every student an opportunity this week to give glory to Jesus with one of their gifts, talents, or abilities.



SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT (OPTIONAL)

Pick a few questions from each section to discuss. Close with prayer.

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

Build Meaningful Relationships

- **What keeps us from using our gifts, talents, and abilities for God?**
Help your students see the mental and physical roadblocks that sometimes keep us from using our gifts, talents, and abilities for God. It's not always a sin. It can be time, money, resources, a desire to help, etc.
- **How has your life been impacted by someone else's gifts, talents, or abilities?**
Answers will vary but may include help with understanding a school subject, providing guidance through a tough situation, listening when a friend is needed, etc. The impact someone else made in their life is the same impact they can make in someone else's life.

Share Personal Stories & Ask Intentional Questions

- **How would you define what a spiritual gift is?**
Spiritual gifts are God-given gifts to each of his children that help build up the church. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27–30 and Romans 12:4–8.
- **Why do you think we sometimes use our God-given gifts for ourselves instead of God's Kingdom?**
Our world tells us daily that we are the center of our stories and that it's up to us to fight for and take what we can because no one else will do it for us. Because of our sin nature, our natural desire is to lift ourselves up.
- **Why do you think Israel was so afraid of Goliath? And what kind of Goliaths are in your life?**
Israel saw Goliath's size, strength, and experience as an obstacle too big for them to overcome. They didn't seek God's help, but David did, and it made all the difference. Help your students think about obstacles in their lives that they also think are too big to overcome and remind them that God wants to help.
- **Share a story of when people doubted you like Israel doubted David.**
Come prepared to share a personal story, but help your group connect the lies and doubts people told David with how God worked his power through you.
- **David ultimately trusted God, and God rescued Israel. Can you share a story of a time when you trusted God, and he came through?**
Come prepared to share a personal story to help get the conversation started, and remind your group that the God who rescued Israel is the same one who rescues us.

Make Life Application & Hold Students Accountable

- **How do we make sure we are more like David than Goliath?**
Two big differences between the two: David used his gifts for God's glory, and Goliath used his gifts to glorify himself. David's confidence was in what God could do, while Goliath's confidence was in what he could do on his own.
- **If Jesus is our source of power and intended to be the center of our lives, how can you keep him at the center?**
Answers will vary but might include: spending time with God through prayer and reading his Word, trusting his ways over our own, etc.
- **How can you use a God-given gift, talent, or ability to impact your world for Jesus this week?**
Help your students be specific. If you can, it would be helpful and encouraging to identify a gift, talent, or ability you see in each of them to spark ideas and conversations.

PRAYER

Take time to pray that God will give every student an opportunity this week to give glory to Jesus with one of their gifts, talents, or abilities.

Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.

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