



Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

INTEGRITY: When the odds are against you Sun 24th Oct 2021

WELCOME: Last week's message explored the ways that Integrity impacts us personally, as a church family and as a community made up of multiple generations. This week's message continues to explore integrity from the perspective of who you are when the odds are against you?

- **What images come to mind for you when someone says, "David and Goliath?"**
- **In what contexts have you heard the concept of David and Goliath used?**

DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:

Read 1 Sam 17:1-51 (divide passage up between people who are happy to read aloud.)

David had seen God's saving grace many times in his shepherding days

- **How can you see God's hand in your life?**
- **What are you afraid of? How is "Goliath" relevant in your life?**

David had faith in God that He would have victory and realised that the battle was not his but belonged to God. The outcome would not be determined by David but by God. David understood that God had gifted him with a weapon to use in God's name.

Our battle is not against flesh and blood (although sometimes our Goliath appears to have skin) - see **Ephesians 6:12.**

- **What has God put in your hand to defeat your enemy?** (Consider: the Word of God, Prayer, the Holy Spirit, gifts of the Spirit...)

God knows your enemy! He knows Goliath: his strengths and weaknesses. God knows your Goliath too. Jesus told his followers that in this world we are to expect trouble, but He has overcome this world.

- **How can this be a comfort?**

Vanessa referred to a link to a in her message. If you do watch it, do so with the warning that this theory is a hypothesis and that the talk is not from a Jesus perspective. It exaggerates some points for effect in the interpretation, but it does give some interesting insights you may not have considered:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziGD7vQOwl8>

David practiced the skills he needed for battle (both slinging and faith).

- **How can we be best prepared for battle?**

Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

- **How does daily dressing in God's armour prepare us?**
- **In what ways is the armour of God significant in your Christian life?**

Read Hebrews 6:18-20.

- **In what ways is it important for people to have some hope in life?**
- **What does it mean for our hope in Jesus Christ to be our anchor?**

In Joshua 4, God's people built a memorial of stones to commemorate God's miraculous power, grace and love toward his people.

Read Joshua 4:4-7

- **In what ways can memorials be beneficial for us as Christians?**
- **How can we build "memorials" to remind one another of who God is and to encourage us to step out in faith?**

Read Eph 2:10 (this sums up who we are and what we are to do.)

- **How does this verse take the pressure off your day?**
- **How does this verse encourage you to step into (or walk in) the things God has already prepared for you?**

Finish your gathering this week praying for one another

Pray together:

Pray that we would be people who see our "Goliaths" with God's perspective in mind.

Pray that we would each be gracious to others, knowing their Goliaths are significant to them.

Pray that we would be people of Integrity in faith, when pressures come and the odds are against us.

Pray we would be reminded to put on the armour of God and stand in faith. (Read the prayer below)

Armour of God Prayer

Dear Lord, as I get out of bed today, I know I'm stepping onto a battlefield.

But I also know that you've given me everything I need to stand firm.

So, in the power of your Holy Spirit, I put on the armour of God:

First, wrap your word around me like a *belt of truth* and safeguard me from error.

Let the *breastplate of righteousness* keep my heart and emotions safe. I pray that I won't be governed by my feelings, but by truth.

I put on the *shoes of peace* to guide my steps. Plant my feet in your truth. Empower me to stand firm against attack.

Next, I take up the *shield of faith*. Protect me from Satan's fiery arrows. Place me shoulder to shoulder with your army to oppose the devil's schemes.

I place the *helmet of salvation* on my head. Protect my mind and imagination. Guard my eyes, allowing no sin to creep in. Focus my thoughts on the things of God.

Finally, I take up the *sword of the spirit*, your Word. Help me to read the bible in a fresh, exciting way so I will always be ready to deflect attacks and pierce hearts with your truth.

I know I will face assaults today, Lord. But you've empowered me to stand firm. Give me strength for the battle today.

In Jesus' mighty name. Amen

This week why not engage with the 5 x 5 x 5 process – take 5 mins for 5 days and dig deeper in 5 ways.