



# home groups

Discussion Guide



## Learning To Face Fears

1 Samuel 17

### Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

#### Discuss

- Who is the most courageous person you know?

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### Lesson Review

(35 minutes)

#### Read all of 1 Samuel 17

Andy quoted these funny lines from the Saturday Night Live sketch "Deep Thoughts by Jack Handey."

*There used to be this bully who would demand my lunch money every day. Since I was smaller, I would give it to him. Then I decided to fight back. I started taking karate lessons. But then the karate lesson guy said I had to start paying him five dollars a lesson. So I just went back to paying the bully.*

Andy compared the 40 days of taunting from Goliath, who wore snake-like scaled armor, with Jesus' 40-days of temptation in the wilderness by Satan who is represented by a snake in Genesis. Lent also lasts 40 days. This is a season to face our spiritual bullies and refuse to keep paying them. A season of repentance and renewal. Andy said these spiritual bullies usually keep us from two things: fighting evil and loving well.

### **Discuss**

- Where do you feel hindered in your ability to fight evil or love well?

In contrast to the Israelite soldiers, Andy noted that David was more concerned with God's glory in the face of Goliath's taunts than his own safety.

### **Discuss**

- Have you ever felt like your personal safety was at cross-purposes with God's glory? Which did you choose?

Andy pointed out how David was a type of Jesus: a champion who rescued God's people from a prideful snake.

In verse 46, David courageously says, "This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel." But Jesus' message was a little different. Instead of "I will give your flesh to the birds and the world will know..." Jesus says something like, "I will give my flesh to the cross and the world will know..." David was courageous to risk his safety and win victory through Goliath's shed blood. Jesus was courageous to face certain loss and win victory through his own shed blood.

### **Discuss**

- What other similarities and dissimilarities can you see between those two figures?
- What other Biblical characters faced risk or suffering for God's glory?

Andy told the story of Pastor Thomas Rusert who offers "free prayer" at his local coffee shop. Rusert's advice was, "Trust that God is already sitting with you – encouraging you and giving you the confidence to put yourself out there for the sake of your community."

## **Discuss**

- Pastor Rusert faces his fears for the sake of his community. Likewise, David's exploits were not for his own sake but for his people. For whom should you face your fears? Who is counting on you?
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## **Application**

*(20 minutes)*

### **Discuss**

- Andy quoted Ephesians 6.12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." With that verse in mind, how would you identify your giants. Can you name a fear-inducing bully you need to face?
- This is the First week of Lent. How are you observing the season? Giving anything up? Taking anything on? Is there anything your group can do together to make the season more meaningful?

