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God sees my heart.

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WHAT'S IN THIS Study?

DAY 1: Knowing God's Heart

DAY 2: A Woman With Faith

DAY 3: A Contrast to Consider

DAY 4: Samuel's Ministry

DAY 5: The King

DAY 6: Which Is Better?

DAY 7: God Looks at the Heart

DAY 8: Our God Gives Courage

DAY 9: Real Friendship

DAY 10: Ruthless Jealousy

DAY 11: David and His Rock

DAY 12: To Whom Does Vengeance Belong?

DAY 13: Saul's End

DAY 14: David's Earnest Desire

DAY 15: God's Promise

DAY 16: Fatal Failure

DAY 17: Learning to Repent

DAY 18: The Effects of Sin

DAY 19: Hope in God's Faithfulness

DAY 20: We Follow Jesus



Junior Level

Ages 8 - 12

Our God Gives Courage

Have you ever had to do something that others were afraid to do, even though you were scared too? It can be hard to respond in courage rather than fear. The good thing is, we don't have to be brave all on our own!

Read **I Samuel 17:4–11**. What enemy was causing Saul and the rest of the Israelites to be afraid?



The Philistines were constantly threatening and attacking the Israelites. But then a new enemy entered the picture—the giant, Goliath! Goliath wasn't just there to look mean, intimidating, and scary; he called out a challenge to King Saul and the Israelite army. Goliath defied the army of Israel and told them to send out a man to fight him. Saul and his soldiers were scared—who could possibly defeat this massive warrior?

Would you want to volunteer to fight Goliath?

☐ YES ☐ NO

In 1 Samuel 17:12–24, David was sent by his father to take food to his brothers near the battlefield, and he heard Goliath's challenge. Goliath continued mocking and challenging the Israelite army for 40 days. The men of Israel were afraid!

Read **I Samuel 17:32–36**. What did David say he would do?



David's response was very different from everyone else's! Instead of getting out of there as fast as possible, he went to King Saul and volunteered to fight this Philistine giant.

Read **KEY VERSE** **I Samuel 17:37**. Why did David have courage even when those around him were frightened?



As a shepherd, David had to fight lions and bears in order to keep his father's sheep safe. He knew his God had protected him from these wild animals, and he believed God would protect him from this Philistine who had dishonored both God's name and His people.

Confidence in our God gives us
courage when others are afraid.

Read **1 Samuel 17:45-49**. What happened when David went out to meet Goliath?

David responded to Goliath's insults and challenge with confidence that his God would deliver him and His people. Goliath was no match for what God could do! David's stone killed the giant instantly, and the Israelite army chased the fleeing Philistines back to their own land.

The kind of confidence that David had in God is what we can have also! We just need to remember the truth about our God and trust Him. This will give us the same kind of courage as David, the giant-killer!



What fears can you face with confidence and courage when you remember that God will help you?

Today, pray that God will help you respond to scary things with courage. Thank Him for being with you and helping you.

Youth Level

Ages 13+

Our God Gives Courage

Have you ever had to do something that others were afraid to do? Were you scared too?

Whether it's doing the right thing when no one else is, sharing the gospel with a friend, or speaking the truth when others stay quiet, it can be hard to respond in courage rather than fear. The good thing is, we don't have to be brave all on our own!

Read *1 Samuel 17:1-11*. What enemy was causing Saul and the rest of the Israelites to be afraid?

As we've seen so far in 1 Samuel, the Philistines were constantly threatening and attacking the Israelites. I'm sure the continual fighting and defensive measures were difficult and discouraging. But then a new enemy entered the picture—the giant, Goliath!

Goliath wasn't just there to look mean, intimidating, and scary; he called out a challenge to King Saul and the Israelite army. Goliath defied the army of Israel and told them to send out a man to fight him. Whoever won that fight would be considered the conqueror without the two armies themselves needing to fight. Saul and his soldiers were scared—who could possibly defeat this massive warrior? There's no way it would be a fair fight.

Read *1 Samuel 17:12-23 and 32-36*. What happened next?

While David (yes, the same David from Day 7!) was bringing food to his brothers near the battlefield, he heard Goliath yelling his challenge. Verse 16 says that Goliath taunted the Israelite army for 40 days, both in the morning and evening. David's response was very different from everyone else's! Instead of getting out of there as fast as possible, he went to King Saul and volunteered to fight this Philistine giant.

Read ^{KEY VERSE} *1 Samuel 17:37*. Why did David have courage even when those around him were frightened?



David was a shepherd for his father. Maybe you've seen some illustrations in a book of a shepherd who is supposed to represent David. Often, these pictures are calm and beautiful with little white lambs surrounding the shepherd boy playing his harp. While some days may have looked like this for David, we see from verses 34–37 that others were not so calm!

David had to fight lions and bears in order to keep his father's sheep safe, and he knew who was keeping him safe while he did. As we learned on Day 7, David wasn't the biggest or the strongest of his brothers. However, David knew his God had protected him in these battles with enormous wild animals that were stronger than him, and he believed God would protect him from this Philistine who had dishonored both God's name and His people.

Confidence in our God gives us *courage*
when others are afraid.

Read *1 Samuel 17: 38 - 54*. How did God protect David?

It is clear that God gave David the victory! David decided not to take Saul's armor or sword because he had never fought with them before—he didn't know if he would be able to move correctly, carefully, and quickly like he would need to in order to fight the giant. Instead, David armed himself as he did when he cared for his father's sheep. He gathered stones for his sling and then went to face Goliath.

David responded to Goliath's insults and challenge with confidence that his God would deliver him and His people. The giant had a sword and a shield, but David had a God who was alive and watching over him. Goliath was no match for what God could do, as everyone quickly saw. David's stone killed the giant instantly, and the Israelite army chased the fleeing Philistines back to their own land.

Do you have the kind of confidence in your God that David had? Explain your answer.

What fears can you face with confidence and courage when you remember that God will help you?

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Parent Guide

Our God Gives Courage

Have you ever had to do something that others were afraid to do, even if you were scared too? Whether it's doing the right thing when no one else is, sharing the gospel with a friend, or speaking the truth when others stay quiet, it can be hard to respond in courage rather than fear. The good thing is, we don't have to be brave all on our own!

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As Christians, we often face odds that don't result in a "fair fight." It can be easy to become overwhelmed, angry, or even frantic when we are hurt by other Christians, encounter political upheaval, or are treated wrongly in our workplaces. In all these circumstances, our God remains steadfastly in control! When we are trusting and resting in Him, no giant difficulty can shake or move us. We are secure in His love and nothing can separate us from it (Romans 8:31-39).

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Read KEY VERSE *1 Samuel 17:37*. Why did David have courage even when those around him were frightened?

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Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:37

Key Truth: Confidence in our God gives us courage when others are afraid.

Discussion: What do you know about God that can help you have courage and confidence in a fearful situation? How has God protected and delivered you before? What situation can you trust Him with this week?

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AFTER HIS OWN HEART

What made David a man after God's own heart? How could God make this statement when David sinned and failed just like the rest of us? Why was the throne taken from Saul's family and given to David? What can we learn about God even in the stories of **imperfect** people?

All of these questions are explored in *After His Own Heart*, a study on the books of 1 and 2 Samuel! While none of us is perfect in our walk with Christ, our heart attitude is **key** to becoming people who are after God's heart.

