

### **Judges 3:4**

These people were left to test the Israelites—to see whether they would obey the commands the Lord had given to their ancestors through Moses.

### **1 Samuel 17:1-11**

1 The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim, countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. 3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on the hills, with the valley between them. 4 Then Goliath, a Philistine **champion** from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to fight the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! 5 He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. 7 The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield. 8 Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine **champion**, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! 9 If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! 10 I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who can fight me!" 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

**A crisis of faith usually occurs with an identity crisis.**

### **1 Samuel 17:12-16**

12 Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shimea—had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines. 14 David was the youngest son. David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, 15 but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem. 16 For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

### **1 Samuel 17:24-28**

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. 25 "Have you seen the giant?" the men asked. "He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!" 26 **David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine and what is he allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"** 27 And these men gave David the same reply. They said, "Yes, that's the reward for killing him." 28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"

**When you lose heart for the battle, you will criticize those in the fight.**

### **1 Samuel 17:29**

29 "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!"

**When faced with a choice, what will most honor God?**

### **1 Samuel 17:36-37**

36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!"

### **1 Samuel 17:38-39**

38 Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 David put it on, strapped the sword over his shoulder, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. “I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.”

### **Ephesians 6:13-17**

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of **truth** and the body armor of God’s **righteousness**. For shoes, put on the **peace** that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of this, hold up the shield of **faith** to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on **salvation** as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**.

### **1 Samuel 17:41-47**

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. 44 “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled. 45 David replied to the Philistine, “You come at me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 Everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

### **Matthew 6:9**

Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

**How is my life an answer to this prayer?**