



Small group study materials, September 2020

Chapter & verse – Chrishanthy Sathiyaraj (page 16)

Read 1 Samuel 17: 4-50, followed by Chrishanthy Sathiyaraj’s article.

1. The Bible describes Goliath as so intimidating that Israel was ‘dismayed and greatly afraid’ when he challenged them. What intimidates you?
2. Chrishanthy begins her article by saying that she did not expect Christians to cause problems, and she ‘expected an untroubled life’ when she became a Christian. How have your expectations of the Christian faith, and of communities, met with reality?
3. Chrishanthy asks us to imagine what we might do if we encountered a lion in the jungle: fight, flight or freeze? Which response do you think would you choose? Do you respond the same way to challenges in your life? What would be your ideal response?
4. In the fifth paragraph of Chrishanthy’s article, she describes how David ‘fought with faith as his weapon,’ knowing that ‘victory came from God, not from materialistic weapons’. What conflicts in the world today require God’s intervention? Is there a time for actual weapons, or should we always look for a more peaceful response?
5. Saul doubts David’s ability to fight Goliath (verse 33). David meets the challenge of convincing Saul, before the physical challenge begins. Describe some of the doubts and challenges that today’s Christians must overcome in order to begin doing God’s work. How can we support one another in facing such challenges?
6. In her sixth, eighth and ninth paragraphs, Chrishanthy references how other Old Testament leaders responded to challenges. Do the situations of Samson, Joseph, Abram and Isaac remind you of situations from your own life experience?
7. Chrishanthy’s article ends by encouraging prayer for ‘wisdom on how to handle each circumstance we face’. What other qualities do we need to face today’s challenges?

For further reflection: ‘We do not wage war according to human standards, for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human...’ 2 Corinthians 10:3-4



Prayer: We thank you, Father, that though we face great challenges in our lives, we never face them alone. Give us the strength and grace to face our challenges as your children, we pray. Amen.

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