

**Week 4:
Dedication
During
Discouragement**

1 Samuel 17

“So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.” 1 Samuel 17:50 (NIV)

A. A Rejected King | An Anointed Shepherd

1. The Lord’s **instructions**

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’” 1 Samuel 15:2-3 (NIV)

2. Offerings vs. **obedience**

“But Samuel replied: ‘Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king.’” 1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NIV)

3. The last shall be **first**. David is anointed.

“Then the LORD said, ‘Rise and anoint him; this is the one.’”

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.” 1 Samuel 16:12b-13a (NIV)

B. The Enemy’s Forces Are Gathered

“Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.” 1 Samuel 17:1-2 (NIV)

1. There are two **forces** at work.

“The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.” 1 Samuel 17:3 (NIV)

2. There is a **giant** discouragement.

“For forty days the Philistine (Goliath) came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.” 1 Samuel 17:16 (NIV)

3. Discouragement stems from **fear**.

“On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.” 1 Samuel 17:11 (NIV)

4. Caution **protects**; fear **paralyzes**.

“As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.” 1 Samuel 17:23-24

C. The “Onlies” and Other Lies That Keep You from Your Calling

1. You are only what your **family** says you are.

“When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, ‘Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.’” 1 Samuel 17:28 (NIV)

2. You are only a young and/or **inexperienced** person.

“Saul replied, ‘You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.’” 1 Samuel 17:33 (NIV)

3. There is only **one** way to do it, and you don’t have what it takes.

“Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. ‘I cannot go in these,’ he said to Saul, ‘because I am not used to them.’ So he took them off.” 1 Samuel 17:38-39 (NIV)

4. Only your **outward** appearance matters.

“He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him.” 1 Samuel 17:42 (NIV)

D. Dedication During Discouragement

1. Family opposition: Get outside of your **bubble**.

“Now what have I done?” said David. ‘Can’t I even speak?’ He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter...” 1 Samuel 17:29-30a (NIV)

2. Age/experience: Don’t **minimize** what God has done in and for you.

“Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:36-37 (NIV)

3. Methods: There is more than one **way** to skin a Philistine.

“Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:40 (NIV)

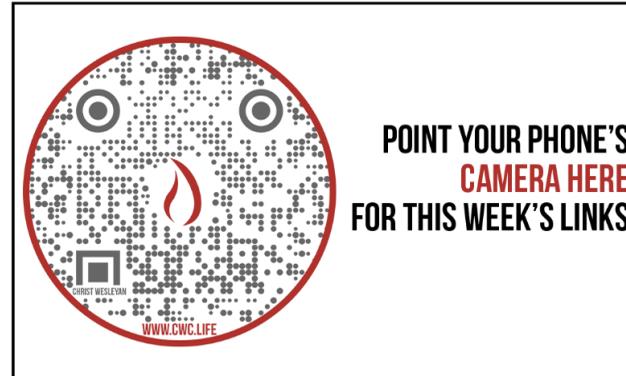
4. Appearance: God looks at the **heart**.

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’” 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

What is God calling you to do?
What is keeping you from doing it?
What fears are paralyzing you?
Are you feeling discouraged: the lack of courage?
What can you take from today to make a change?

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: I Choose Jesus to 570.273.0088*

Next Sunday: Week 5: The Power of 40: Dedication During Disgrace



Giving, Attendance, & Spiritual Victories Update

Giving last Sunday: 69.3% of goal

Giving year to date: 89.8% of goal

Attendance last Sunday: 1,726

Salvations YTD: 145 | Baptisms YTD: 14