

LIFE GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

For the week of February 25, 2024

LEADER NOTES

MEETING NOTES

⇒ COVENANTS

Go over the Covenant with anyone who missed the first week. Remind anyone who hasn't signed the Covenant to do so. Email it to Pastor Brandon or Linda Cole (linda@springfieldfaithcenter.org), or drop it off at the office or at the Life Group Kiosk on church campus by **Sunday, February 25 (or this week)**.

⇒ SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT WEEK #4

- People are still acclimating, especially any new people.
- Lead your group through the questions according to how well everyone knows each other. (There are plenty of questions in this guide to take you deeper.)

REMEMBER, as a leader your goal each night is to lead your group in such a way that you hear from everyone and use the Bible as your guide. Know that if you do this each week the people in your group will grow!

Remember you don't need to cover all questions. Great conversation is far more important than covering all the questions.

⇒ PRAYER NOTE

Check out the **Tips on Group Prayer at the end of this Leader's Guide**. If you have new people in your group, please make sure you go over this. **And NEVER make someone pray. Group prayer is similar to public speaking, which is the #1 fear people have.** More than once we've had people tell us they quit Life Groups because a well-intentioned person required everyone to pray.

⇒ ATTENDANCE

Submit your group's attendance online through the [Planning Center Groups](#). If you are still having trouble with taking attendance online, please read this article: <https://pcogroups.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360016180273-take-attendance>.

Find all of our leader resources online: <https://www.springfieldfaithcenter.org/leader-resources>

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

⇒ Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, March 6th | 6:30 p.m. Join us as we review the previous year's financial status, talk about our main accomplishments and ratify our new council members. Afterwards, join us in the family room for some pie!

⇒ DISCOVER SFC

Sunday, March 10th at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Are you new to SFC? Or are you simply interested in getting to know us better? Then come join our Discover SFC class to delve into the heart of our church! We'll even provide lunch and childcare for your convenience. Register online or in the Connect Hub.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29th | Good Friday

March 31st | Easter

April 14th | Newcomer's Gathering

LIFE GROUP STUDY

For the week of February 25, 2024

This week is a CIRCLE / HIGHLIGHT / UNDERLINE Study. The passage below is the story of David and Goliath from 1 Samuel 17, the same text referenced in this week's sermon.

CIRCLE / HIGHLIGHT / UNDERLINE: Grab your pen and highlighter and dig in to the passages below!

1. **Circle** / **HIGHLIGHT** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. **Underline** the verse you see as most important to remember.
3. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.
4. **Identify** where the story connects with the sermon points.

HOW TO USE THIS WEEK'S DIFFERENT FORMAT IN YOUR GROUP: As always you're going to need to decide how much time your group is going to spend on each section/question as you most likely won't have time to have each person give their answers to the four suggested responses in each passage.

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you? This is still a good question to start with if you'd like to, even though it's not listed. (This weekend's teaching was a little different and so the format is different as well)

DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS: If you are looking to change things up in the group, you could choose an option below.

- **Asking the Questions:** Have each person share their circles or highlights as well as their underlined verse. Have each person share their answers they wrote under the 4 conversation starter questions.
- **Divide into three groups option:** This is another way to change up your group flow. It will also allow plenty of process time to go through the three sections below and find out each person's responses. They can close their small group time together taking prayer requests and come back together with everyone at the end and share a highlight, or just do prayer requests and all pray together. Again, it's your decision to do what works best for your group.

1 Samuel 17:20-54 – (New International Version, NIV)

²⁰ Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

²⁵ Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel." ²⁶ David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" ²⁷ They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him." ²⁸ 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." ²⁹ "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" ³⁰ He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. ³¹ What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

³² David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." ³³ 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." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you." ³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ 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

NOTES AND THOUGHTS

1. What stood out to you in this story?
2. Was there anything troubling or confusing?
3. Did anything make you think differently about God?

took them off.⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. 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. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. ⁵⁰ 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.

4. How might this change the way we live?

Close in prayer:

TOPICAL PRAYER: *Prayer is an amazing avenue God has given us to communicate with him and he with us. But we also come to it with a lot of different thoughts and feelings.*

TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

Eat dessert: *Mingle with everyone.*

CHURCH RESCUE

Pastor Chris Sonksen
February 25, 2024

What others chose to accept, David chose to reject.

David knew the battle belonged to the Lord, but the fight belonged to him.

When others stood on the sideline, David stood on the frontline.