

Cell Notes 21 June 2015 Theme: "God vs. Goliath"

Key words: David, Goliath, fear, faithfulness, Philistines, faith, wind and sea, God's army, chaos, calm, Christ

Welcome

How is it with your soul?

Worship

Read: Psalm 107: 23-32

Sing a song of thanksgiving for God's amazing grace...

Pray.

Word

Read 1 Samuel 17: [1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49

- What struck you about worship this past Sunday?
- See note. If the passage is about *God vs. Goliath* then, who are the Goliaths from the past that were overcome by ordinary people in society just because they were on God's side? How were they overcome?
- Who are the 'Goliaths' in our society today and in your own life?
- What does the passage in 1 Samuel 17 say to us about our confrontations with 'Goliaths'?
- What does it mean for the battle to be the Lord's (17:47)?
- In what ways have you acted in faith by following Jesus into situations in which you are totally dependent on God?

Works

- Write down the name of an evil and oppressive situation in your own life/neighbourhood/society, ask God for help and commit yourself to overcoming it.

Notes:

Although the popular story of David and Goliath is often interpreted as a story that teaches us that the underdog sometimes wins against all odds and the Old Testament is full of stories about God choosing the weak and outcast, the story is about God's power and the message is that '*God keeps faith with his people*'. Instead of reading the battle as a fight between 'David and Goliath' we should read it as a conflict between Goliath and God. Since we know that God is almighty we might reflect on the predicament that Goliath finds himself in even though unknowingly and the outcome would see that the outcome of the battle is predictable! (Newsome Jr, 1982: 59-61)

Reference:

1. Newsome J. D. (1982). *1&2 Samuel*. John Knox Press: Atlanta