

Bullies: Taking Down Goliath



Youth Ministry
August 11, 2013

Sundays
in August
at 9:15am



Lesson:

This week we reviewed how bad roots cause bad fruit and how Jesus calls us to show love, do good, bless and pray for enemies. We introduced a new concept of “I don’t play that” when dealing with bullies. Bullies play a game of intimidation causing fear, anger, sadness, rejection, etc. within us. When we choose not to “play their game”, they lose their power over us.

We discussed the story of David & Goliath. For forty days, Goliath taunted and intimidated the Israel army. He even referred to them as “the servants of Saul” and mocked God. When David arrived, he couldn’t understand why the Israel army was so afraid of Goliath. David did not let Goliath define who he was. He knew that God had defined who he was and he chose to not play Goliath’s game of fear and intimidation. He challenged Goliath and reminded him that they were God’s army and he defeated Goliath.

We also talked about how we smother our light when we respond to a negative situation with negative reactions and we end up doing the same things that the bully is doing when we choose the side of the world to justify our actions instead of the side of God - Love & Grace.

We discussed some other actions we can take when confronted by a bully:

- * Get away from the scene
- * Stay away from them
- * Learn Karate
- * Tell an adult - especially of a physical threat
- * Become their friend
- * Don’t let their actions define you or change what you do
- * Pretend you don’t hear them
- * Stop caring what others say or think of you and remember you are a child of God

We were reminded that we no longer live in the Old Testament where our battle is with the flesh but in the New Testament where our battle is in the spirit. It is very important to always remember whose we are and to ask the Holy Spirit to show us the best way to deal with our bully.

Bible Verse: 1 Samuel 17:8

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me.

Bible Verse: 1 Samuel 17:24

24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

Bible Verse: 1 Samuel 17:45-46

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.

Bible Verse: Psalm 27:1

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

Bible Verse: Psalm 56

1 Be merciful to me, my God, for my enemies are in hot pursuit; all day long they press their attack. 2 My adversaries pursue me all day long; in their pride many are attacking me. 3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise— in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? 5 All day long they twist my words; all their schemes are for my ruin. 6 They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, hoping to take my life. 7 Because of their wickedness do not let them escape; in your anger, God, bring the nations down. 8 Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll—are they not in your record? 9 Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me. 10 In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise—11 in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me? 12 I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you. 13 For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

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Chris & Michelle