

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 6/13/2021 Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; **1 Samuel 17:26-45 (NIV)**

²⁶David 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 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.

General Question Bank

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

Together (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

Discussion/Topic Starter (Ice Breaker)

- Describe your dream job.

1 Samuel 17:26-45

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

****Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

O: In your own words, what are some of David's thoughts and feelings when he hears Goliath's challenge to Israel (v. 26)?

O: What are some of the accusations and messages David receives from the people around him?

- From his own family (v. 28)
- From Saul (vv. 33, 38)
- From Goliath (vv. 41-45)

I: What enables David to live out of his true self against the powerful forces and pressures that seek to mold him into someone he is not?

I: Where in your life, or with whom, is it difficult to be your true self (ex.: to speak honestly, say "no," or not be afraid of what others think)?

A: What might it look like for you to take off armor that you are currently wearing that does not fit you?

A: Complete the following sentence, and then share it with your group as a first step of distinguishing between your true self and false self: *What I am beginning to realize about myself is . . .*

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent (so we can listen, aka, "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Then pray in response to the content from this letter in Revelation as well as to what the H.S. reveals to us.
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

Know – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)*

To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

[Colossians 1:9-10, NIV](#)

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guides rely heavily on a few other study guides; including: This guide relies heavily upon *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Updated Edition Workbook*, Pete & Geri Scazzero, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI 2017.