

**THE BIG IDEA:** If you want to do what matters, you can't listen to the chatter.

### The Take-Off

As we kick off our Adoption Week with Love Life Charlotte, we're going to tackle a pretty common question: "How do I make my life count?"

I can't think of a more important one to ask, even if you're only asking for a friend. ;)

This is a question about purpose and destiny, and it's one that has been around for a long time and has been asked in lots of different ways.

"What's my purpose? Does my life matter? What on earth am I here for?"

Lots of people want to know the answer to this question, which is why "The Purpose Driven Life" made Rick Warren a household name (and enough money to be able to pay his church back 25 year's worth of salary!!).

His book has sold over 50 million copies and is the second most translated book ever, trailing only the Bible.

It's fair to say that this is a question that matters, and in 1 Samuel 17 we find a boy stepping into his destiny, and I think we can learn a lot from him about how to make our lives count.

We'll also expose one major tactic that the enemy uses to keep our lives from counting.

## 1. The text

- a. Let's start by understanding the setting - for some, a review; for others, the first time you've heard it
- b. v. 3 / sums it up well - an army on each hill with a valley between them
- c. Once a day for 40 days a giant challenged the Israelites
- d. He was strong - 125 pound armor, 15 pound spear tip
- e. v. 14 / David - the youngest (who had just recently been anointed as king), was the lunch delivery boy
- f. v.v. 23-24 / he hears the same threats but is filled with faith instead of fear
- g. You can hear him wondering, "Is this what I was made for?"
- h. v. 28 / his brother tries to send him back to the sheep
- i. v. 32 / David stays to fight
- j. v. 48 / David RUNS to the battle
- k. v. 50 / David slays the giant
- l. v. 52 / The Israelites slay the Philistines

## 2. The takeaways

- a. It can be so easy to hear "David and Goliath" and check out because we think it's a kid's story or we think we've heard it all before.
- b. But I've got some takeaways that the Holy Spirit downloaded to me over the last few weeks
- c. Full disclosure, this is the part that is going to sound like one cliché after the other, but that's just the way God have them to me and so I'm going to give them to you the same way
- d. Write down the ones that really resonate with you. Share them on social media. Do what you want with them, but PLEASE allow the Spirit to BURN THEM ON YOUR HEART.
- e. **We may fight for those on the fringe, but the fight isn't fought on the fringe.**
- f. **In order to step up, you have to step in.**
  - Can I tell you why most people never make their lives count?
  - They never get off the fringe because they never get past the fear that is on the fringe.
  - David's brothers told him about the giant, but David was focused on the God over the giant.
  - To make your life count, **you'll need to see giant opportunities where others only see giants.**
  - Everyone else was afraid because of how big Goliath was, but David knew that **being a part of something bigger than us means not running from problems that are bigger than us.**
  - That's why David ran TO the battle!
- g. Saul thought David was crazy. His brothers thought he was crazy. But he wasn't crazy, he was confident.
- h. He was ready for the fight.
  - **He was ready for the spotlight because he had prepared in the shadows.**
  - He had counted the cost and he was ready to pay the price.
  - **The lives that count are the lives that have counted the cost of making their lives count.**
  - Others had counted what they could lose, but David had counted what could be won. (Phil. 3:7-8)

- i. **If you want to do what matters, you can't listen to the chatter.**
- The chatter is what reveals the enemy's tactic - keep us from the fight by encouraging us to fight
  - Let me say it like this: **The enemy wants us to fight with each other. The Father wants us to fight for each other.**

#### The Landing

How do you make your life count? You step into the valley and fight for people.

The truth is that you and I were made for this - we were made for the fight. The enemy wants us to believe that our lives will never count, never matter - that we'll always live in defeat and slavery.

But that's a lie. What's the middle sound of Goliath's name? LIE.

This week, we're stepping into the valley to fight for the truth that life matters - all life.

Will everyone agree? No. Will people talk? Sure.

But if you want to do what matters, you can't listen to the chatter.

So step up and step in, and let's fight for each other instead of with each other.