

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

A Zealous Heart

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

-Rom 8:31-32

"To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

-1 Tim 1:17

"Goodness is on the Throne and we are safe."

-E Stanley Jones

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

1 Samuel 17:1-54

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

1 Tim 1:17; 2 Tim 4:17; Dan 6; Luke 24:44-46; Rom 8:31-32; Heb 11:34; Judges 14; Rev 19

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The characters in the story of David and Goliath
 - The fear of the army of Israel
 - David's fervor for the Lord
 - The persecution he experiences amidst this fervor
 - The extreme to which he willingly went for God's glory
 - The ways that David portrays the coming Jesus
 - The ways the army of Israel represents us

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Corinth then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- Have we ever been so zealous for God that we would risk everything to see Him glorified?
- What is your reaction to the army of Israel's terror in the face of Goliath? Do you ever share this fear?
- What does it mean to see Jesus as the character of David? We as the army of Israel?
- Pastor JR emphasized how we are to "know that God is for us". Do we live in this confidence? What would it look like to live knowing this? For our city? For Apostles Church?
- Pastor JR ended with the challenge "we know what to be for". Do you know this? What should it mean for your week ahead?

"I do not love a man who is zealous for nothing"
–Oliver Goldsmith

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: 1 Sam 16:7

This Week: 1 Sam 17:45

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (November):

Apostles Church will be a people who experience life-change together. We will seek to become more like Jesus as we experience the transforming grace and power of His Spirit.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for His greatness among all the nations of the world
- Praising God His strength, might and power to save
- Confessing our fear
- Confessing our lack of zeal for God's glory
- Thanking Jesus for being a truer and better kind than David
- Thanking Jesus for defeating all of our most serious enemies: sin, shame and death
- Asking God to fill us with His Spirit and give us clear vision for the better future He's creating
- Asking God to make Himself so much more valuable to us than anything else we know that we'd be willing to risk greatly for His sake

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Darkness and Light* – Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones
- *A Heart Like His* – Beth More (for women)
- *David: Man of Prayer, Man of War* – Walter Chantry
- *David: A Man of Passion & Destiny* – Chuck Swindoll
- *After God's Own Heart: The Gospel According to David* – Mark Boda

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

2 Samuel 11-12