SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

TEACHING WORKSHOP & SERMON SERIES

SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH
YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

Workshop Outline

general info

Workshop Title: Mission by Design
Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16
Length: 30-35 minutes
Need: White board & dry erase marker

welcome

Welcome, intro self. Today we're doing a short workshop on living on mission, what it means to share your faith in real life in the unique ways God has designed and prepared you.

opener (2 minutes)

Would You Rather?

- "Would you rather share your faith with a stranger or with your best friend?"
- "Would you rather post about Jesus on social media or talk about Him face to face?"
- "Would you rather answer a tough Bible question or pray out loud in front of your team?"

See how everyone answered differently? That's the point. None of them is better or worse. We all have different ways of handling something. God made each of us with different personalities, gifts, and strengths. You don't have to be just like the person next to you in order to live on mission. The way you are designed, and the way God has been shaping you, actually matters for His mission.

scripture (3 minutes)

Jesus says in Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world - like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Notice Jesus starts with who you are before what you do. We don't have to try to earn being light. This is your identity in Him.

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scripture (cont'd.)

Think about light for a second. There are so many ways light shows up in our world.

- A candle
- A flashlight.
- A bonfire
- A glowstick
- Bioluminescent algae
- Stars

Each of these is different, but every one of them produces light. That's how it is with us. Some of you are more like candles, steady and faithful. Some are like flashlights, bold and direct. Some are like bonfires, drawing people together. Some are like glowsticks, surprising and fun. None of them is better than the others - although you might have a favorite. All of them are valuable, and all of them were made to shine in the dark.

Paul explains it another way in 1 Corinthians 12. He says the church is like a body. Some parts are hands, some are feet, some are eyes, some are ears. They look different, they do different things, but every part matters.

That means you don't have to copy someone else. You were created on purpose. Your strengths, your gifts, your talents, your personality are all part of how God designed you to shine His light and join His mission in the world.

interactive discovery (15 minutes)

Step 1: Now you're going to take a look at your results from the Discovery Tool. Notice your top strengths in each category. You might see things like serving, leadership, creativity, encouragement, or teaching. These are not accidents. They're part of how God designed you. They all are a way you can bring light into the world.

- In groups of three:
  - Which one is the most surprising?
  - Which is least surprising?
- Everyone tell me two of your strengths (write on the whiteboard)
- Self-Reflection:
  - Take a second, and think about the gifts you told me
  - When was the first time you remember this strength showing up in your life? (Let them reflect for 10-15 seconds) Those moments weren't random - those were God shaping you before you even realized it.

Step 2: Natural Shine - Now let's think about how your design shows up without you even trying. And how Jesus might be made known through it. (Use the following, or talk about the ones you've written on the board)

- If you're an encourager, people might already feel better just being around you. That's often how God opens doors for deeper conversations.
- If you are artistic or musical, your art or music might already point people toward God's beauty or be a way to express what you have seen and heard God do.

interactive discovery (cont'd.)

- If you are a connector, your friends might already come to you when they need someone to talk to.
- If you're an introvert, you might connect best with people one-on-one or in small groups.

Step 3: Intentional Shine - Now let's flip it. How could you shine on purpose?

- In your group of three:
  - If someone was struggling, how could your strengths help? (Give examples)
  - How could your strengths help with something like an outreach or in leading a club/movement.
  - How might your strengths combine or be used together to do something creative and missional?

takeaway (2 minutes)

Take a quiet moment and look at your results. Take a moment to consider, which of your strengths could you surrender and ask God to use this week? Reading through it the action steps on the back, which ones seem the most doable for you? What God might be asking you to do.

takeaway (2 minutes)

Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world.' That's not just a nice idea, it's your identity in Him. You weren't made to hide your light but to be a light everywhere you go. Think back to the lights we talked about earlier. A candle, a flashlight, a bonfire, a glowstick, even stars in the night sky. Each shines in a different way, but all of them bring light to dark places.

That's what you were designed to do. The body of Christ works best when each part shines. The world needs your light, not someone else's.

So what if you trusted that God has placed you here, with your unique design, to join His mission? What if you believed that every moment is an opportunity to let His light shine through you? You can start by praying something as simple as, 'God, use this part of me.'

You were designed on purpose.
You were gifted on purpose.
You were placed in this moment on purpose.

pray

Mission Is God's Idea

week 1

SPIRIT EMPOWERED STUDENTS
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD YOUTH MINISTRIES
youth alive

Mission is God's Idea

week 1

purpose

This message serves as the theological foundation for the series by establishing that mission begins with God. Before students understand their role in reaching others, they must first understand that God Himself is the originator of the mission. Through 1 Samuel 17, students will see that David's courage flowed from his understanding that the battle belonged to the Lord. In the same way, students will come to understand that the mission of reaching people isn't a church program or a human initiative, but the very heart of God from creation to Christ.

This message introduces the reality that God is a rescuing God, that He has always pursued relationship with humanity, and that we're invited to participate in what He is already doing in the world. When students grasp that mission belongs to God, they can respond with obedience and confidence rather than pressure and fear.

the text

1 Samuel 17:32-47

icebreaker/ game idea

Everyone stands or sits in a circle. To begin, each person chooses a simple hand sign for themselves. It can be anything silent and easy to recognize, like a peace sign, a fist bump, or tapping their nose.

One player starts as "it" and stands in the middle of the circle. The goal of the game is to secretly pass an invisible "sign" around the circle without the person in the middle catching whoever currently has it.

A player passes the "sign" by making another player's hand sign while that person is looking. The receiving player shows they have it by doing their own hand sign, then quickly passes it to someone else by making that person's sign. The "sign" keeps moving this way from player to player.

Meanwhile, the person in the middle is turning, watching, and trying to figure out who currently has the "sign." If they catch someone holding it, that player becomes the new "it" person and switches places with the person in the middle.

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introduction

Tonight I want to talk to you about something bigger than you. Bigger than your school. Bigger than your plans for the future. Bigger than your friend group. Bigger than this youth service. I want to talk to you about mission. When you hear the word mission, what do you think of? Maybe you think of a missionary in another country. Maybe you picture a church program or a mission trip. Maybe you think it's something only pastors or super spiritual people do. For some of us, mission feels far away. It feels like something other people do somewhere else.

But what if mission isn't something we start? What if it didn't begin with us at all?

Have you ever walked into a moment and realized you weren't there by accident? Maybe a friend opened up to you out of nowhere. Maybe you had the right words at the right time. Maybe you were placed in a seat next to someone and a conversation happened that you never could have planned. In moments like that, it feels like you were positioned.

What if more of your life is positioned than you think? What if your class schedule, your team, your job, your locker, your neighborhood, and your friend group aren't random? What if you're where you are on purpose?

Tonight we're starting a new series called Designed for Mission. Over the next few weeks, we're going to dig into the story of David. Not just the famous giant moment, but what shaped him and what he understood about God that caused him to respond differently than everyone else in Israel. As we walk through his story, we're going to discover something powerful. Mission is God's idea. Mission is for everyone. And you were made for this.

Before we jump into the message, we need to understand where David is when we meet him in 1 Samuel 17. (See what people know about David)

When we catch up with David, he has already been anointed as the future king of Israel. In chapter 16, the prophet Samuel poured oil on his head and declared that God had chosen him. So where do we find David? (Ask what the first thing people would do if they found out they were going to be king/queen). After being anointed David didn't step into a palace, in a pasture. He went back to the fields where he'd been tending his father's sheep.

By the time we get to chapter 17, Israel has been stuck in a standoff with the Philistines for weeks. Their armies are facing each other across a valley. Every morning and every evening, this massive warrior named Goliath walks out and challenges them. He mocks them. He mocks their God. He dares someone to come fight him.

For forty days, no one moves. King Saul is afraid. The soldiers are afraid. Everyone knows how strong Goliath is. He's experienced. He's trained. He's intimidating. And every day he reminds them that no one has stepped forward.

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introduction (cont'd.)

Meanwhile, David isn't on the battlefield. He's back home tending sheep. He's already been anointed by the prophet Samuel as the future king, but no one sees that yet. There's no crown. There's no throne. He's just a shepherd doing ordinary work.

One day, his father sends him to the battlefield to bring food to his older brothers. He's just running an errand. He shows up and hears Goliath shouting his usual threats. He sees the army of Israel shrinking back in fear.

But something inside David reacts differently. He starts asking questions. Why isn't anyone doing anything? Why is this Philistine allowed to defy the armies of the living God? Why are we standing still?

Word gets back to King Saul that this young shepherd thinks someone should fight the giant. So David is brought before the king. Saul looks at him and basically says, "You're just a boy. This man has been fighting since he was young. You can't win this."

But David doesn't talk about his own strength. He talks about what God has already done. He says that when lions and bears attacked his sheep, the Lord helped him rescue them. The same God who delivered him before will deliver him again.

Saul tries to put his own armor on David. A bronze helmet. A coat of mail. A sword. It looks impressive. But it doesn't fit. David tries to move in it and realizes this isn't how he fights. So he takes it off. Instead, he picks up five smooth stones from a stream, puts them in his shepherd's bag, and walks toward the valley with only his staff, and his sling. Goliath sees him coming and laughs. He can't believe this is who Israel sends. He insults David. He threatens him. He curses him. And that's when David says something that reveals what he understands that everyone else missed.

scripture

"Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that There's a God in Israel. And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues His people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and He will give you to us."

1 Samuel 17:32-47 (NLT)

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message

David doesn't say "This is my moment." He says, "This is the Lord's battle." That sentence tells us something about how David was thinking. He understood something the entire army had forgotten. This wasn't ultimately about his own strength. It wasn't about his skill. It wasn't about Israel's reputation. It was about God.

Everyone else saw a giant. David saw a situation that belonged to God.

Everyone else saw something too big for them. David saw something that was never his to carry in the first place.

point 1

David Saw What Others Couldn't See

David didn't have better information than anyone else. He saw the same external factors - the same armies, the same threats, the same risks. But he saw it differently. When we think that everything depends on us, it's easy for fear to take hold. When we think the outcome rests on our strengths, our personality, our actions, it can be overwhelming. But when we remember that it belongs to God, something shifts.

David's courage didn't come from thinking he was strong enough to take on a giant, it came from knowing that God is. In verse 47 David says that God rescues His people. David could step forward because he knew whose story he was standing in, he knew that God was a God who rescues His people. And this is where we need to zoom out for a minute - because David didn't invent that idea, he stepped into something that was already in motion.

point 2

God Has Always Been a Rescuing God

God's intention to rescue His people didn't start on that battlefield. It didn't start with David. Mission began in the heart of God.

From creation, God intended to have unbroken communion with humankind. That was the goal. And when sin entered the world, that connection between God and humankind was broken - but God's intention didn't change. From that moment on, God continued to move towards humanity in rescue. First through sacrifices and Abraham and his family, and the nation of Israel, but nothing really worked as a permanent sacrifice, until God sent Jesus.

God still rescues His people. And He invites us into that mission. Just like David recognized that he was ultimately within God's battle, we recognize that it's His mission, reaching people with the hope of Jesus is God's idea.

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point 2 (cont'd.)

After He rose from the dead, Jesus said in John 20:21, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

The Father sent Jesus. Jesus sends us.

Mission didn't originate with us. It originated with God. That means when you think about sharing your faith, you're not starting something. You're joining something bigger than yourself.

point 3

When You Know It's God's Mission, You Move Differently

If you think reaching your friends depends on you, you'll feel pressure. You'll overthink what you're going to say. You'll stay quiet because you're afraid of messing it up.

But when you understand that it's God's mission, not yours, you can breathe.

We plant. God brings growth.
We speak. God moves in hearts.
We're faithful. God saves.

David ran toward Goliath because he trusted that God rescues His people.

You aren't the Savior - Jesus is. You aren't the power - the Holy Spirit is. You aren't the hero of the story - you're invited into the story.

But we have to say yes.

altar

David knew the battle belonged to the Lord. He trusted that God rescues. But he still had to step forward. He still had to pick up the stones. He still had to run into the valley. Knowing that mission belongs to God doesn't remove our responsibility, it brings it into focus. And for some of you tonight, saying "yes" starts here. Maybe you feel far from God. Maybe you're carrying guilt or pain. Maybe you've wondered if He still wants you. The truth is, the same God who rescued David and sent Jesus is reaching toward you right now. If you've felt distant, disconnected, or unsure where you stand with God, tonight is your moment to come home.

Some of you already follow Jesus, but if you're honest, you've been passive. You believe in the mission, but you haven't stepped into it. You've assumed someone else would speak. Someone else would lead. Someone else would reach your community or campus. David didn't wait for a title. He didn't wait until he felt fully ready. He stepped forward with what he had, trusting that God would meet him there. Maybe tonight isn't about salvation for you. Maybe it's about surrender. Maybe it's about saying, "God, I won't sit back. I'll step in."

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altar (cont'd.)

And then there are some of you who feel something stirring deeper. You know you're positioned. You know there are names, faces, hallways, and teams that God has entrusted to you. But saying yes is more than a feeling. It's a decision. It's choosing to live intentionally. It's choosing to grow. It's choosing to prepare your heart so that when the moment comes, you're ready. If you're ready to say yes to being sent into your campus, we're going to take a moment to respond. If you need to come home to Jesus, respond. If you need to surrender fear, respond. And if you're ready to live as someone sent, stand where you are and we'll pray over you. Because this is God's mission, and we have to say yes.

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Mission Is For Everyone

week 2

SPIRIT EMPOWERED STUDENTS
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD YOUTH MINISTRIES
youth alive

Mission is for Everyone
week 2

purpose

This message builds on Week One by showing that if mission belongs to God, then everyone who belongs to God participates in it. Through David's refusal of Saul's armor, students will see that calling flows from identity, not title. Students will recognize that they don't need to become someone else to live on mission. They are already positioned and empowered.

the text

1 Samuel 17:34-40

icebreaker/ game idea

Split the kids into two teams and have them stand facing each other in the middle of the room. Each team quickly huddles and decides whether they will throw rock, paper, or scissors.

On the count of three, both teams throw their sign together. The team that loses has to run back and touch their wall before the other team tags them.

Anyone who gets tagged joins the winning team. Keep playing until all the players are on one side.

introduction

Tonight we're going back into David's story, to discover another key piece of how David saw the situation of David and Goliath that caused him to respond differently. Remember - the entire Israelite army saw the same enemy, the same giant, the same mission. But there was something different about how David viewed the situation.

Last week we learned that David knew that God is a God who rescues, and that Mission is God's idea. The idea of "mission" didn't begin with us - it began in the heart of God. We're not trying to convince God to care about people. He already does. We're not inventing a mission, we're stepping into one that He started long before we ever showed up.

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introduction (cont'd.)

But once you understand that, a new question starts to form. If mission belongs to God, then who actually gets to participate? Because if we're honest, most of us don't immediately think, "That's me." We think of someone else. We think of the youth pastor, the missionary, the friend who can talk to anyone, the person who seems spiritually confident and always has the right words. Living on mission can feel like something for the impressive, the trained, or the experienced. And deep down, a lot of us don't feel qualified. We think we're too quiet, we don't know enough, we've messed up too much, or maybe one day when we're older and more mature, then God could use us.

point 1

Calling Flows from Identity, Not title

Based on the timeline, most theologians believe David was somewhere between 13 and 17 years old when he went up against Goliath. David wasn't a trained soldier. He'd never fought in a war. He didn't have battlefield experience. Remember, even though he'd been anointed to be king he hadn't stepped into that role. He didn't have a position of authority. His job description didn't say "giant slayer." It didn't say "king" yet. From the outside, there was no reason to expect him to step forward.

But David didn't disqualify himself because he was young. He didn't disqualify himself because he didn't hold an official title.

You can be anointed without a title. You can be anointed without public recognition.

David didn't wait until he was crowned king to do what God was calling him to do. He understood something deeper: he belonged to God. He was part of God's covenant people. His identity came before his position.

Think about this - David recognized who he was before Jesus had even come. Before the veil in the temple was torn and people had direct access to God. Before the Holy Spirit was poured out on all believers. If David could understand that he belonged to God under the old covenant, how much more is that true for us?

Maybe your title isn't evangelist. Maybe it's not pastor or missionary. So what? You can be anointed without a title. In fact, that's exactly what Jesus' death and resurrection made possible. Because of the cross, every believer belongs to God. Every believer has access to Him. Every believer is invited into His mission.

point 2

Everyone Who Belongs to Jesus is Sent

David wasn't king yet, he wasn't a soldier, but he belonged to God. And because he knew he belonged to God, he stepped forward. That's the pattern we see throughout Scripture, God's mission has always moved through His people.

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point 2 (cont'd.)

Listen to what 1 Peter 2:9 says: "you're a chosen people. you're royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

That's not written to pastors or "professional" Christians. That's written to believers.

Being on God's mission isn't just something you do. It's who you are. If you belong to Jesus, you're part of His covenant community. You represent Him. The Holy Spirit isn't reserved for the spiritually impressive - He's been poured out on all who believe. That's the great equalizer. You can be empowered by the Holy Spirit just like anyone else.

A priest represents God to people and people to God. That means if you belong to Jesus, you carry His presence into the spaces you walk into. Your school. Your team. Your workplace. Your friend group. If you are His, you are sent.

point 3

The Holy Spirit Empowers us for the Mission

David didn't just step forward because he felt brave. In 1 Samuel 16:13, right after he was anointed, it says that the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him from that day forward. When David walked into that valley, he wasn't walking alone. He knew the battle belonged to the Lord, and he trusted that God's Spirit was with him. His confidence wasn't rooted in his age or experience. It was rooted in the presence of God.

But here's what makes this even more incredible for us. David lived before Jesus. Under the old covenant, the Spirit came upon certain people for certain assignments at certain times. But after Jesus rose from the dead, God promised something new. In Acts 2:17, God says, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all people." Not just kings. Not just prophets. Not just leaders. All people. If you belong to Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you. That means you're not spiritually underpowered. You're not waiting for access. The same Spirit who empowered David now dwells in every believer.

So when we talk about living on mission, we're not talking about trying harder or becoming more impressive. We're talking about trusting the Spirit who already lives in you. You may feel quiet. You may feel inexperienced. But you're not alone. If you belong to Jesus, the Spirit of God is present in you right now. You don't have to earn that or manufacture it.

Throughout the book of Acts, we also see something more. We see believers who already belong to Jesus experiencing a fresh outpouring of the Spirit that empowers them for boldness and mission. In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His followers, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses."

The baptism in the Holy Spirit isn't about emotion or hype. It's not about showing off. It's about empowerment to live for God and live on mission.

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altar

Some of you don't need more information. You need relationship. You've believed about God, but you haven't fully surrendered to Him. You've carried faith in your head, but not trust in your heart. And maybe you've felt distant, dry, or unsure where you stand. If that's you, the invitation tonight isn't "try harder." It's "come home." God isn't asking you to prove yourself, He's inviting you to belong. If you need to give your life to Jesus, or return to Him fully, this is your moment.

But many of you already belong to Jesus. You love Him. You believe in Him. And yet, if you're honest, you've been living on your own strength. You feel hesitant when it comes to speaking up. You feel intimidated when you think about representing Him. You know you're called, but you don't feel empowered. That's exactly why Jesus promised the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, He said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses." The baptism in the Holy Spirit isn't about hype. It's not about being dramatic. It's about empowerment. It's about boldness. It's about intimacy with God. It's about receiving what He wants to freely give.

So tonight we're not striving - we're receiving. If you want to say yes to Jesus, respond. If you already belong to Him but you're hungry for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit, respond. You don't have to manufacture anything. You don't have to force anything. Just stand as a simple way of saying, "God, I'm available. Fill me. Empower me. I want more of You." And we're going to pray and trust that He keeps His promises.

closing

Now before next week, I need you all to take the strengths-discovery test. Next week we're going to get specific about how God might be calling you to be a part of His mission.

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Shaped For Mission

week 3

SPIRIT EMPOWERED STUDENTS

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD YOUTH MINISTRIES

youth alive

Shaped for Mission
week 3

purpose

This message helps students understand that their personality, strengths, experiences, and story are not accidental. After learning that mission begins with God (Week 1) and that everyone who belongs to Jesus is sent and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Week 2), students now discover that God intentionally shapes people before He sends them. Through David's refusal of Saul's armor, students will see that obedience doesn't require imitation. Instead, God uses the design He has already begun forming in them. Students will be invited to surrender their unique wiring to God and live intentionally where they are positioned.

the text

1 Samuel 17:38-40

icebreaker/ game idea

Get two bibles and have a list of verses for students to find. Make them flip through the bibles and find the verses you chose. The first student to get to the verse or passage wins.

introduction

Over the last two weeks, we've been walking through David's story together. In Week 1, we stood in the valley and heard David say, "This is the Lord's battle." We learned that mission is God's idea. David's courage didn't come from believing he was strong enough. It came from knowing the battle belonged to the Lord. From the beginning of Scripture, God has been pursuing people. He is a rescuing God. David stepped forward because he understood he was standing inside God's mission, not creating his own.

Then in Week 2, we looked at who David was before he ever picked up a stone. He wasn't king yet. He wasn't a soldier. He didn't have a title. But he had been anointed. He belonged to God. And because he belonged to God, he participated. We saw that if you belong to Jesus, you're sent. You don't need a platform. You don't need recognition. You don't need to wait until you feel ready. And we learned that we're not alone. The Holy Spirit empowers everyone who belongs to Him.

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introduction (cont'd.)

Hopefully you all took the Discovery Tool. You saw strengths listed. Maybe you were encouraged. Maybe you were confused. Maybe you're still holding that paper and wondering what it actually means. What does it actually change about tomorrow? How does knowing your strengths help you in your hallway, on your team, or in your friend group?

Tonight we're going to slow down and zoom in on a moment in David's story. Before David ever swings the sling. Before the giant falls. Before the victory. Tonight isn't about whether you're called to be a part of God's mission - we've already settled that. If you belong to Jesus, you're sent. Tonight is about something deeper. It's about how God has been shaping you long before you ever realized it. The shepherd fields, the lions, the sling, the quiet years. None of it was wasted in David's life.

And the same is true for you. You were not randomly assembled. You were shaped for the mission.

point 1

God Had Been Preparing David All Along

David's life had prepared him for this moment.

"But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" 1 Samuel 17:34-37 NLT

His experiences and the other things he had faced, had prepared him for this moment. For this mission.

David doesn't see the lion and the bear as random events. He sees them as preparation. He doesn't see the quiet years in the field as wasted time. He sees them as a training ground. Every moment of hidden faithfulness had strengthened his trust in God. Every challenge had increased his courage. Every rescue had deepened his belief that God rescues His people.

Do we really think that was accidental? Do we think God looked down at David fighting a lion and said, "Oh wow, that worked out nicely"? No. God was forming him. The fields were shaping him. The battles before this battle were preparing him for this moment. They were increasing his faith.

Nothing in David's story was wasted. That's true for you too. The things you have experienced aren't an accident. Even the things Satan may have intended for your destruction God can turn around and use for His plans and purposes and your good.

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point 1 (cont'd.)

Find a partner and answer this question: "What is one experience in my life that might have been forming me, even if I didn't realize it at the time?" Then answer, "Did that experience grow something in you? Faith? Courage? Compassion? Resilience?"

point 2

You Don't Need Someone Else's Armor

In 1 Samuel 17:38-40, after David volunteers Saul tries to help him. Saul places his armor on David. A bronze helmet. A coat of mail. A sword strapped at his side. On the surface, it makes sense. If you're about to fight a giant, you should probably look like a warrior. You should probably wear what warriors wear.

But when David tries to move in it, it doesn't fit. It's heavy. It's unfamiliar. It's awkward. He's naturally better with his sling and his shepherd's staff.

Some of us disqualify ourselves from evangelism or God's mission because we think our gifts can't be used. We look at king Saul's armor and when it doesn't fit right, we assume we're the problem. That we must be the wrong person for the job. Someone else better do it.

What if your personality isn't a barrier but a bridge?
What if your interests are not distractions but doorways?

In groups of three, share your strengths. Which one is least surprising to you?

Could it be that the way God wired you, the giftings he's given you, even the things you're interested in might be part of the way God is calling you to engage in mission? Maybe there are people that you can connect with and reach uniquely because of the way you have been shaped.

(Share an example from your own life)

point 3

Surrender What You Have

But we all have to say yes.The sling alone didn't defeat Goliath. David still had to step forward. He still had to pick up the stones. He still had to trust God with what was in his hands.

In 2013 15 year old Romanian student Cristian Becheanu made a decision that would save a life. A 3 year old in Cristian's community had fallen down an open well that was almost 50 feet deep. The concrete well was too narrow for adult rescue crews to get down - making it extremely difficult to get the toddler out.

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point 3 (cont'd.)

The little boy at the bottom of the well had fallen 50ft, and had been stuck at the bottom with unknown injuries, in near complete darkness, and dwindling access to air for 11 hours. After several failed dig and rescue attempts, rescuers were desperate. And that's when Cristian volunteered. As a teenager, his narrower frame could fit into the well. Cristian was lowered upside down, where he would risk his own safety to attempt to grab the toddler and lift him out of the well.

(Show video)

Could it be this morning that God is calling you to say yes to Him. To trust that His plans and His purposes are good. To recognize that you're uniquely made to engage in God's mission to restore humanity to Himself, to seek and save the lost - and that there may be places you have been designed to reach.

That 15 year old student was absolutely a hero that day. But we also can't underestimate the role of those who had the equipment and experience to help make the rescue possible. Those people are heroes too. Together they got that toddler out. We get to be used by God to help facilitate divine rescue missions. Each of us has a role.

Maybe what you have feels small. Maybe it feels like a sling compared to someone else's armor. But in surrendered hands, small things become powerful. But we all have to say yes. We have to commit to selflessly sharing the Gospel and sharing Jesus with those around us.

altar

Some of you have been disqualifying yourself for years. You've assumed you were too quiet, too emotional, too analytical, too creative, too different. You've looked at someone else's armor and thought, "I guess that's what God uses." But tonight, I believe God is correcting that lie. The way He wired you isn't a mistake. The things you've walked through are not random. The strengths that keep surfacing in your life are not accidents. You were shaped on purpose. And there are people in your world that only you can reach.

Personality, interests, strengths, and spiritual gifts on their own aren't enough. You still have to surrender what you have. So tonight, this isn't about becoming someone else. It's about offering yourself. If you're willing to say, "God, use how You made me. Use my strengths. Use my story. Use my voice. Use my pain. Use my influence. Use my life," then I want you to stand where you are. Not because you feel ready. Not because you feel impressive. But because you're willing. And we're going to pray and commission you to live sent exactly as you are.

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Now We Move

week 4

SPIRIT EMPOWERED STUDENTS
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD YOUTH MINISTRIES
youth alive

Now We Move
week 4

purpose

This message moves students from personal clarity to collective action. After learning that mission begins with God (Week 1), that every believer is sent and empowered (Week 2), and that each person is intentionally shaped for the mission (Week 3), students now see that obedience creates momentum. Through Israel's response after Goliath falls, students will understand that mission is not a solo hero story but a shared advance. Students will be invited to take specific steps of obedience and move together into their schools and communities.

the text

1 Samuel 17:51-52

icebreaker/ game idea

Classical musical chairs is a game where players walk around a circle of chairs while music plays. There is always one fewer chair than the number of players.

When the music stops, everyone tries to sit down as fast as they can. The person left without a chair is out.

Then one chair is removed, the music starts again, and the game continues. This keeps going until only one chair and two players are left. The last person to sit in the final chair wins.

introduction

For the past three weeks, we've been standing in the valley with David and watching his story unfold. In Week 1, we heard him say, "This is the Lord's battle," and we learned that mission begins with God. It's His idea, His heart, His rescue plan. We're not trying to start something for God. Mission isn't the church's "good idea." We're stepping into something He has already been doing from the beginning.

In Week 2, we saw that David didn't have a title, but he had identity. He wasn't king yet. He wasn't a soldier. But he belonged to God, and because he belonged to God, he stepped forward. We learned that if you belong to Jesus, you're sent. The Holy Spirit empowers everyone who belongs to Him.

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introduction (cont'd.)

In Week 3, we slowed down and looked at how God used the specific pieces of David's story. The lions, the bears, the sling. David's past wasn't random... it was preparation. And the same is true for all of us. The way you're wired, the strengths that keep surfacing, the experiences you have walked through, none of it's wasted. You were shaped for the mission.

But David's story doesn't end when the stone leaves his sling. There's a moment right after that which we often skip. After one act of obedience, something shifts. And that shift shows us what can happen when someone says yes.

In 1 Samuel 17:51-52, after David defeats Goliath, it says that the men of Israel and Judah gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines.

point 1

Obedience Impacts Others

For forty days, that army had stood frozen in fear. Every morning and every evening, Goliath stepped forward and no one moved. They knew the problem. They heard the threat. They believed in God. But they stayed still. Until one young shepherd stepped forward. When the giant fell, something broke. Fear broke. Passivity broke. One act of obedience broke the stalemate and everyone moved.

You never know the people that might be impacted by your obedience. David's obedience changed the direction of the battle. When you step out in faith, it's not just about your confidence. It's about someone else's freedom, it's about someone else's rescue. It's about someone else knowing the hope that's only found in Jesus.

There are people in your life who are spiritually stuck. Who might be overcome by lies and fear or carrying shame. And your obedience may be part of how God reaches them.

Take a look at your action steps. Pick 2-3 that you seem like something you could start doing and circle them.

Surrendering our gifts and beginning to see them missionally shows us how God might be calling us to participate in His rescue mission. What does obedience look like in how God has created you?

David's obedience wasn't just about him defeating a giant, it was about the freedom of an entire nation. Your obedience can profoundly impact the people around you.

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point 2

Your "Yes" Strengthens The Body

When Goliath fell, David didn't chase the Philistines alone. Israel ran forward together. For forty days they'd been frozen, but when one person trusted God publicly, the entire army advanced. Mission was never meant to be a solo hero story. The only hero is Jesus. The rest of us are a team, that works better together.

Last week you identified strengths. Some of you are encouragers. Some of you are musical. Some are communicators. Some are strategic. Those strengths weren't given to you so you could compare yourself to someone else. They were given so the body could function together.

Take a moment in groups of three and answer this question: "What strength do I bring that could help us reach our campus or community?" Then ask, "What could happen if we combined our strengths intentionally?"

Maybe one of you invites, another prays, another encourages, another organizes. Suddenly it's not pressure on one person. It's movement as a body. David fought the giant, but Israel advanced to victory. Your "yes" strengthens the body.

point 3

Now We Move

The giant has already fallen. Jesus has already won. We're not fighting for victory… we're moving from victory. That changes how we walk into our schools, our teams, and our friend groups. We don't move out of fear. We move out of confidence in what Christ has already done and desire for everyone we encounter to know it.

So let's make this real. In your same small groups, answer this: "What is one clear step I will take this week to live on mission?" Not someday. Not eventually. This week. Maybe it's a conversation. Maybe it's an invitation. Maybe it's praying with someone. Maybe it's serving quietly. Maybe it's simply being open about your faith. Maybe it's one of your action steps.

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altar

Before we respond, we need to remember something important. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. Scripture says in Ephesians 6:12 that we're not fighting against people. We're not fighting classmates. We're not fighting teachers. We're not fighting teammates. We're fighting spiritual darkness. We're fighting lies, shame, and hopelessness. We're fighting anything that keeps people from knowing the love of Jesus.

That changes how we move.

We don't move with anger. We move with compassion.
We don't move with pride. We move with humility.
We don't move to win arguments. We move to win people.

When you step into your hallway, your neighborhood, your 4H group, your field, your job, you're not stepping into enemy territory to conquer people. You are moving toward people that God loves and is already pursuing.

Some of you need to respond tonight by saying, "God, use me." Not in aggression, not in pressure, but in surrender. You're willing to pray. You're willing to speak. You're willing to serve. You're willing to step toward someone who feels far from God.

Others of you may realize tonight that you've been fighting the wrong battle. Maybe you've been angry at people instead of recognizing the deeper spiritual struggle underneath. Maybe you've felt overwhelmed because you thought everything depended on you. But it doesn't. The victory belongs to Jesus. The Spirit brings conviction, God brings growth, we simply step forward in obedience.

Campus missionary commissioning

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