



Hello Friends!

Video Link Kids Chat: The gift of

Courage: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/1655527198>

Where does courage come from? Perhaps a better question is; Where does wisdom come from? Because I think, wisdom is linked with courage, the way we live in a time of uncertainty and turmoil.

And so, how do we get it when we need it, wise courage, compare to reckless courage? How do we keep it when some fear towers over us and threatens us, and we feel like cowering and fleeing into some cave for protection? Perhaps as we look together at one of the best know story in 1 Samuel 17 — one of the better known and one of the mostly misunderstood stories in the Bible.

David and Goliath

Many, many years ago a massive man named Goliath of Gath taunted the army of Israel and its God. For [forty days](#), he was heaping shame on them, since none dared to accept his fight-to-the-death, winner-takes-all challenge. For forty days Israel was once again in the wilderness and did not remember. Every morning when this giant stepped forward, the men of God stepped back.

Until a teenage boy named David showed up in the camp with some bread and cheese for his big brothers and he heard the giant pour out his scorn on his Lord. David was indignant. So he stepped forward and he gained a crowd of spectators. He took his shepherd's sling, grabbed a few stones, knocked Goliath cold, and chopped off his head. And the spectators celebrated whom?

What David and Goliath, what Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the fiery furnace are not about

Many think David's defeat of Goliath is a story of great personal courage in the face of overwhelming odds. After all he is set opposite to the fearfulness of the entire army of Israel. We like to see David as the archetypal underdog, standing up to an arrogant, powerful bully. We see him as a confident, independent young man who was brave enough to fight for what was right and who could rely on his experiences and skills. The popular moral of the story is this: Get out there and face down your giant because the heroically courageous come out on top. But that is not at all what this story is about. It's true that David was courageous, and courage is indeed somewhat important. But when he faced Goliath, David's courage was the result of His understanding of who God is. His courage was being informed and empowered by someone else.

The Source of David's Courage How comes that it was a young shepherd, the runt from his family that stood up against the real threat that Goliath presented. After all, all the other men believed in God and knew Israel's history. They knew the stories, how God had overcome one giant adversary after another. Many of them had personally seen God do amazing things, such as Jonathan's defeat of a Philistine garrison earlier. No, the men lacked courage to face Goliath because at this moment the men lacked wisdom, lacked faith. At this moment, for whatever reason, despite all the stories and past experiences, Goliath looked bigger than God. Each man believed that if he went out against this man, he would be on his own and end up as bird food ([1 Samuel 17:44](#)).

David's confidence in God

So what made David different? What fueled David's courage was his confidence in God's faithfulness and God's power to fulfill them. What set him aside from all the other men of the army, his brothers included?

He understood the role God plays in the big picture of his-story, and he acted upon it. He had not confidence in his skills and experiences; his confidence was in God. David believed, had faith, had confidence and had the wisdom that God would never break his promise, and if Goliath made himself an obstacle to God's promise, God could flick him out of the way with a pebble.

What's the Source of Our Courage?

Courage is not an autonomous, self-generated emotion. Courage, wise courage is always produced by wisdom, whether our faith is in God or something else. Courage is a derivative feeling or emotion. For the Christian, a lack of courage, what the writer of Hebrews calls “shrinking back” ([Heb 10:37–38](#)), might be an evidence that we lack understanding of who God truly is, rather than that we fall short in our trust, or faith as commonly understood, but we lack wisdom of who God is.

In this confusion and the resulting fear we are losing our focus on Jesus and his promises. Something that hasn’t changed from the early disciples to today.

Some “Goliath” are like lions, making noises and seemingly looming larger than God in our sight and seeking our attention. All we see is how weak and pathetic we are, and how inadequate we are to face him, mesmerized by the waves and the roaring of the wind. Overcoming seems impossible, and the thought immobilizes us. All of us experience this fear. So did David and so did Peter,

“Come,” said Jesus. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. [But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”](#) Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and took hold of Peter. “You of little faith,” He said, “why did you doubt?”...

Scripture points to the fact that faith is confidence in what we hope for and the assurance that the Lord is working, even though we cannot see it. Faith knows, understands, and acts that no matter what the situation, in our lives or someone else’s, that the Lord is working in it. Hence, biblical faith is not simply an intellectual assertion of a truth but an action.

The Hebrew word for faith is *emunah* which means “support.” This perhaps helps us to understand, because faith is like “the Lord’s support” to us because he is working in every situation for his glory. Regardless of what we think, and what we feel, He always knows best.

And so, perhaps courage has also to do with our expectations, are we focused on what seems to be in front of us, the waves, the wind, the noises, our Goliath or are we focus on where our helps comes from? But even if we not like **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, but rather like Peter fickle, easily distracted, unfocused and fearful, Christ will reach out

with His hand and take hold of us for he is faithful After all, he prayed for us, and his words will not return empty to him.

Your friend

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