

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

June 18-24, 2018

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: 1 Samuel 17: (1, 4–11, 19–23), 32–49 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=389335962>)

Other readings are: Psalm 9:9–20; 2 Corinthians 6:1–13; Mark 4:35–41.

The theme is: Agents of God.

Last week we saw David, a young shepherd, secretly anointed as king. Thus, God has elevated one of the weakest in society to the most powerful position in the land. This week's story provides another example of reinterpreting understandings of weakness and power. The Israelites are at war with the Philistines, represented in this story by the formidable Goliath. King Saul and his army are gripped by fear, unable to respond to the taunts hurled by the menacing Goliath. When David learns of the situation, he volunteers to fight Goliath. Saul is not convinced that that his young servant and errand boy is a match for the champion of the Philistines; but David points out his experience in killing lions and bears in order to protect the sheep in his care. You probably know the rest of the story: David defeats Goliath with only his slingshot and a single stone – that and his reliance on the God of Israel. This is a story of contrasts. We get the obvious contrast between a vulnerable young boy armed with a sling and the intimidating champion of the Philistine army, but there is also the contrast between David and Saul and his army. Saul and his army are paralyzed by fear, but David is a man of courageous action. His courage comes from his reliance upon the power of God. It is God who saved him from lions and bears and God who will save him yet again. David chooses not to use the weapons Saul offered to him, but to go with the gifts God has given him. He will be true to himself and to God, relying on God's strength alone.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

In his fight against oppression, David rejects his culture's weapons in favor of the gifts God has given him. What gifts have you been given to fight for justice for the oppressed?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of June 17:

Who are you being called to see differently?

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