

Devotion #5

David prepares to fight Goliath

GATHER THE PLAYERS AND HAVE THEM SETTLE

READ THE SCRIPTURE

Then David spoke to Saul; “Let your majesty not lose courage. I am at your service to go and fight this Philistine.” But Saul answered David, “You cannot go up against this Philistine and fight him, for you are only a youth, while he has been a warrior from his youth.” David continued: “the Lord, who delivered me from the claws of the lion and the bear will also keep me safe from the clutches of this Philistine.” Saul answered, “Go! The Lord will be with you.” –1 Samuel 17:32-33;37

USE QUESTIONS BELOW TO DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE

1. Can any of you tell me what Goliath was like?

-he was like a giant and all of the soldiers of Israel were afraid to fight him

2. Have any of you ever been afraid of something?

-maybe getting ready for a hard test, or playing against a player bigger or faster than you

-what did that feel like? Allow for responses

3. What does David do in response to the fear the King Saul expresses, and to what David probably feels?

-he turns to the Lord and trusts in him

-he remembers the times in the past that the Lord has kept him safe

4. Did you know that David is fighting Goliath on behalf of the whole army of Israel?

-if David wins the Israelite army wins and if Goliath wins the Philistine army is awarded the victory

-did you know that in a certain sense the way you play reflects on the entire school you represent? While victory itself is important, the way you behave and play reflects on all of the students and teachers at the school.

5. What are ways that can help you remember that you are representing your school when you play?

- Allow them to offer concrete examples, such as “I can think of my school when I put my team shirt on”, “I can remember I represent my school when I see the mascot”, etc.

PRAY IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS, OR INVITE A PLAYER TO LEAD PRAYER

Lord of the heavenly armies, give me strength to conquer my fear. Help me to lean on you when I am not sure that I have the strength to win the battle. Be with me as I face the challenges of my life. Help to always do my best with the gifts that you have given me, and may all that I do be for your greater honor and glory. Amen.