



LC STUDY GUIDE

Done in Sync with Global Awareness Week –

"When Helping Helps:

Restoring Dignity, Bringing Hope"

The Passage: I Samuel 17:32-40

For Life Community usage the week of 11/2/15

Intro: Dear LC Leader, we find ourselves taking a break in the Rediscovering Jesus series for Global Awareness Week. This year's theme is "When Helping Helps: Restoring Dignity, Bringing Hope."

This is an abbreviated and unique study, as some groups have decided in lieu of meeting to participate in one of the Partner Prayer nights or to see the documentary "Poverty, Inc." Thus this study will be abbreviated and attempt to connect to the sermon given by Pastor Muriithi Wanjau who reflected on Saul's misguided attempt to assist David in his fight with Goliath. We want to focus on how we can help one another in ways that honor and effectively equip those who are called by God to serve.

1 Samuel 17:32-40

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, **35** I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **37** The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. **39** David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

O – In these 9 verses, Saul—trying to offer care and assistance—commits two unhelpful acts. Identify them and describe David's reaction.

I – What Saul, the Israelite army, and Goliath underestimated was that, while David may have been physically unmatched against the giant, he was using better technology (in the words of Malcolm Gladwell in *David and Goliath*). Explain the technology and give voice to David's confidence.

(David was using the "technology" of a slingshot to attack his enemy without engaging in close combat. Confident in the skill gained from his battles with wild animals and feeling called by God for this moment, it seemed that David was the one with the advantage.)

A – Pastor Muriithi gave the application that we must "listen, join in, receive, and share" in order to effectively help others.

- How does this show dignity, restore hope, serve those in need, and serve those who are called?
- Can you describe an instance where you have seen this approach work?
- How can we deepen our desire and more effectively help others as individuals and as a Life Community?

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- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
 - b. Complement these questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?)
 - c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
 - d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
 - e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching" rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.