

LEADER GUIDE



THE
CONVERGENCE

TWO PATHS. CHOOSE ONE.

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INTRO

We are all on a journey, often finding ourselves standing at the convergence of truth and its imitation. These convergent moments have the power to alter our lives and impact God’s kingdom for eternity. But, how do we decide in which direction to move? Studying the journey of David, students will be challenged to apply godly discernment by trusting God completely, to recognize the difference between God’s truth and men’s advice, to realize the impact of their decisions, and to surround themselves with people who reinforce the need for godly wisdom.

This Leader Guide was created to prepare you for the small group sessions. This Leader Guide is designed to be just that—a guide. It’s something you can customize to fit your group and your own teaching style. The best way to prepare is to study the Scripture and use the lessons as your personal Bible study. As you interact with Scripture and the material in the Guide, take notes and answer the questions yourself. Learn from the lessons before you attempt to teach them. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you through this study and then use you to teach your students!

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POINT OF INCEPTION

KEY VERSE

Psalm 62:1-2

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 17:26-52; Ephesians 2:1-10

NOTES **TEACHING AIM**

Students will learn that in order to have holy discernment, you must first have a relationship with God through Christ. This relationship was the foundation for David's trust and reliance on the Lord.

GETTING STARTED

Invite students to find a partner. Invite one of the two to stand on one foot and hold the pose. Now, instruct the other partner in each pair to attempt to push over the partner standing on one foot. (The person will easily lose his or her balance.) Next, direct the partner just pushed over to stand on both feet and spread them at least shoulder-length apart. Now, lead the other partner to attempt to push again and notice the difference. As time permits, repeat the two scenarios with the partners switching roles.

Why was it so hard for you to stand on one foot? Without the right foundation of two feet on the floor, it was so easy for you to lose your balance or to get knocked over.

Today our session is 'Point of Inception.' In order to have holy discernment and to make godly decisions, we must first have a relationship with God, through Christ. This relationship is the foundation for our trust and reliance on the Lord.

THINK

1. We must take initiative on our part, step forward, and acknowledge our need for Christ.

READ 1 SAMUEL 17:26-37.

Read aloud the following true/false statements and have your group of students answer them based on the text.

- David was the oldest son of Jesse. (False—youngest)
- David worked as a tent maker. (False—shepherd)
- David was a good-looking young man and known as a warrior. (True)
- In today's verses, David was a teen, about the age of some of you. (True)
- David would become the king of Israel. (True)
- David was father to Absalom and Solomon. (True)
- David was allowed to build God's temple. (False—Solomon built the temple)

Saul was king of Israel. Unfortunately, he was not a reliable leader. He was afraid to fight the Philistines. So he offered a reward to anyone who was willing to fight the giant. David stepped up to the challenge of facing Goliath.

Why did David accept the challenge to fight against Goliath?

In what ways did the odds seem to be stacked against David?

Discuss with students about why David didn't seem like the right fit for the battle. David was a young shepherd boy and he did not have any experience when it came to fighting. Not only that, but David was so small compared to the giant, Goliath. However, David knew he had to stand in the gap and fight for God to defend Israel. He didn't wear armor and he didn't take any weapons because he knew God would be on his side and that God would be enough.

Describe a time in your life when you didn't feel good enough to do what God was calling you to do. List the ways God was sufficient despite your weaknesses.

2. We must realize that Jesus defeated death, hell, and the grave so that we could live in victory through Him.

READ 1 SAMUEL 17:38-52.

How did David approach Goliath in battle?

What did David use to defeat Goliath?

What amazes you the most when it comes to David's victory over Goliath?

David was the victor of this battle. But, he was only foreshadowing the real "hero" that was yet to come. Often times, as Christians, we want to believe that we are the heroes of this story. We want to believe that we can fight any "Goliath" that we may encounter in life. However, we are not David.

READ EPHESIANS 2:1-10.

Are we able to save ourselves from our sin? Why or why not?

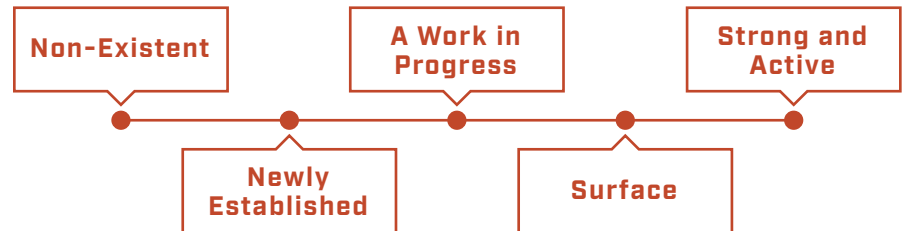
Use this question and passage of Scripture to help your students recognize that the story of David and Goliath ultimately points to Jesus. We cannot defeat our sin. We cannot conquer death. There is only One who can and He is not just a shepherd boy. He is the Good Shepherd.



Until we recognize Jesus as the giant-slayer in our life and admit our need for Him and His saving power, we will never be able to live free from our sin and follow after God.

DIAGNOSE

On the scale below, mark where you are at in your relationship with Christ.



MOVE

The ultimate decision that we all must make is whether or not to accept Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives. Acknowledging Christ as Savior saves us from sin and eternal damnation. Accepting Christ as Lord is where the relationship comes in. We are to live our lives allowing Him to lead us, guide us, direct us, and to be a part of every aspect of who we are. Once we have made that decision and formed that relationship, we have guidance and confidence as we make future, daily decisions. We simply have to trust and rely fully on Him.

PRAY

Read the verse below and include it in your prayer as a way to acknowledge Jesus as Lord in your life.

I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken" —PSALM 62:1-2