



Generating Momentum
in the Face of Disadvantage

Fighting the Battle

Hometown Advantage, Part 2
Message by Tom Mercer

February 10-11, 2018 | Leader Notes

Here are some things to keep on your radar:

Hometown Advantage

Over the next several weeks and months, your group might get a little tense because we are asking everyone to give toward Hometown Advantage. As leaders, we are expected to set the example. Please be praying and then set the example for your group as you give toward this campaign. Give according to what the Lord has given you, not under compulsion, but with an attitude of joy and sacrifice.

Attendance: Thanks for replying to the emails, it really helps our pastoral team know who is a part of HDC.

Any Questions: Please email smallgroups@highdesertchurch.com or talk to your campus point person.

MAIN POINT

God has prepared and equipped you for any challenge or difficulty that you face.



INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. **What encouraged or challenged you from the past weekend's message?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Read 1 Samuel 16:11-23.

2. **David never planned on being King. He wasn't intentionally preparing to be a King or fight an enemy named Goliath. Yet God was preparing him for the future challenges he'd face, long before David even knew they were going to happen. What was there about David that would seem to hinder him from being anointed by Samuel? What made David qualified to be king? Why do you think God chose David?**

While Samuel described David as "a man after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14), we are given little information about David other than his unimpressive size and his faithfulness to his sheep. What made David qualified to be the king of Israel was God's decision to choose him and give him the Holy Spirit.

3. **What did David's faithfulness as a shepherd say about his character? How did that prepare him for his future?**

David's faithful work as a shepherd reminds us of two important truths. First, it doesn't matter what we do, but how we do it. No matter what tasks we are given, we are to do them in a way that brings glory to God. Second, we learn that God is working behind the scenes in David's life in order to prepare him for his future role as king. Tending sheep helped prepare David to rule Israel. "Shepherd" would become a symbolic job description for king. God intended for the king to care for people with the same compassion that a shepherd gives to the flock. Also, David's encounters with predators helped him develop skills that later became useful in combat.

4. **What else in that passage indicates that God is superintending the process of preparing David to rule Israel?**



Some Observations from v. 14-23

- *Saul was being tormented by an Evil Spirit.*
- *One of Saul's attendants recommended David to calm the king*
- *The servant recognized that David was a brave man and a warrior and that the Lord was with him. David became an armor-bearer long before he had to face Goliath.*

God was preparing David to sit among kings, understand the politics of the royal household, begin his military training and observe the pressures of leadership before the challenge of Goliath.

Read 1 Samuel 17:25-49.

5. What stands out to you in this passage?

6. How would you have responded to the words King Saul said in verse 33, if he had said that to you? What was David's response?

Follow up question: When difficulties come, what voices are you listening too? Your parents, your bosses, your teachers, your co-workers, your kids, God's, etc.

7. In verses 38-39, Saul put his armor on David to prepare him to fight Goliath. Why was that a bad idea? Can you think of a situation when you tried to wear someone else's "armor" to face a particular challenge and it didn't work out very well?

Saul thought David needed to be someone different in order to fight Goliath, but then realized God had prepared and equipped him with everything he needed to take down the giant.

Maybe the family you grew up in has given you unique understanding to help others. Maybe an illness or education or skill set you've learned has allowed you to minister to other people. Maybe seeing God provide for you financially has increased your faith when it comes to giving. Maybe your story needs to be told so that the faith of others can increase.

8. Tom talked about "firing bullets, then cannonballs." Can you think of a time when you tried to fire a cannonball prematurely, and it backfired?

9. The confidence David had in 1 Samuel 17:45-47 is pretty impressive! How does reading his rant fire you up to feel the same confidence for your future?



APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- 10. How has God already equipped you, in your own personality, gifting and resources, to face the challenges ahead of you?**

- 11. Without specifying an amount, share with the group how God is leading you to participate in the Hometown Advantage campaign. Are you giving for the first time, increasing the percentage or amount you already regularly give, or sacrificing (selling or giving up) something and giving that money toward Hometown Advantage?**

- 12. Break up into smaller groups and spend time thanking God for the victories He's given us in the past. And then pray for each other's oikos and HDC's Hometown Advantage campaign.**

