



**How To Handle Success In Life
King David (Part 2) - Visibility
Sunday Sermon, September 13, 2026**

We continue our study on the biographical sketch of the life of king David in the Bible. Last week we considered The Beginnings – his early stage in life. We gleaned insights on how to lay a good foundation for life.

Today we learn how to handle success in life, as we look at the second phase of David's life, when he was brought out of obscurity into visibility.

VISIBILITY

Reference: 1 Samuel Chapters 16 & 17

We provide a quick overview of this stage of David's life by highlighting key incidents.

DAVID PLAYS THE HARP FOR SAUL

David was brought to King Saul's court to play the harp and soothe Saul, who was tormented by an evil spirit.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

David, through faith in God, killed the Philistine giant Goliath with a sling and a stone, bringing great victory to Israel.

DAVID A NATIONAL HERO

Almost overnight, David becomes a national hero. People all over Israel, know his name and are singing about his bravery and achievement. King Saul appoints David as captain over the army.

DAVID AND JONATHAN – FRIENDS

At this time David becomes good friends with Jonathan, king Saul's son.

DAVID BEHAVED WISELY

Sadly, king Saul becomes jealous of David and attempts to kill him. King Saul seems intent of destroying David. However, in all of this, David conducts himself wisely.

1 Samuel 18:5,14,30

5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely.

14 And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him.



30 Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed.

Let's draw key insights and life lessons.

KEY INSIGHTS

#1, A SIMPLE TASK COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY

David was taking care of his father's sheep and would go play his harp for king Saul, when required.

One day, David's father requested him to take food for his brothers.

This simple task opened up the opportunity for David to eventually fight Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:17-18

17 Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.

18 And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."

Big doors turn on small hinges.

Be open to small assignments that come your way – that could potentially open doors for unusual opportunities.

#2, BE WILLING TO DO WHAT NO ONE ELSE IS WILLING TO DO

1 Samuel 17:32

Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

While the entire Israelite army stood in fear, David stood up and was willing to go fight Goliath.

Perhaps, in addition to his faith in God, David was also excited about the reward he could get – *"...the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."* (1 Samuel 17:25)

God sends you to take down the giant no one else is willing to confront.



Solve a problem no one else wants to solve.

#3, KILLING LIONS AND BEARS PREPARES YOU TO KILL GOLIATHS

1 Samuel 17:34-36

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

David would not have been able to go up against Goliath, if he had not seen God help him kill the lion and the bear.

The God of the past is the God of the present.

The same God who helped you kill the lion and the bear, will help you take down Goliath.

Every battle we face is preparing us for greater things.

#4, USE YOUR SLINGSHOT – WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU THAT YOU HAVE PROVEN IN YOUR OWN LIFE

1 Samuel 17:38-40,50

38 So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.

39 David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

We must use what God has placed in our hands.

Use the gifts and skills that you have proven in your own journey with God.

#5, HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR COVENANT WITH GOD AND THE GOD WHO KEEPS COVENANT



David recognized that he was in covenant with God and that this “uncircumcised Philistine” was a man without covenant.

1 Samuel 17:45-47

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

47 Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

Know your covenant with God.

Know that God keeps His covenant with His people.

God's covenant is not a “maybe or could be”, but a “yes and amen”.

#6, FAITH REQUIRES TAKING RISK AND COURAGEOUS ACTION

1 Samuel 17:48

So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

Try to imagine David running with a sling and stone in his hand to meet Goliath, who was heavily armed, carrying a spear and shield, etc. That took a lot of faith and courage. This was faith.

David is mentioned in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11:32

#7, LOOK BEYOND IMMEDIATE SUCCESS

1 Samuel 18:5,7

5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

7 So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."

Even though, David saw great success and fame, he remained “grounded”.



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Perhaps, he knew that this “immediate success” was just one step along the journey to all that was still ahead. He kept his eyes on what he knew was his life’s assignment – one day to be king of Israel.

Don’t let initial success derail you.
Keep your eyes on your life’s assignment to stay grounded.

#8, ALWAYS WALK WISELY AND HONOR THOSE ABOVE YOU

1 Samuel 18:5,14,30

5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely.

14 And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him.

30 Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed.

Isaiah 33:6

Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, And the strength of salvation; The fear of the LORD is His treasure.

Jonathan and David became great friends at this time. Recognize divine connections and friendships.

Walk with wisdom, even when success and fame are all around.
Wisdom and knowledge bring stability and steady you for the long haul.
David continued to honor king Saul, even though Saul was a threat to him and sought to kill him.

Some people may be threatened by your success, wisdom and God’s presence with you.
But you stay on your journey toward your divine destiny.

PSALMS LIKELY WRITTEN DURING THIS PHASE:

Some of these Psalms are placed here since they are likely/appropriate. These are not definite and are not chronological, as their exact dates of writing are unknown.

These Psalms reveal David’s inner spiritual life and walk with God during this season.

Psalm 11: confidence in God when foundations are shaken

Psalm 15: character of the person who dwells with God

Psalm 16: confidence, inheritance and devotion to God



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Psalm 17: David's appeal for vindication
Psalm 20: prayer for the king and victory
Psalm 21: thanksgiving for victory and God's blessing on the king
Psalm 24: the King of glory
Psalm 26: integrity and walking before God
Psalm 27: courage and confidence in God's presence
Psalm 28: prayer and thanksgiving

SUMMARY

- #1, A simple task could open the door to an unusual opportunity
- #2, Be willing to do what no one else is willing to do
- #3, Killing lions and bears prepares you to kill Goliaths
- #4, Use your slingshot - what God has given you that you have proven in your own life
- #5, Have confidence in your covenant with God and the God who keeps covenant
- #6, Faith requires taking risks and courageous action
- #7, Look beyond immediate success
- #8, Always walk wisely and honor those above you

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: 1 Samuel Chapter 17

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Reflect and discuss key insights from this phase of David's life:

#1, A simple task could open the door to an unusual opportunity

#2, Be willing to do what no one else is willing to do

#3, Killing lions and bears prepares you to kill Goliaths



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- #4, Use your slingshot - what God has given you that you have proven in your own life*
- #5, Have confidence in your covenant with God and the God who keeps covenant*
- #6, Faith requires taking risks and courageous action*
- #7, Look beyond immediate success*
- #8, Always walk wisely and honor those above you*

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: <https://believersbiblecommentary.com>

SERMON OUTLINE

God brought David out of obscurity taking care of his father's sheep, into visibility. David saw immediate success and great fame. But he stayed grounded and walked with wisdom and humility. There are key insights that teach us how to handle success in life: 1, A simple task could open the door to an unusual opportunity. 2, Be willing to do what no one else is willing to do. 3, Killing lions and bears prepares you to kill Goliaths. 4, Use your slingshot - what God has given you that you have proven in your own life. 5, Have confidence in your covenant with God and the God who keeps covenant. 6, Faith requires taking risks and courageous action. 7, Look beyond immediate success. 8, Always walk wisely and honor those above you. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS



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Success in life, lions, bears, Goliaths, king david, biographical sketch, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.