

The Underdog Principle: Father's Day 2015

When the odds are against you, God is for you!

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1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 32-33, 37, 40-50 (NLT)

^{1a} *The Philistines now mustered their army for battle...*

⁴ *Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!* ⁵ *He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds.* ⁶ *He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder.* ⁷ *The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.* ⁸ *Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me!"* ⁹ *If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves!* ¹⁰ *I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!"* ¹¹ *When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.*

³² *"Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"* ³³ *"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth."*

³⁷ *The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!"*

⁴⁰ *He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.* ⁴¹ *Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him,* ⁴² *sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy.* ⁴³ *"Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods.* ⁴⁴ *"Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled.* ⁴⁵ *David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.* ⁴⁶ *Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!* ⁴⁷ *And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!"* ⁴⁸ *As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him.* ⁴⁹ *Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.* ⁵⁰ *So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.*

FIVE UNDERDOG PRINCIPLES

1. Don't play by Goliath's rules.
2. Move toward your challenge, not away from it.
3. Adopt a David strategy.
4. Work harder than others, substituting effort for ability.
5. Be unconventional; challenge the status quo.