



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.**

### Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

#### Message Summary

"How do I make my life count?" is one of the most commonly asked questions people ask, although it sometimes comes in other forms: "What's my purpose?" "Does my life matter?" "What on earth am I here for?" In 1 Samuel 17, we find a young man who wrestled with these same questions. While his brothers were off doing "big" things, he was living the less-than-glamorous life of a shepherd, and in this chapter, had been relegated to the lunch delivery service for them. If anyone had to struggle with making his life count, it had to be David. But one lunch delivery changed all of that, and a shepherd took his first steps toward becoming a king.

#### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- During the message, Paul made the statement that David was ready for the spotlight because he had prepared in the shadows. Read 1 Samuel 17:34-35 to find out how David prepared in the shadows. What are some ways that we can prepare in the shadows?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:36-37. What did that preparation give David? Why is this so important when we step into the fight?
- What giants are you facing right now? Is your attitude toward them more like David's or the Israelite army?
- What chatter are you listening to from others around you? How can the cause God is calling you to fuel a fire that is greater than the fear caused by the chatter?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:48. What would it take for you to "run quickly toward the battle line?"
- What Goliaths are there in our culture, defying God and Christians? How can you - even small and unarmed - work to bring them down? What can we do together against them?
- Sometimes we like to think that we're the good guys and the world is full of the bad guys, but who is our fight really with according to Ephesians 6:12? Read Proverbs 31:8-9. How can we "step into the valley" and fight FOR each other instead of staying on the sideline fighting WITH each other?