

1

GETTING STARTED

What is your favorite Christmas song? OR What is one Christmas song you could live without ever hearing again?

2

LOOKING BACK

How have you seen God at work over the last week?

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?

3

MY STORY

When is a time you felt like an underdog?

What is your biggest reason (or excuse) that gets in the way of spending more time with God (prayer, Bible reading, worship music, etc.)?

When you fall out of a good habit, what helps you get back on track?

4

DIGGING DEEPER

Before David was king of Israel around 1,000 B.C., he was an underdog shepherd. In fact, 1 Samuel 17 tells how David became the ultimate symbol of an underdog hero when he took on the giant warrior, Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:32-33 (NLT) 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."

Many of us can remember someone in our lives who told us we were bound to fail at one thing or another. In contrast, who is someone in your life who told you that you could do something when you had a hard time believing it yourself?

Who is someone you could encourage this week?

Saul was a king who had been chosen and empowered by God, but he struggled with personal insecurity (1 Samuel 15:17-24). How does personal insecurity get in the way of us following God's will?

4

DIGGING DEEPER (CONTINUED)

1 Samuel 17:34-37 (NLT) ³⁴ But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. ³⁶ I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 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!"

How is David's viewpoint different from Saul's?

David had experienced God at work in his job as a shepherd. These experiences grew his faith and prepared David for the encounter with Goliath. What is at least one example of a risk you have taken for God's sake?

What is a step of faith you feel like God may be asking you to take now?

Who could you talk to who would provide godly counsel and encouragement as you seek God's will for your life?
Why is prayer an important part of living with faith like David?

Luke 2:4 (NLT) And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.

Jesus is sometimes referred to as "Son of David" because He was born from David's lineage. What are some other connections between Jesus and David that we can celebrate this Christmas season?

5

BRINGING IT HOME

Each time we take even a small step of faith, we get to experience God giving us strength to face our fears and endure the dangers. Then we can say like David did, "The Lord who rescued me from danger in previous steps of faith will rescue me from the next dangers I face for His sake!" If you feel like an underdog, that's perfect. God shows His power in David and Goliath situations.

SMALL GROUP EVALUATIONS

Take some time to complete your Small Group Evaluation and give it to a host or leader.
Thank you for helping us continually monitor and improve the small group experience at New Day!

6

PRAYER REQUESTS