

LESSON 34 Devotional

A Biblical Approach to Crisis Management

To begin today's devotion, read 1 Samuel 17, the Story of David and Goliath. We will use this story to tease out Bible wisdom regarding crisis management in business.

The Crisis

Every crisis has an originator. It may be a disgruntled employee, an unscrupulous competitor, a personal addiction or a pandemic. In [1 Samuel 17](#), it was a giant named Goliath.

We read in verse 4, "A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a modern-day version of this crisis (think of employee relations, financial, supply chain, etc.)?

2. Are these present-day crises bigger or smaller than having to face Goliath?

3. Are they encountered frequently?

4. What emotions do they generate?

The Critics

Also typical to all crises are the critics. These are the people on the outside, not interested in helping positively but watching to see how you respond and what the outcome will be.

In verse 28, we encounter Eliab. *"When Eliab, David's oldest brother heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, 'Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert?'"*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is your audience or critics? How do they make you feel?

2. Why are they important? Who gives them importance?

3. Should your audience matter?

The Contest

Someone must solve the problem. A person or team must develop a strategy to avoid the crisis and limit the damage done to the business. This is an action step fraught with risks and challenges.

In verse 40, David's solution is revealed. *"Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you approach a solution to a crisis, are you as confident as David?

2. Who did David rely on when he approached Goliath?
