

DAVID & GOLIATH - THE POWER OF A PLAN 1 SAMUEL 17:40-50

- 1. Talk about a time when planning and preparation helped you succeed. Or, conversely, talk about a time when the lack of planning and preparation left you in a bind.
- 2. Why do you think some Christians consider planning and preparation to be "unspiritual" or a sign that someone "lacks faith"?
- 3. Pastor Mark argues that David had a plan for defeating Goliath. The plan took into consideration the strengths that David had and the vulnerabilities Goliath had. What were David's strengths? What were Goliath's vulnerabilities?
- 4. In the ancient world, a "sling" or "sling shot" was not our modern-day child's toy. It was actually a deadly weapon, able to fire a stone the size of a billiard ball at a velocity of nearly 100 mph. How does this fact help you see the story of David and Goliath in a new way?
- 5. Why do you think David took five stones with him out onto the battlefield, not just one stone?
- 6. How can planning and preparation help us take action when we need to deal with difficulties and challenges in life?



- 7. Pastor Mark shares a piece of advice he received as a young pastor, to "turn your problems into projects" and then create action steps to handle your projects. How might that be helpful with some of the problems we face in our lives today?
- 8. Why do you think some people resist the need to put together an action plan for dealing with the "giants" of their lives?
- 9. What kind of plans should Virginia Beach UMC start developing in order to deal with the challenges of the present as we anticipate the challenges of the future?