

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

### Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

### Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness

**Affirmation #4- "I follow through on commitments I have made to God."**

- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

**T**his week we look at one of the Bible's most loved people, David, and one of the most loved and told stories in all of Scripture—David and Goliath. Perhaps you heard this story as a child and saw it depicted on a flannel-graph. Maybe you heard it from a friend or a parent and thought, "That's pretty amazing!" I remember wishing that I had a slingshot to slay giants with! But there's much more here than a great and memorable story. In this account, we see the passion of a young man with a highly developed heart for God. As you read and study this week, I would encourage you to invite God to fill your own heart and life with the kind of passion that David displays. He's been called "a man after God's own heart." Let's make that our prayer, too, that we might be known as people passionately pursuing the heart of God.

In Him,

**Richard Gotthardt**, Pastor of Spiritual Formation

### Monday

As we prepare this week to look at the life of David and the passion that fueled his life, take some time to sit quietly with the Lord. Ask Him to reveal to you the level of passion in your own heart— for Him, in particular. Ask God to fill (or to renew) your passion for Him in the coming days.

Turn to Psalm 63. Read this Psalm through at least twice. As you read it, notice what words and phrases indicate David's passion for God.

Ask yourself, "How earnestly (passionately) am I seeking after God these days?" How desperate are you for His presence? How deep is your longing to taste of His love and His mercy? How full is your heart?

Notice how frequently David talks about praising God. How passionate is your praise? Today, simply sit with these questions and ask God to give you a heart that is more like what you see here.

### Tuesday

Today we turn to the account of David and Goliath found in 1 Samuel 17. Spend time praying for insight and a willingness to hear from God. As you read through this chapter, simply observe the text. Imagine that you were going to tell this story to someone else later today (you might actually try doing this). What are the important details you would want to include? What are the major elements of the story? When are you most gripped by the account? Who are you most impressed with? Least impressed with? Unsure about?

Let the truth of God's Word settle into your mind and into your heart as you internalize this biblical narrative. Ask God to show you ways that your heart is both similar and different from that of David in this account.

### **Wednesday**

Today as we go back to the text in 1 Samuel 17, we look at the source of David's passion. Before reading, sit in quietness with Jesus and invite His presence to be near you as you read, pray and study. Allow yourself to be still enough to be ready to hear from God clearly.

Focus your attention on verses 24-26 and verses 34-37. As you study these verses, what do you see as David's primary motivation for wanting to fight Goliath? Why is David so "fired up" about this pagan giant?

What do you think gave David the confidence to be so bold before the army officers and King Saul?

As you think about David's motivation, how much of that motivation is in you? How strong is your passion for God's reputation, for the honor of His name? What are you willing to do or to risk to see God's name honored?

### **Thursday**

Today let's focus on effects of passion in our lives. As you read through this chapter, notice the people again.

What were the results, both positive and negative, of David's passion? Notice other people—David's brothers, King Saul and others. What kind of passion or lack of passion do you see in their lives? What did that result in?

Now think about your own life. How evident is your passion for God? You might want to ask the people around you how much they see a burning passion for God and the things of God in your life. If the flame has dimmed, ask God to show you why. If it's burning but not evident, ask what is keeping the passion locked inside.

Ask God to fan the flame of passion for Himself and to let it burn brightly for all around to see.

### **Friday**

Today we turn back to the psalms to see once more the passion of God's servant David. Again, sit in quietness before God and allow yourself to settle in. Turn to Psalm 34, a psalm of David. Read through the psalm at least twice.

Where do you see David's passion for God displayed? What has caused him to love, to fear, to reverence, to awe God so very much? How does David's passion affect your own?

Try praying this psalm out loud. You might pick a verse or two that grabs your attention and commit them to memory. Say them again and again to plant them firmly in your mind and heart.

Sit once more with the Lord and ask Him to show you if you've seen any movement this week in your passion for God. How has it increased? How have you become more aware? How has your love for God been affected? Don't forget to spend time thanking and praising God for His Word, His Spirit and His work in your life. Praise God for the passion that He gives!