



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Two

In week two of our series The Comeback, Pastor Angela Reiss taught about the underdog story of David and Goliath.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

God,  
*As I consider stories of underdogs that you seem to delight in choosing, would you equip me for the moments when I am called to step up and face the giants of this age? May I have the courage to walk forward with confidence that you are with me.*  
Amen.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: 1 SAMUEL 17.32-37

*David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."*

<sup>33</sup> *Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."*

<sup>34</sup> *But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."*

- David is clearly an underdog in the eyes of everyone around him. His brother doesn't believe in him. The king has strong reservations. David seems to be the only one who can even imagine a victory against the giant Goliath. He recounts his victories in the past, and remembers that God

has always been with him. He gives credit to God for saving him in the past. What stories do you tell in the face of great challenges that help you remember God's faithfulness?

- *Turn one of your rescue stories into a prayer of thanksgiving.*

## **TUESDAY: DEUTERONOMY 7.7-9**

*The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.<sup>8</sup> But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.<sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

- It ought to be humbling when we discover that God chooses to be with us. Yet sometimes we are tempted to boast or consider our own greatness. This passage from Deuteronomy serves as a reminder that God sees us as we really are, and loves us not because of our greatness, but because he chose to love us. He keeps his covenant of love.
- *Pray that God would remind you of his unearned love for you and "a thousand generations".*

## **WEDNESDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 1.27-29**

*But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.<sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.*

- We have seen how God chooses the unlikely and unsuspecting ones to accomplish his work. On our own, we tend to lift up the strong and wise, but God operates on a different level.
- *As you pray, consider your own weaknesses that God might use to display his grace and power in the world.*

## **THURSDAY: EXODUS 4.10-12**

*Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."*

<sup>11</sup> *The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"<sup>12</sup> Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."*

- Moses doubted God's choice to use him as a leader among God's people. He wasn't confident in his own ability to speak. God's response is kind. He will give you what you need when you need it in order to accomplish his purposes.
- *Pray that you would be able to listen with God's heart and speak with God's words.*

## FRIDAY: JUDGES 7.2-3

*The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’”<sup>3</sup> Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.*

- The story of Gideon and the defeat of the Midianites includes a winnowing of his resources so that when the enemy is defeated, no human can boast of the victory. It all points to God. That’s the theme of God’s use of underdogs. God gets the credit for the victory—which leads to worship of God. When have you been tempted to say, “My own strength has saved me.”?
- *Pray about your resources, and offer them up to God when they might lead you to take credit for God’s victories.*

## SATURDAY: LUKE 2.6-7

*While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

- Jesus was born in a highly vulnerable place. The infant mortality rate would have been high, and Herod’s edict to have all male babies killed made his survival even less likely. God chose to come to us as an underdog. The Son of God still looked like an underdog 33 years later on the cross. Yet he experienced the ultimate victory—victory over death. And he did it for us.
- *Thank God for underdogs!*

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- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Pastor Angela shared her own underdog story of going from narrowly graduating from High School to responding to a profound call to ministry from God. Share your own underdog stories. Where did God show up?