

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/So What About?
- B. Why we created Crosscreek... Mission/Vision
- C. To bring Hope and Peace... b/c there is a lot to be afraid of.

II. WE

- A. One thing I know about you b/c you're an ordinary person...(whether you're Jesus-Follower or not)... you're scared. OF something.
- B. List of things...
 - 1. Wrong political party in power
 - 2. Job/Finances
 - 3. Marriage
 - 4. Kids
 - 5. Image
 - 6. **My things-** Kids/Wife dying, Church failing, etc.
- C. Why so scared?
 - 1. Lack of control
 - 2. The Unknowns
 - 3. Uncertainty about _____
 - 4. "Ordinary" being disrupted
- D. Fear is one of the most powerful forces in the universe.
 - 1. Fear can take a normal seeming person and twist them into an evil, vengeful thing.
 - 2. Fear is the root of a lot of evil
 - a. Racism, Theft, Jealousy, ect.
 - 3. Fear paralyzes and makes us waste opportunities
 - a. "What if I make the wrong choice?"
 - b. "What if I mess up? Look stupid?"

E. Fear obscures reality.

- 1. Stop seeing things for what they are
 - 2. Start only seeing danger/enemies/makes you hold on tighter which makes you more fearful...
 - 3. Every problem becomes magnified
 - 4. "There's no way out."
 - 5. "We'll never be able to..."
- F. Fear might be the reason you're here (or watching).
- 1. Don't want God to be mad
 - 2. Maybe church will get me out of this mess
 - 3. Maybe someone/something here can help me
- G. How do we defy our ordinary tendency to fear and choose to be courageous?
- H. Take us to a different world...
- 1. 3000 yrs ago where fear ruled.
 - 2. Disease/Natural phenomena/Famine/Enemies/Genocide
 - 3. Battle was one of the most fearsome things...
 - a. Describe
 - b. Imagine you're a farmer...Unbelievably brutal Hand-to-hand/smell/ Not a quick death/if you lose family goes into slavery or worse
 - 4. In this world we find a young man/boy who defied fear and was courageous... not b/c he was so great but he had a different, unordinary perspective...

5. An unclouded perspective produces UNCOMMON courage.

III. GOD (1 Sam. 17)

A. Set scene of battle

1. Israelites v. Philistines (most likely people group from Greek area)
2. On hills w/ valley between.
3. Not wanting to fight.
4. Enter Goliath- 9' 9" Armor 125 lbs

B. The Challenge- V. 8-10

1. Common way to settle battle (Greek Epics/Vikings)- Often seen as battle between opposing gods.
2. Natural/Ordinary reaction...

C. V. 11

1. Dismayed and terrified.
2. Ever feel that way?
3. Saul was the biggest Israelite... was his job to accept challenge... didn't. Why? Fear. What if's
4. Thinking was clouded by fear.
5. Israel is in trouble...

D. V. 12a (Now David...)

1. Dramatic!

E. Paraphrase story

1. David Back with sheep... going back and forth as we saw last week.
2. Goliath does his thing for 40 days.
3. David's dad (Jesse) sends him to go check on his brothers at the battle.

F. V. 23

1. And David heard it.
2. Such great literature

G. V. 24-26

1. Same problem. Two different perspectives
2. **Soldiers**- "This man! He comes out to defy Israel."
 - a. This huge terrible thing is going to kill all of us!
3. **David**- "Uncircumcised Philistine. Defying the armies of the Living God."
 - a. This numbskull thinks he can take on God. I know Him and trust He's bigger than that.

4. Perspective is the difference between ordinary, paralyzing fear and mobilizing/confident courage.

H. Brother issues

- I. What he says gets back to Saul and Saul sends for him.

J. V. 32

1. I'll do it.

K. V. 33 Saul- You're not good enough

1. Saul's perspective... I'm not big enough so obviously you're not big enough. You are just a boy who is going to get himself killed for no reason and foolishly get us all enslaved, as well.

L. V. 34-37

1. David- You're right, I'm small. But God is bigger. And I've seen it.
2. What has God done in your past that proves he is big enough now?

M. Saul tries to equip David. No Go. David takes his staff/sling/5 stones.

1. Just read what happens next.

N. **V. 41-52** (Sorry Monica)

O. **Summarize the point.**

1. Saul/Soldiers let fear cloud their perspective.
 - a. They saw they danger/the giant and compared it to **WHAT** *they* had.
 - b. They only relied on themselves and their abilities and knew they weren't enough.
 - c. And were terrified and useless.
 - d. Weren't willing to risk it
2. David had a clear perspective.
 - a. He saw the danger/the giant and compared it to **WHO** he had.
 - b. He didn't rely on his abilities/weapons
 - c. He knew if God didn't show up... he was dead.
 - d. But he had a clear perspective and He relied on God
 - e. And was courageous and changed history.
 - f. B/c of his clear perspective He was able to do what seemed impossible.

IV. **YOU**

A. What are you afraid of?

1. Ideas
 - a. Responsibilities
 - b. Image
 - c. Change
 - d. Job
 - e. Failure
 - f. Finances
 - g. Family
 - h. Divorce
 - i. Death
2. Too big for you?

B. You are right.

1. You have no control. And you never will.

C. You aren't big enough... but God is.

D. What/who are you relying on?

1. **Stop focusing on what you don't have and focus on WHO you do have.**

E. Put it into the right perspective: Is it bigger than God?

1. Kids- "God is bigger than anything"
2. Simple but effective... When fear comes to cloud your perspective and paralyze you... **Ask yourself: Is it bigger than God?**
3. And then choose to trust Him. Tell him you're scared and tell him you know he's bigger and then let him deal with it.
4. And trust that He is there in it with you. Fighting for you. Comforting you.

F. **Same with Spiritual Life**

1. You aren't big enough to get rid of your evil/sin to have your good outweigh your bad/ make God like and accept you/erase your past/change your relationships
2. But Jesus is.
3. **Is your sin/past/fear/hypocrisy bigger than Jesus?**
4. **Is it stronger than what He did on the cross?**
 - a. **Explain a bit**
5. Following Jesus isn't about what you have done or have not done.
6. It's about WHO you have.
 - a. It's about trusting an actual person.
 - b. What He did. And Can do.
7. Do you have Jesus or do have simply have a weakening self-reliance?
8. Do you have Jesus or do you have a religious ritual?
9. Do you have Jesus or do you have vague spirituality?
10. **When you have Jesus you have more than enough to live courageously.**
11. Have the courage to trust Him to forgive you.
12. Have the courage to follow Him with your life.

V. WE

- A. Unclouded perspective produces unshakeable courage.
- B. What if with every problem/temptation/fear you could stop and ask... is it bigger than God?
- C. Would that change your ordinary response to crisis and everyday problems?
- D. Would it change how you respond when someone doesn't meet your expectations/betrays you/ or let's you down?
- E. It lets you trust Him in the big and small b/c you realize it's all small compared to Him.
- F. What would you be willing to do if you had a clear perspective of Who is really with you?
- G. **Defy the ordinary... When God is big your fears are small.**