

01/14/18 | Improving Ours: Marriage, Week Two



"The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

—1 Samuel 16:8b | NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever wondered what your strengths were? Have you taken spiritual gifts tests or personality quizzes to figure it out? What have you learned? Were the tests correct?
2. What is one way you use your strengths for your family?
3. Consider this quote. What is it saying? Does it only have to do with coming and going? How would spouses with this attitude affect their children?

"Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."
—Martin Luther

Use Your Strengths for God

4. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 16. What seems to be Goliath's strengths? How is he using them?
5. Read 1 Samuel 17:20-27. How is the Israelite army using (or misusing) its strengths?
6. Read verse 28. How is David's brother using (or misusing) his strengths?
7. In what ways do you find yourself misusing your strengths? Do you know what causes it (pride, fear, jealousy, etc.)? How can you better use your strengths to serve the Lord?

8. Read 1 Samuel 17:29-37. What strengths is David using here? Where do his strengths come from? Was he ever trained for battle? Why does he think he can face the Philistine? Do you think he was scared anyway?

9. Read verses 38-44. What strengths do Saul and Goliath expect to see? How were they mistaken about David? Have you or others ever doubted your strengths? Have you ever been scared to use them in God's service?

10. Read verses 45-51. What happened? Why is this unexpected? How does young David overcoming giant Goliath show that strength comes from God? How does this story apply to using your strengths in your marriage? Has marriage ever felt like you and your spouse were facing an enemy army? What reassurance do you take from this story today?

11. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-12. What strengths do people look for? What strengths does God look for? How does this story encourage you? What hidden strengths do you have? Do you use them to build up yourself or to build up others?

TAKEAWAY: Do something tangible this week to build up your spouse!