

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE BATTLE AHEAD?

10 TIPS FOR HAVING DEEPER FAITH CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR KIDS

1. Commit to deepening *YOUR* understanding of Christianity and the arguments skeptics use to undermine it. You cannot give what you do not possess yourself.

The problem is *not* a lack of *INFORMATION* . . . the problem is a shameful lack of *MOTIVATION*.

2. Make a spiritual space in your home. Include a *dedicated time in your schedule* for your family to work on growing your understanding of and relationship with God *together*.

3. Study the Bible *with* your kids

4. *Proactively* and *regularly* ask your kids what questions they have. Don't wait for them to ask you . . . there are a lot of reasons why they might not ask.

5. Ask your kids the tough questions they don't ask you. *Challenge them* in the safety of your home and your relationship with them.

6. If your kids are struggling with their faith, become a detective . . . find out why. What are the underlying issues to their struggles?

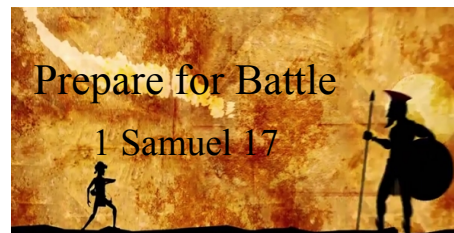
7. Emphasize critical thinking skills.

8. Work with your kids on how to seek answers to faith questions online.

9. Teach your kids about religions and worldviews other than Christianity. Help them evaluate the claims of other worldviews and religions and understand why we might reject them.

10. Start today!

11. Bonus: Teach them to ask questions about the weakness of skeptics' arguments.



Breakout Sunday, John Aldax, June 2, 2019

WE'RE INTRODUCED TO AN INTIMIDATING OPPONENT

⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; ⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

WE'RE INTRODUCED TO DAVID

¹² Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. ¹³ Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. ¹⁴ David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, ¹⁵ but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

¹⁶ For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

²⁰ . . . He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

²⁵ Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel."

²⁶ David asked the men standing near him, “. . . Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

²⁸ When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle.”

²⁹ “Now what have I done?” said David. “Can’t I even speak?” ³⁰ He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. ³¹ What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

DAVID’S HEART

* 17: 32 – 37 – David is young but he is _____ for battle

³² David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

³³ Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a youth, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

³⁴ 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, ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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.”

“Go, and the Lord be with you.”

* 17: 38 – 40 – David’s faith is not a _____ faith.
_____ faith is not adequate.

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

* 17: 41 – 44 – David is _____ by Goliath’s size, armor, or threats

⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

* 17: 45 – 47 – David has a clear understanding of _____

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

* 17: 48 – 54 – His bold faith _____ & _____ others

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

⁵¹ David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cutoff his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. ⁵² Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the road to Gath and Ekron.

⁵⁴ David took the Philistine’s head and brought it to Jerusalem; he put the Philistine’s weapons in his own tent.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

If you do not equip your kids with a ***robust spiritual training***, it’s like sending them into a ***gunfight armed with a butter knife***.

The world in which our kids are immersed is ***intimidating***, ***overwhelmingly pervasive***, and ***determined*** to destroy our faith. Prepare them for ***battle*** . . . prepare them for the ***fight of their life*** . . . not a life of comfort and happiness.