

Rescue Sunday Sermon

“Slaying the giant of child trafficking”

Sermon outline:

1. Introduction

- A. One of the most known Bible Stories (David vs. Goliath)
 - 1. The idea of the underdog - the term we use is David vs. Goliath
- B. We get the idea of being an underdog (insert a story of being the underdog—personal, movie, etc.)
 - 1. We get what it looks like to fight against something bigger than ourselves
- C. Today is the same story but with a different application
- D. Possibly show [Light in the Darkness video](#)

2. Read 1 Samuel 17:2-11

3. It can be overwhelming when facing down a giant like the giant of child trafficking

- A. Child trafficking is a huge problem
 - 1. [Stats](#) about child trafficking

4. We can believe the giant or what God is doing

- A. V.16 Goliath taunts 80 x's (twice a day for 40 days)
 - 1. The giant of trafficking is in public view, and not backing down
- B. V.37 God rescues (it's His pattern - from lion and bear and will rescue from Goliath)

1. This is what God is doing through Destiny Rescue
 - a) Who Destiny Rescue is
 - b) What Destiny Rescue does: Rescue and Path to Freedom
 - c) Thousands free across multiple countries
2. Show [60-sec video](#) of girl's story
3. [Psalm 82:4](#)
 - a) God's heart is rescue, and the invitation is for us to do something like David did

5. For the giant to fall - we have to pick up our slingshots

- A. What would you do if it was your kids or grandkids?
- B. What do you have in your hands (generosity, prayer)?

6. When the Church rises up, kids find rescue

- A. Giant is there taunting
- B. We are on the battleline
- C. Kids are waiting (show [red shoes video](#))

7. Invitation and response

Sermon manuscript:

It's probably the most well-known story in the Bible. When talking about the underdog, more often than not, the phrase "David vs. Goliath" gets used. It doesn't matter if it's in church, watching a movie or watching sports—many people around the world know the story. In the face of incredible opposition, a hero can rise up and be victorious over a giant enemy.

We get it and understand it. Today is the same story of victory, but the giant isn't what you might expect. Take a look at this...

[SHOW THE VIDEO - "LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS"]

The giant we are facing is the giant of human trafficking. Today, we get to see what we can do to join the fight and bring the giant down!

Read 1 Samuel 17:2-11

² Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. ³ The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. (Over 9 ft tall) ⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; (about 125 lbs) 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. (about 15 lbs) 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.

Imagine what the Israelites were experiencing as they saw Goliath. He was over 9 ft tall - probably about 3 ½ ft taller than most men in the army. This guy was huge and the weight of his armor didn't slow him down at all. Then came the challenge. Goliath said, "*One of you come fight me and we will settle this once and for all.*" No wonder they were dismayed and terrified (which means they were shaken up and scared). That phrase is like the "shock" and "awe" that people experience in war when they don't know what to do and are overwhelmed emotionally.

In the same way, it can be overwhelming when you're facing a giant as overwhelmingly dark and dangerous as child trafficking.

Child trafficking is a huge problem. It's one of the fastest-growing illegal enterprises in the world, and there are an estimated 1 million kids trapped in sexual exploitation.

You can almost hear the giant tauntings, can't you?

It's too big of a problem.

It's a battle you can't win.

Who are you to do something about this?

We can choose to believe the giant's lies or believe in the power of God's voice and what He is doing.

In verse 16, Goliath taunts Israel eighty times. That's twice a day for forty days. The people of Israel show up twice a day for forty days in spite of the taunts of the giant as he makes a scene. Much like Goliath, the giant of child trafficking is out in public and not backing down.

I believe that the army of Israel knew they had to face Goliath, so they kept showing up. They showed up at the battle line, but they weren't sure what step they needed to take to move forward. Then enters David, a guy who saw things differently enough that it would turn the tide of the battle.

When David shows up to bring food to his brothers, he hears Goliath's taunts, and it produces a different response than the shock and awe that the army had been experiencing. In the face of Goliath's threats, David becomes extremely confident that the giant must be dealt with and that the same God who had rescued him from a lion and a bear would rescue him from the giant.

Talk about faith! God's past actions and faithfulness can be counted on as you take a step forward.

David knew and understood something very important going into this confrontation with the giant. He knew that God rescues. This is God's habit and pattern. In v. 37, David says that the Lord rescued him from a lion and a bear. If God did it then, He will do it again. In fact, think about this. Throughout the Bible, we can see God's pattern of rescue—Abraham, Noah, the nation of Israel, the disciples in the New Testament, and ultimately Jesus through His death and resurrection (John 3:16).

God has a pattern of rescue, and He invites people to join Him in this work of rescue. One of the ways that we can join God in His work of rescue is through helping to bring down the giant of child trafficking by partnering with Destiny Rescue.

Destiny Rescue is an international Christian nonprofit that rescues kids from sexual exploitation and human trafficking and helps them stay free.

Because of churches like ours, Destiny Rescue is able to position rescue agents around the world to find kids trapped and offer them freedom. Once rescued, kids are given the chance to begin their unique Path to Freedom which may include things like housing, health needs, education, counseling, etc. Thousands of kids have been rescued worldwide, and hundreds of perpetrators have been arrested. The goal is to rescue 100,000 survivors by 2030.

Kids like Aya* are now free because churches are stepping up in faith to join God in bringing down the giant of trafficking.

Watch this...

[[Show 60-sec video of girls story](#)]

Psalm 82:4 says, *"Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people."*

God's heart is rescue, and the invitation being extended to us today is to do

* Name changed to protect her identity

something like David, take God at His word and step forward in faith.

Let's go back to David's story for a moment. For the giant to fall, David ultimately had to pick up a stone and a slingshot (v.40). David had to put action to his faith, so he picked up five stones and walked forward armed with a slingshot. I don't know if David knew exactly what was going to happen, but I think David knew that God could use whatever was in his hands, and all he had to do was be willing to cross the battle line to be used by God.

For the giant of trafficking to fall like Goliath did, we have to pick up our slingshots. We have to use what's in our hands and trust that God will take it, use it and cause the giant to fall.

So what do you have in your hands? What's in your slingshot? Is it your generosity - resources to mobilize rescue agents and aftercare teams? Is it time? Can you spend consistent time praying for kids to be found and rescued, for God to heal and restore them, for God to protect them and those on the front lines working with them?

What is it that we can offer God to slay the giant?

I am convinced that when the Church rises up, kids find rescue. God moves powerfully in response to our faith and action on His behalf.

Church, there is a giant that is taunting saying the problem is too big. But don't believe it. We are showing up on the frontlines because there are kids waiting for rescue.

[[Play Red Shoes video](#)]

As the body of Christ, we can respond to injustice by helping rescue the vulnerable and exploited. Together, we can play a substantial role in ending the tragedy of child sex trafficking and bringing this giant down once and for all.

The average cost it takes to free a child from sexual slavery and begin her Path to Freedom is \$1,500.

Response:

I ask each of you to pray and ask God if contributing to our goal of rescuing _____ kids is something the Lord is leading you to be a part of.

I'm also asking you to cover this mission in prayer:

- for survivors to heal and come to Christ
- and for the rescue agents as they travel into some of the darkest corners of the world to rescue these precious lives

In a moment, we will take up an offering where you can use what's in your hands to bring the giant of child trafficking down for kids around the world.

Invitation:

Maybe you needed to hear today that God rescues. Not just from the nightmare of trafficking but from any giant we could face. God can do that for us.

Before David encountered Goliath, he had to face off with a lion and a bear. He learned that God has the power to deliver no matter the situation. That's why he had faith to run toward the giant with no fear. **He was rescued to rescue.**

There is nothing so big, so scary or painful that God cannot rescue us from. This personal experience of rescue forms in us the faith to believe that God can do it for others. So with confidence, we can rise up to partner with Him.

Paul writes in Romans 8:37-39

³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Are we convinced, like David was, that God can rescue? Today we get to rescue kids. And maybe today, you find yourself in need of rescue.

Rescue is for everyone!

If you would, please close your eyes.

[Take this moment to allow people to respond in a way that best fits the heart of your congregation. This could be having them raise their hands and you praying for them, have them come forward, or respond any way that you see fit that allows them to have a moment where they intentionally connect with God.]

[Take a moment and pray for people]

We get to experience the rescue that the Bible talks about. As people who are rescued, we get to rise up and join God in His work of rescue around the world. Our goal is to rescue _____ kids today through our offering.

[Direct people to give as best fits your process of giving]

[Take a final moment and pray over the offering as well as those who will be rescued because of it]

[End the worship service as you see fit]