



CityLinC
70 Calhoun St.
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Phone: (269) 969-9181
Fax: (269) 969-9465

Website: www.CityLinC.org
E-Mail: Info@CityLinC.org

CityLinC Chaplain's Newsletter Summer 2025

Last week in drug court life skills class, I went out on a limb and taught the story of David and Goliath. It was well received, and we had a great group discussion following the reading. Here are some of the main points we came up with.

1. David was incensed that Goliath was blaspheming against God (1 Samuel 17:26). He stood up for what he believed in and asked to fight the giant. The Israelites around David were scared because they only saw a giant. David only saw a mortal man, albeit a very large one.

However, he knew that with God beside him, he was confident for a victory. The moral we came up with was that when a person is battling drug and/or alcohol addiction, having confidence in God's help is a great asset when trying to win a victory over the giant of addiction.

2. David's eldest brother, Eliab, criticized David for coming to the front where the Israelites were facing the Philistine army of Goliath. But Eliab's criticism didn't stop David from doing what he knew was right.

In drug court, the participants are told to change "people, places, and things" that might lead to relapse. Sometimes, the people that need to be changed the most are their own family. Toxic home environments can lead to substance abuse because the addict is trying to numb the pain of being disrespected by his or her own family. Jesus recognized this dynamic saying, "*A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.*" (Matthew 13:57, NLT). It is hard to dismiss your own family, but if they are critical and non-supportive, it may be necessary, or at least healthier, to leave and go somewhere else.

3. Saul questioned that David was ready to fight the seasoned warrior Goliath (1 Samuel 17:33-37.) but David had prepared for this many times over, by fighting against "the lion and the bear that came to kill one of his sheep."

When in active addiction, the more practice at staying clean a person gets, the greater his chances of success.

4. In 1 Samuel 17:38, King Saul dresses David in his armor to go fight the giant. Ultimately, David refuses the gesture, takes off the king's armor, and goes down to the river to find 5 smooth stones for his bag.

Most of the time, when fighting against addiction, it is important to take steps that you are familiar with. It is hard to fight someone else's way. There is no cookie cutter method of fighting the battle. Do what works for you.

5. "As the Phillistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him." (1 Samuel 17:48)

When fighting against active addiction, a person has to make the commitment to "be in it, to win it."

I once heard Robert Downey Jr. discuss his addiction on a TV talk show. He was asked the question about how hard it was to fight against his addiction. His answer surprised the TV talk show host. Downey Jr. said, *"The hardest thing I had to do was to make the choice to get clean. Once I made the choice, it wasn't hard at all. I just had to jump through all the hoops and do what I was told. But I had already made the commitment, so it wasn't that hard."*

6. The last question was a simple one: Who or what are your Goliaths? What is in front of you that looks so intimidating that you aren't sure what you're going to do?

The answers to this question varied considerably. For the women, finding childcare continues to be a major issue. For the men, there were more questions than answers. But I was impressed with their way of thinking.

I enjoy working with this clientele, and I thank God for bringing me to this ministry. The 26 men and 14 women in the current program have truly become my "congregation." The opportunities I have to personally witness those walking, breathing miracles, is amazing and rewarding. Thank you so much for your prayer support and for your financial contributions. I could not do this ministry without you. May God bless you now and always.

Pastor Mike Howard
CityLinC Ministries

If you would like to make a donation to this ministry, please send a check to CityLinC. Please put my name or write "chaplain" in the memo box so that it gets directed to my work. Thank you for your generous support.