



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *The Valley of Elah: A Bold Victory*

Text: 1 Samuel 17:10-47; Psalm 23

Service Date: September 29, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- What were things from the sermon or Formation Journal that stuck out to you this past week or further questions you had? Did God speak to your heart in any specific way?
- In thinking back upon your life, what have been some of the “highest highs” and “lowest lows”?

Sermon Discussion

- Every individual goes through valleys in life. These valleys could also be described as “night” because there often seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel. In reflecting upon the night, do you think you would respond the same going through it if you knew when it would end vs. not knowing when the “night” will end? What role does/should faith play?
- When we are going through difficult times, what tends to be our first reaction based upon our human thinking? Instead, what should our reaction be?
- When in the Valley of Elah...
 - >We feel we are starting from behind.
 - >We are easily intimidated.
 - >We exaggerate and gossip.
 - >We get caught up in relational drama.
 - >We grasp at straws.
 - >We feel dismissed.
 - >We pretend to be someone we are not.

This is the list of a few things that might happen when we find ourselves in our Valley of Elah. What kind of situations can be our Valley of Elah, and why do you think we tend to dwell on them? (Example: I was in line for a promotion at work that I was confident I would get, but the job was given to someone else.)

- Read 1 Samuel 10:25 and 10:45-47. What can we learn from David about what our response should be when faced with a “Valley of Elah” challenge in our own life?
- The sermon noted, “The one thing you don’t want to do in the Valley of Elah is run away from the One who brought you into the valley!” How do you think Jesus would have responded to the valley you have faced or are currently facing?
- Psalm 23:4 says, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me.” What can we learn from the Psalmist in terms of how we can face even death itself?
- One of Tri-Village’s values is transparency. Right now, are you or someone you know going through a valley and need prayer so that God can carry/direct you? Take time in your group to pray for one another.

Resources

Website: S.H.A.P.E. Test (tri-village.org/shape)

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We’d love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village’s values is “Stories of Life Change”. Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.