

Youth Discussion Guide

From Setbacks to Setups: For the week of May 31 - June 4, 2020

Watch our Fresh Word Friday on our Instagram Page @pearlsideyouth!

Main Thought and Scripture:

With everything going on in the world today, many people feel lost, scared, uncertain, and confused (maybe you can relate to them). When we run into difficult situations in our lives, we often feel stuck, or like we're being pushed backward; but take heart, God can change our setbacks into setups for the plan and purpose He has for our lives.

In 1 Samuel 17, we read about a young man named David. While all the other men of Israel were afraid to fight Goliath (a giant Philistine soldier), David was confident. David's confidence wasn't in himself, but in God. He recognized that God used the smaller crises in his life to prepare him to fulfill his purpose. Overcoming the lion and the bear prepared him to face Goliath. Like David, God uses each crisis that we face to shape and prepare us to face greater challenges and to fulfill the purpose He has for our lives. Through Christ, our setbacks become setups for a great destiny.

"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, ³⁵I 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. ³⁶Your 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. ³⁷The 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.' Saul said to David, 'Go, and the Lord be with you.'" (1 Samuel 17:34-37 NIV)

So how do we turn our setbacks into setups? Simple, we remain connected to God and His people.

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." (John 15:4 NIV)

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you from the main thought, main passages, or the Fresh Word Friday video? Why?
- Share a time when God used a tough situation to help prepare for something in the future? What happened and what did you learn?
- What is a difficult situation that you are currently going through? How do you think God can use that to prepare you for the future He has for you?

Prayer Points:

- Pray that God would help shape and prepare you for your future through the current difficult situation you're going through (answer for 3rd Discussion Question).
- Pray for one person that might be going through a setback in their life, and ask God to help you draw them closer to Him so He can turn their setbacks into setups.