

LONG STORY SHORT ○ PART 1

SERIES OVERVIEW

The Bible can be somewhat overwhelming for middle school students. How do I read it? How do I understand it? What do I do with what I read? These are all questions we will address as we try to make this *long story short*.

BOTTOM LINE

The full story informs my story.

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 17:4–37 (NIV)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small Group Leaders, use the questions below to guide your conversation.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What book did you read over and over as a little kid?
- What made you love that book?
- What is a common excuse for not reading the Bible?

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

- When we read the Old Testament, what two questions can we ask?
 - Who do I relate to?
 - What did that person learn?
- Let's look at part of the Old Testament. Everyone pull out their Bible (physical or digital). *Ask students to find 1 Samuel 17. Have several students read verses 4–37 to increase engagement.*
- Name everyone in the Scripture.
- Who do you relate to?
- What did that person learn?

READING PLAN

- *Pass out the Bible Reading Plan. Have students find each Scripture passage for that week in their Bible. Use the sticky notes to bookmark each passage for easy finding.*
- What day and time do you want to read the Bible this week?
- How can you remember or record who you relate to and what that person learned?

LEADERS – Be present with your students on this Bible reading journey! Here are some ways you can be present: Text them Monday to remind them to read. On Wednesday, ask what they're learning or if you can help. On Saturday, share what you're learning!