

## Family: Week 1

### 5 Stones

**Main Thought:** You are part of the big picture; your role matters.

**Object:** A remote control, hand-held game, something with multiple parts.

**Talk:** I have an electronic football game, old-school, not a PSP, or a Gameboy, just an old fashioned electronic football game. I enjoy playing this game, a lot of fun, entertaining, and obviously challenging at times. Let me ask you a question, what is the most important part of this electronic game? (Allow for answers)  
Typical answers will include: batteries, computer chip, on/off button, screen, etc. All great answers – and there is no wrong answer.

Most likely we could debate about which piece is more important, but in reality each part is necessary for complete play. Without the battery, there is no power. Without the on/off button, you can't even begin to play. Without a screen, there is no way to see what you are doing. No "kick" button and you can't punt or go for the extra point. Each part is necessary to play the game the way it was intended to be played.

(Story of David and Goliath) There is a story of 12-13 old boy who once fought a man twice his size. In ancient Middle Eastern times, countries would face off in battles over land and territory, cities and fortune – or just because they didn't like each other. Sometimes to keep from losing significant numbers in war, each country would send one warrior to the battlefield to face off in a win or lose all situation.

The Philistines had an incredible warrior over 9 feet tall, a champion beyond anyone's question. Goliath was tall and strong, holding armor weighing over 125 pounds, a spear that weighed in over 15 pounds. Israel had nothing of Goliath's size. So the lines were drawn and everyone waited to see who would step up and fight the giant. On Israel's side there was a family in which many of the sons were enlisted and ready to fight, while the youngest brother stayed home. He was the youngest, the smallest, and had the job of watching sheep. The brothers were older, taller, and fought for their country. David's father sent him to see the condition of his sons, and David listened. When he arrived on the battlefield he witnessed the giant's threats and his own army doing nothing. David didn't like what he saw and spoke up. "Why won't anyone fight this dude?" His brothers quickly told him to shut up and go home. This is no place for a shepherd boy. David was part of the Israelite family. But he wasn't treated as family. If this were a football team, it would be like a freshman asking the seniors why they won't run the ball up the middle against the 300 pound nose-man. If you fast forward to the end of the story, we all know that David beat Goliath. How important is David's role – very. At the beginning of this story, it looks like David is on the scout team, while his brothers who are in the army are in the starting lineup.

Conclusion – David and his brothers were family. Each had a role in this story. In spite of whom had the biggest hit, in the end the Israelite army defeated the Philistines. It was a team effort in completing the victory. (David beat Goliath, but don't forget the Israelite army, which includes David's family, chased down and defeated the Philistine Army.)

In the game of football there are starters and scout players, or 2<sup>nd</sup> team players. Which role is more important on your team? Everyone wants to be a starter, and not a scout player. But who makes the starters a better team? If the scout team doesn't play well, does that hurt or help the starting team? The scout team's effort will directly affect the starting lineup.

Could it be possible that neither position is more important, but both are equally important? Maybe the scout player won't get the glory on Friday night, but what matters more? The victorious team will understand that it takes a team working together to be victorious. Each player is necessary for victory. Each of you have a role, and without you, your team is incomplete.

**FOCUS** - Your role is important – your role matters. Without you – full function can't take place. On the field, begin to understand that you and your team will see greater victories when you accept your role. You matter. You matter to your team. Begin treating each other as family. Off the field – treat others as family.

**DO HARD THINGS:** Anyone can say the right things and agree with this team talk, but those who want to raise the bar and live at a higher level will take a challenge.

1. Every day this week shake the hand, give a high five, and in some way acknowledge your teammates that you wouldn't normally acknowledge. Seniors need to include freshmen, etc.
2. Once this week, include someone you don't know too well into your life. For example, at lunch invite someone to eat with you and your friends, someone who sits alone or has no group of friends.

Create your own "Hard Thing" for your team. Make sure you challenge the team to rise up!