

1 Samuel 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

5 smooth stones...why is this in there? What does it have to do with me/with us?

Wrong approaches

Symbolism

The number 5 in the Bible is significant because his creation, the 'man' has five fingers, five senses and five toes. Thus it is the number of God's grace.

The problem is that there are many different interpretations: Could be something else

Making it what you want it to be

I read one guy: Smooth is what you use the most. So the 5 smooth stones of life are prayer/the Bible/church...

What if someone else has a different 5?

Another guy: *Each stone had a statement of faith written on it... (the Bible doesn't say that!)*

Another: *In David's heart, he carried the stone of courage, faith, hope, discipline and preparation*

Finding something else in the Bible with 5 in it

When I was a young preacher I heard a guy preach: 5-fold gift ministry in Ephesians...

The problem: There are other 'fives' in the Bible: *5 porches/5 wise virgins/5 books of the law/5 wounds*

Correct approaches

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (rightly dividing – cut it straight/accurately)

Finding perspective (which angle will you approach the 5 smooth stones?)

David's perspective: David chose 5 smooth stones...why? What could it be a picture of?

Preparation:

Doing what you can in advance (instead of leaving everything up to God)

Being practical: What if I miss? (not putting all your eggs in one basket?)

Thinking bigger: Goliath had 4 brothers...

The stone's perspective:

The stone was used by God to bring about victory/God's will: A picture of us? Using us for His will

What do we know about the stones?

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They were chosen

There were 5

They were smooth

They were in the water

They were hidden

1 Samuel 17:49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

I was chosen/used (not the other 4!)

It was slung from a sling

It struck Goliath in the forehead

It sank into his forehead

I chose the stone's perspective

A picture of God using us/at work in us so we can be useful