

News Story Summary

The United States marked the win of its 1,000th Olympic gold medal, during competition in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. James Connolly won the first gold medal for the U.S. in 1896, but there is discrepancy on who won the 1,000th medal. The U.S. Olympic Committee had 977 on record when the games began, but some adjustments were made because of debated medals in past Olympics. Therefore, it is not clear which athlete actually pushed the U.S. over the four digit medal win. However, no one can dispute that the U.S. athletes have solidly won more than 1,000 gold medals. No other country comes close to reaching 1,000 golds anytime soon. At its current rate, China may reach 1,000 in 2100 and Germany may get there in 2204.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase “1,000 Olympic gold medals.”)

Focus Attention

Before the session begins, write on a marker board a partial list of the U.S. gold medal winners for this year’s summer Olympics. As the group arrives, call attention to the list, allowing the group to add to the list. After the group is settled, share a summary of the news story. Ask: *Which Olympic victory is most striking to you? Why?*

Explain that today’s session focuses on a major victory for David. A raid on his camp by his enemies, the Amalekites, left David without possessions and family members of his soldiers. But instead of a hot-headed pursuit, David focused on God through prayer, and though in a weakened state, God gave David and his men an incredible victory.

Challenge

Remind the group of the news story. Read 1 Corinthians 15:57. Ask: *How do everyday victories, including sports victories, help us to understand the victory we have in Jesus Christ?* Explain that the victories we experience in life are just a shadow of what is to come. Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection is the victory that should help us through life’s difficulties. Just as David focused on God when he was overwhelmed, we should focus on the victory we have in Christ. Challenge group members to review the lessons for this quarter and mark any truths that can help them to be victorious.