

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 10.23.2022

Unlikely Fighter – 1 Samuel 17

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Greg Stier grew up in Denver, CO in a violent, inner-city family of body builders. “I never had a dad and never felt like I measured up because my biceps weren’t big enough! But God transformed my family one by one through the power of the gospel, and it changed my world. My passion for evangelism was ignited way back then, and I knew I was called to a life of spreading the gospel.” Greg says he wants to see Gospel Advancing ministries around the world training youth to rescue their friends for Christ. Today Pastor Greg uses David and Goliath to illustrate the giants that we face, but God gives the victory. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you from this week’s sermon?
2. Looking back over your life, what’s the biggest challenge or obstacle you’ve had to face? What would you change about how you handled that situation?
3. Who in our society today do you consider to be courageous?
4. How is courage defined differently now than it was 50 or 100 years ago? Would you say that adults today lose courage easily? Why?

A giant is an overwhelming obstacle or opposition you encounter on the way to your dream. We all have obstacles in our lives that keep us from living out our God-given dreams. Today we will see how God uses the giants in our lives to strengthen our faith and draw us closer to Himself.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER 1 SAMUEL 17:1-16

1. What is most intimidating to you about the way Goliath is described in these verses?
2. How did the Israelites, including Saul their king, react when they saw Goliath?

The Israelite army looked out every day and saw Goliath mocking them and their God, but because of their perspective on the situation, they were unwilling to act. All the giant had to do was speak and the Israelites “lost their courage and were terrified” (v. 11). Their first mistake was placing too much focus on the giant. Scripture tells us that Goliath was more than nine feet tall (v. 4). He was a monster of a man and a very intimidating sight. His appearance alone was enough to dissolve the Israelites’ focus on God.

3. Think about the last “giant” you had to face. What overwhelmed your mind during that time—thoughts of the giant’s power to destroy you or thoughts of God’s victory through you?

The Israelites’ second mistake goes hand-in-hand with the first: losing focus on God. They saw their problem as bigger than their Creator. It’s important to be realistic about the seriousness of the challenges we face, but we can’t forget to be realistic about the power God has over those challenges.

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4. How had fear of Goliath spread throughout the people of Israel? How have you seen fear spread to others in your life?
5. How has facing giants allowed you to understand God’s power?

During the six weeks Goliath roared out his challenge both in the morning and in the evening, he became emboldened and more arrogant. On some of these occasions, he must have sauntered right up to the edge of the ravine, because the men retreated from him in terror (1 Sam. 17:24). Under Saul’s leadership, Israel shrank in morale and confidence and remained immobilized in fear. When we base our courage on our abilities, it’s easy to lose confidence and give into despair. There is always someone a little bigger, a little stronger, or a little smarter. We’ve got to remember in whom our faith should be.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER 1 SAMUEL 17:32-50

1. Why do you think David was willing to face Goliath when none of the Israelite soldiers were?

Saul and the Israelite army give us examples of what not to do, but by looking at David’s actions, we see how to courageously respond to our giants. David was a simple shepherd, but because this shepherd walked with God, knew God, and obeyed God, He was able to stand up to Goliath when everyone else was cowering in fear.

2. What are some experiences David remembered in his testimony (v. 37) that enabled him to truly rely on God?
3. David didn’t allow the size of his opponent to keep him from taking on the challenge. Why do you think David was able to have this kind of confidence?
4. Read 1 Samuel 17:8-10, 16 again. How does David’s attitude (vv. 32-33) compare with Goliath’s? How does his attitude compare with Saul’s?
5. Is your attitude toward the “giants” in your life more like Saul’s or David’s? How does this attitude need to change?

Like Saul, we often express reliance upon God, but then we continue to rely on our abilities, intellect, experience, and plans. We may even ask God to bless our plans. But that approach will usually cause us and our plans to languish in ineffectiveness or defeat. We need to learn from David’s example. As we learn to trust God as He works in our lives, our faith in Him grows, enabling us to be used by God to accomplish even more. David knew God took care of him in the past, so he didn’t have any trouble deciding what to do when he faced Goliath.

6. Our problem with giants is not how big they are but how small they makes us feel. Why didn’t David feel small in front of such a massive opponent (vv. 45-47)?
7. When he walked out in front of Goliath, David never wavered in his faith. He fully believed his spiritual weapons were greater than the physical ones of his enemies. How would having that kind of faith change your approach to life?

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

God uses unlikely fighters to face unbeatable giants, so He can accomplish an unimaginable victory.

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Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

1. How might our struggle against the giants in our lives actually serve to make us stronger?
2. What do we demonstrate to those around us when we stand up to our challenges in God’s strength?
3. What can you do to encourage others who are facing life-altering challenges to take courage in God’s strength for their fight?
4. Who can you share the good news of the Gospel with this week?

PRAYER - Spend some time praying for those in your group who are facing giants. Life is tough and we’re all hurting. Devote the last few minutes of class to praying for courage to faithfully walk with God in the midst of struggle.

“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” {HEBREWS 12:2}.