

Goliath Must Fall Study Guide

Week 1:

Read I Samuel 17

Key Points:

- It's not God's will for us to have Giants in our lives that are demoralizing us and stealing God's glory from us.
- Our enemy is like a snake without a head- dead but still deadly. He has been defeated at the cross, but there is still poison in his fangs.
- Just as in David's day, the enemy will send giants against us to torment us and make us miserable. We can't allow those giants to have power in our lives.
- We often view David and Goliath as the classic underdog story. The message we often take away from the story is that if we try hard enough we can overcome...but that is the wrong message.
- We are not David in the Story. Jesus represents David, and He is the one who brings down giants.
- When Jesus sets us free we are free indeed. John 8:36
- David was motivated not only by his own personal freedom but by the glory God would receive if Goliath fell in defeat.
- If a giant has a stronghold on your life, God is not receiving glory. That is why Goliath must fall.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think is meant by living from victory as opposed to living for it? How might that play out in your life?
2. How do you respond to the notion that Jesus, not you, is the David who defeated the giant in your life? What are the implications for the way you live your life?
3. Jesus has been given ALL authority and has already defeated the enemy. What difference does this make as to how you view the giant in your life?
4. Why do you suppose that, having all authority, Jesus still allows us the giants in our life to still have venom? How does God's glory figure into the equation?
5. How do we draw close to Jesus?
6. Our ultimate defense is to lean into the all-sufficiency of Christ. What does this all-sufficiency mean? How do we lean into it?

Week 2:

Key Points:

- In the Bible there are 365 verses that say fear not. That's one verse for every day of the year. There are so many verses on fear because we are a fearful people.
- Goliath's taunts worked their way into the Israelites' minds and kept them in fear. We have to ask what messages have likewise worked their way into our minds and left feeling fearful.
- Perhaps we have been conditioned to fear or because we are afraid others might see the real us because we might lose control.
- Jesus steps into our valley of fear and asks to be in charge of our lives. In the process, He deals with the things that cause us fear.
- Fear and Faith cannot occupy our minds at the same time. Worship and worry simply cannot occupy the same space.
- To deal with the giant of fear, we must name it and place it in the hands of Jesus. We must trust that He can take care of it.
- Feeling as though we do not live up to the expectations of others can lead to the giant of rejection in our lives.
- In life we have to ask if we are doing things "So that" or "Because". Are we doing things so that we can get something from God or because of what He has already done?
- God has already decided that we are good enough to have a relationship with Him. We were never worthy of this on our own, but are worth it because His Son died to restore us.
- Rejected people reject people. Loved people love and accept people. We must believe that we are accepted by God to truly accept others.
- The Bible says we are worthy loved and valued sons and daughters of God. The giant of acceptance falls when we believe this.

Discussion Questions:

1. The opposite of fear is faith. What does faith involve when we face the giant of fear? What do we need to believe and what do we need to do?
2. What is wrong with concealing our fears from others? Why do we conceal our fears?
3. What helps us become convinced that God is bigger than our fears?
4. What role do praise and worship have in dealing with fear? Why are they so important?
5. What hinders us from focusing on Christ all day? How can we address those hindrances? (1 John 4:19)
6. What does it mean to understand the miracle of our creation? How does that nurture a sense of acceptance?

7. In what sense can you say, "God chose me"?
8. What is the difference between living for acceptance and living from it? How can we put this into practice?

Week 3:

Key Points:

- The Christian life is not a spectator sport. It is not about sitting in a comfortable life celebrating a savior who led an uncomfortable life.
- Jesus did not come for comfort but to fulfill a purpose. He also calls us to fulfill a mission.
- David accomplished in forty minutes what the army could not do in forty days. The men were comfortable in their tents with food and supplies and were not motivated.
- Our faith thrives in discomfort. No one in Scripture who played a significant role in God's plan ever did so by choosing the easy way, living in ease, or refusing to take a risk.
- God chose the difficult path of sending His Son to die on our behalf.
- Faith flourishes in hostile territory because it is countercultural. God moves among His people when they are willing to step out of their comfort zone and pursue His plans.
- When we choose to be where Jesus is and go wherever He leads the layers of comfort fade and the giant of comfort falls.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is comfort a dangerous giant? How can it affect us for the worse?
2. On a scale of 1-5, how important is comfort to you? Why? How does your desire for comfort play out in your life?
3. How does desire for comfort limit your walk with God?
4. The point of our lives is fame of Jesus. How can our lives proclaim the fame of Jesus?
5. What would it look like to get out of your comfort zone?

Week 4:

Key Points:

- Anger has the tendency to simmer beneath the surface of our lives and the suddenly explode when something provokes us.
- When David came to the battlefield and started asking questions, it caused his brother Eliab to fire angry darts at him. He questioned David's motives. Our anger is provoked when people questions our motives.
- Our anger is provoked when others belittle us.
- Our anger is provoked when our character is attacked.
- Anger can be wrongly placed, suppressed or rightly placed.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was wrong with Eliab's anger? Can you identify with him? How?
2. What is a healthy way of dealing with anger.
3. What is your usual way of dealing with anger? How do you respond when a goal of yours is blocked.
4. How is it helpful for you to think of God as your avenger?
5. How readily do you forgive? How do you forgive?

Week 5:

Key Points:

- The giant of addiction has the power to wreck our lives.
- With Jesus we can take steps toward freedom.
- We are all addicted to something. Covering our weaknesses and seeking comfort compulsively leads to addiction.
- Addiction comes when we seek ways to numb or escape pain.
- The key for us is to be vulnerable and authentic. When we are honest with God about who we are, we realize that God's grace is sufficient.
- Giants come down in the light, not in the dark.
- We need to let God surround us with support and teach us healthy coping instead of compulsive escape or numbing.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can a person know if they are addicted to approval or merely like's people to approve of them?
2. The cause of addiction is pain. What are some healthy ways of coping with pain?
3. Why is it essential to tell trusted friends about our addictions?