

will happen to your spirit when your life is over and Jesus returns (Galatians 6:7-8)!

Satan uses giants to defeat you. The enemy in 1 Samuel 17 was the Philistines. Yet, as part of their strategy to defeat the Israelites, they wanted to fight a single-combat battle with their champion (Goliath). Through this, they wanted to capture the entire nation. Today, although Satan has many military strategies he is using to attack you, you must not be ignorant of how he tries to use “giants” to defeat you (2 Corinthians 2:11). Both Scripture and your own experiences and observations should help you see that Satan uses giants to fight against you. By this, I am distinguishing between the various temptations you experience and the major sources of struggles you face. Your giants attack areas in which Satan knows you are particularly vulnerable. So, while other temptations may quickly come and go and you may more easily resist them, your giants are often a much greater challenge – day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year. Satan continues to show these giants to you and they threaten whether you will serve God or Satan!

Identifying some common giants. Every person on this earth faces giants (and Satan knows which giants are most effective against which people). Consider some examples of giants Satan uses against people today. Depression. Anxiety. Fear. Discouragement. Insecurity. Persecution. Discomfort. Comfort. Apathy. Pride. Anger. Lust. Guilt. Shame. Something in your past. Tobacco. Alcohol. Drugs. Dishonesty. Codependency. Sex. Money. Worldly possessions. Success. Work. Idols. Busyness. Worldly interests and hobbies. Death. Worry. Peer pressure. The list of giants can go on and on. But, you need to evaluate for yourself: Which giants does Satan use against you? Be honest with yourself so as to identify your giants and to size them up. Know what you’re up against and how each giant is challenging you. Then, continue through this series as we learn from 1 Samuel 17 about how to defeat your giants!

Conclusion

Giants challenge people today! The Philistines used Goliath to challenge the Israelites. Today, Satan is trying to defeat you spiritually and make you his slave. He is using giants to help him accomplish this goal. But, you can defeat your giants – just as David defeated Goliath!



The story of David and Goliath has been told for thousands of years and is a true “underdog” story about a young man facing a giant in battle, with God delivering him to victory. This story has inspired many in all sorts of circumstances (business, sports, politics, war, etc.) to push forward despite how things may appear. But, even more serious than these, this story is relevant on a spiritual level as the devil tries to use giants to defeat all of us. So, as we each face our “giants,” we can follow the blueprint David has left us.

The purpose of this lesson is to learn that giants challenge people today by overviewing the story of David and Goliath and considering the reality of facing giants today.

David And Goliath

The context. The battle between David and Goliath occurred as part of a conflict between the Israelites (God’s chosen people in the Old Testament) and the Philistines. This occurred during the time Saul was king in Israel. However, two chapters prior to the battle (1 Samuel 15) records King Saul’s disobedience to God and God rejecting his family as heirs to the throne. Instead, the prophet Samuel was sent to Jesse’s house to anoint the one who would be the next king – David! After this, 1 Samuel 16 records how Saul would be tormented and David was chosen to play the lyre and make him feel better. Notice how David was described in 1 Samuel 16:18. Saul loved David and David became Saul’s armor bearer (v. 22). Then, 1 Samuel 17 introduces us to the battle between the Philistines and Israelites (vv. 1-2). These two nations clashed frequently in the Old Testament, as the Philistines were a powerful and wealthy nation that seemed to provide regular challenges to the Israelite nation. Now, they are prepared to fight again (though we don’t know why).

Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

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Sizing up the giant. Read 1 Samuel 17:3-7. As the two nations are lined up in battle formation on opposing hilltops and a ravine between, their champion warrior emerges. Note that the word “champion” referred to one who would go out in front of the army and fight between two armies. The Hebrew text records him as being a giant (though the Septuagint and Dead Sea Scrolls has Goliath as only being around 6’ 6” tall). The literal Hebrew measurement says Goliath was six cubits and a span (approximately 9’ 9” tall)! Then, he also had substantial armor (including a bronze helmet and bronze scale armor). His scale armor (coat of mail) weighed approximately 125 pounds! Then, he had bronze armor on his shins and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. The shaft for the spear was like a weaver’s beam (a long pole) and the point of the spear was made of iron and weighed approximately 15 pounds itself. Later, we also learn that he had a sword (v. 51). Plus, Goliath had a shield-bearer who walked in front of him! So, take a moment to view Goliath from across the ravine and imagine you are an Israelite soldier who sees this man emerge from the Philistine camp.

The challenge. Read 1 Samuel 17:8-11. God’s people were challenged by this giant to select one of their soldiers to fight against him one-on-one. Whoever would lose would result in his nation serving the winning nation. This kind of warfare can be referred to as single-combat, where representatives from the warring nations would fight and avoid a larger conflict. And, in many ways, these would often be viewed as being battles decided by the gods. Then, this passage describes the reaction of the Israelites as losing their courage and being terrified!

David arrives at the battle. Read 1 Samuel 17:12-30. In addition to being King Saul’s shield-bearer and servant, David also evidently tended to his father’s flock at times. David’s father, Jesse, sent David to the battle with some provisions for his three oldest brothers who were with King Saul at the battle, to see how they were doing. When he arrived, David saw the Israelite army march to its battle formation, heard them shout their battle cry, heard Goliath shout his usual challenge, and saw the Israelites retreat from Goliath out of terror. When he saw this and heard about King Saul’s offered reward (i.e. making him rich, giving his daughter to him, and making his family tax-exempt), David was interested.

David agrees to fight. Read 1 Samuel 17:31-37. While every other Israelite soldier was terrified, David volunteered and told everyone not to be discouraged. Even when King Saul told David he was just a youth and could not fight Goliath, David demonstrated that he had killed lions and bears in his work as a shepherd and would defeat this uncircumcised Philistine who had defied the armies of the living God. Finally, King Saul

allowed David to fight. Yet, notice that David’s confidence was not in himself, but in God’s ability to save (as God had delivered him in the past). David simply saw the challenge for what it really was: A challenge against God – and David could not stand idly by and watch this Philistine defy the armies of the living God!

David prepares for battle. Read 1 Samuel 17:38-40. David was unable to use the armor King Saul offered him. This included a bronze helmet and sword. For, David could not walk in them properly and was not use to them (remember that King Saul was a larger man himself, 1 Samuel 9:2). But, rather than give up, David armed himself in another way. David took his shepherd’s staff, five smooth stones, and sling to the battle against Goliath!

David defeats Goliath. Read 1 Samuel 17:41-58. As David ran into battle, he looked ill-equipped to win from a physical perspective. Even though he was a valiant man and a warrior (1 Samuel 16:18), he was a youth and under-armored from a military perspective going up against a heavily armored giant experienced in this kind of warfare! Yet, David recognized this battle was not really about David versus Goliath (or even the Israelites versus the Philistines). Instead, the true battle was between Goliath’s gods and the true, living God! So, the victory would not be by David’s strength, but by God’s strength. And, David knew the true God was infinitely stronger and bigger than the Philistine and all his gods! So, against all physical odds, David defeated Goliath, slinging a stone toward and hitting the Philistine on the forehead. Then, when the giant had fallen, David finished him off with the giant’s own sword – cutting off his head. The Israelites then pursued and plundered the Philistines.

Facing Your Giants

You are at war. Before you look at the giants you face, you must recognize the war you are fighting. Whether you choose to fight or not, you are at war. This is a spiritual war for your soul (1 Peter 2:11)! Therefore, this is the greatest of all wars, with eternal implications! If the enemy uses his giants to defeat you, you become his slave and will experience eternal, spiritual death. But, if you defeat the giants and the enemy, you will experience eternal life (Romans 6:15-23). The enemy you face in this war is Satan (the devil), who is the leader of all rebellion against God (1 Peter 5:8-9). The war is made up of a life-long series of battles between the flesh and the spirit. Satan is trying to appeal to your desires of the flesh so you fulfill your own desires rather than obey God. He wants you to be short-sighted and do whatever pleases yourself now, not thinking about what