

AFTER GOD'S HEART

A STUDY IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

After God's Heart Part 3—Battling Giants

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

The Bible is a supernatural book that tells about a supernatural God!

Unless a story is prefaced with the explanation that it is a parable or an obvious analogy or hyperbole, we are reading real events that actually happened.

[2 Timothy 3:16]

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

[Proverbs 30:5]

Every word of God is flawless...

[Romans 3:4, TPT]

God will always be proven **faithful and true to his word**, while people are proven to be liars.

[1 Samuel 17:1-5]

The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.

Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds.

[1 Samuel 17:6-11]

He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.

Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

Personal giants cannot be ignored. Giants are consistent and persistent, so they must be taken out.

PERSONAL GIANT:

- Something that is defying God's best for your life and mocking your attempts to be who God called you to be
- A force, situation, or condition that is trying to take you out

- **Fear / anxiety**
- **Shame / regret**
- **Addiction**
- **Greed**
- **Insecurity / intimidation**
- **Poverty / Continual lack**
- **Depression / despair**
- **Sickness / Health issues**
- **? _____**

[1 Samuel 17:16]

For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

When you've got a heart after God, you're willing to take on battles that others pass up.

Four Keys to Battling Giants:

1. Never underestimate the battles you win in secret.

Battles won in secret are preparing you for a platform of either public victory or public defeat.

[1 Samuel 17:34-35]

David said to Saul "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats and when a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death.

David won the test of the private battle before he won the public victory.

[1 Samuel 17:36-37]

I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"

Salvation is a moment, but sanctification and deliverance is a process. It takes time, so don't grow weary.

Four Keys to Battling Giants:

2. Never fight in borrowed armor.

God will anoint the real you. You have enough gifting. You have all that you need to succeed in the fight that is right in front of you.

[1 Samuel 17:37-40]

Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!"

Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

"I can't go in these," he protested to Saul. "I'm not used to them." So David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

Four Keys to Battling Giants:

3. Only Fight the battles that belong to the Lord.

[1 Samuel 17:41-46]

Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals...

[1 Samuel 17:47]

“... and **the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!** And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. **This is the LORD’s battle**, and he will give you to us!”

Four Keys to Battling Giants:

4. Finish off the enemy! (Don’t let Goliath get back up)

[1 Samuel 17:49-51]

As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

Most theologians agree that it was the sword that killed Goliath, not the stone. You are in a spiritual battle!

[Colossians 2:15, AMP]

Jesus has disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them, exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession, having **triumphed over them through the cross.**

[2 Corinthians 2:14]

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Read God's Word with a lens of what is clearly figurative (parables, prophetic stories, hyperboles, etc.) and what is literal, historic truth.
2. Commit to memory Psalm 23 to help you fight your battles and know God's promise for you.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. When have you felt like a "misfit" or "underdog," and who believed in you?
2. What do you believe our existence as a planet? How did we get here, and where are we going?
3. Why do you think some people are selective about the authenticity of Scripture? How does 2 Timothy 3:16 direct us to trust and follow the Word of God?

4. What are some valleys that you've walked through, and what are some victories that resulted from your trust in God?
5. "You can choose your battles, but you can't choose your giants." What does this mean to you?
6. What is a personal giant that you are facing right now? Why do we need to conquer personal giants? In other words, what happens when we ignore them or settle for partial victory?
7. In past personal battles, whose honor were you fighting for? What motivated you, and what resulted?
8. As Christ followers, how can we fight with confidence? Which of the four keys to battling giants speaks to you the most right now?