

Facing a Giant



MEMORY VERSE: "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13



1 SAMUEL 17:1-11

A Bully Threatens God's People

1. The Philistine people were enemies of the Israelites. How would you describe the atmosphere in verses 1-3?
2. Read verses 4-11. Who was Goliath? What are some things we learn about him?
3. What did Goliath propose? Look at how Saul and the Israelite army responds in verse 11. How would you respond?



1 SAMUEL 17:20-27, 32-37

David Stands up to Goliath

4. Read verses 20-27. David's father sent David from the fields to see how his brothers were getting along in the fight against the Philistines. How was the Israelite army doing?
5. What reward did King Saul offer anyone who could kill Goliath? vv. 25 What was what motivated David to fight Goliath? vv. 26
6. Read verses 32-37. Where does David find the confidence to face Goliath? How does David's attitude compare with Saul's (v. 11)?



1 SAMUEL 17:38-50

Victory Over a Giant

7. Why did David choose not to wear Saul's armor? What did he take with him to fight Goliath instead? vv. 38-40
8. Read verses 45-47. What do David and Goliath's words reveal about their motives and source of strength?
9. What is the end result of the battle? vv. 48-50
What do the men of Israel, the Philistines and even the "whole world" now know? vv. 46
10. What giants are you facing? What does David's example tell you about how you should go into battle and whom is going into battle with you?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

There are many Goliaths in the world and they can be big, strong, loud, confident and intimidating, while we often feel small and weak and inferior. God is bigger than anything we face in life. God said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9 What a comfort and confidence this should give us when we face GIANT problems!

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Father in Heaven, please give me Your power and wisdom when I face "Giants." May I trust You to help me face whatever comes my way. And most of all, help me to remember that you are God! In the powerful name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



What was David's greatest weapon against Goliath? How can you use this weapon (specifically) as you face Your Giants?

1 Samuel 17:1-11; 20-27; 32-37; 38-50 (NLT)

1 The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephesdammim. 2 Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. 3 So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them. 4 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! 5 He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. 6 He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. 7 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. 8 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! 9 If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! 10 I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

20 So David left the sheep with another shepherd and set out early the next morning with the gifts, as Jesse had directed him. He arrived at the camp just as the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. 21 Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel. 24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright.

25 "Have you seen the giant?" the men asked. "He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!" 26 David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" 27 And these men gave David the same reply. They said, "Yes, that is the reward for killing him."

32 "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!" 33 "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth." 34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 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. 36 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! 37 The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"

38 Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the Lord be with you!" 38 Then Saul gave David his own armor — a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 David put it on, trapped 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. 40 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. 41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 "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. 44 "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled. 45 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. 46 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, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 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!" 48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 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. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.

Israelites - are the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. They are God's chosen people. The word Israelite is often used synonymously with the terms Hebrew and Jew.

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