

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

OPEN in prayer

READ: I Samuel 17

**Read the entire story if you can. Divide the text into sections and have several people read, or take several minutes to allow persons to read silently.*

REFLECT

When David came on the scene everyone had come down with “Goliath-sickness,” a terrible disease of the spirit that had Saul and his entire army incapacitated. Everyone was struck with Goliath phobia and terror. They were under a Goliath-dominated imagination. But David entered the Valley of Elah with a God-dominated imagination. He was incredulous that everyone was cowering before this infidel giant. Weren’t these men enlisted in the army of the living God? This story reminds us that we are all called to make critical decisions in life. The question is how we go about deciding? Will we have “Goliath-dominated thinking” or have “God-dominated thinking?”

- *Why were the Israelites helpless against Goliath? Have you ever felt like the Israelites?*
- *What made David believe he could not only face Goliath, but defeat him as well? (What were some of the reasons Pastor John mentioned in his sermon?)*
- *What “giant” are you facing in your life right now?*

Notice this about the David and Goliath story: The story gives Goliath almost 50 verses, but his death happens in only a few words. In verse 49 the “mighty” Goliath falls quickly and quietly, almost anti-climatically. Here’s the point the story is making—maybe the problem wasn’t that big after all! Note how quickly the “Goliath” problem disappears (dies). Without faith problems become exaggerated and blown out of proportion. Without faith problems seem insurmountable. However, through faith problems can be confronted and overcome!

DISCUSS THESE LESSONS FROM DAVID’S LIFE:

- If you are not fighting a giant today...prepare, he’s coming
- God looks at the heart but man looks at the outward appearance
- David had the ability to see God in every situation
- When we’re at our weakest God shows Himself strong
- Focus on God not your giants
- Run straight towards your giants

CLOSE IN PRAYER

April 25 – May 1
“Let’s Roll!”
-David & Goliath-

Cinderella
Stories