

## Giants Will Fall - Response Guide

1 Samuel 17

Bethany Assembly of God

11/1/2020

- Typically, when you think of the story of David and Goliath, what would you say it's about?
- Do you have a favorite "David and Goliath" moment, an underdog win in sports or elsewhere?
- Read 1 Samuel 17 (if you're in a Connect Group, take turns reading). Take special note of when words like "mock," "taunt," or "defy" are used. What other details did the author highlight? Why?
- Why do you think David repeatedly asked who the giant was and about the reward for killing him?
- Why do you suppose such an epic story ends with Saul asking about whose son David is?

*The author seems to want us to ponder that question as well: Who is this kid? And what does it mean to be a person after God's own heart?*

- Often, messages about David and Goliath focus on our individual struggles and challenges, but read verses 45-47 again. What was David's primary motive for fighting Goliath? What should that teach us about a larger identity and purpose in life?

*The way to confront your personal battles is by focusing your attention on a bigger battle. David understood that the real battle wasn't about his stature or fear. Here's David's secret: he was about God's glory! David was indignant that a Philistine had dared defy God. He was indignant that nothing had been done about it. So the sandwich delivery boy took it upon himself to defend God's honor.*

**You can act with courage for the glory of the Living God.**

### **1. God looks on the heart.**

- Read 1 Samuel 13:14 and 1 Samuel 16:17. How do they help to set the stage for the story of David and Goliath?

- How do the details of the story emphasize that external appearances aren't what matters most?
- Since God looks on the heart, what was it that He saw inside David?

*David was a man after God's heart because David was concerned most with God's glory. If you want to live a life of purpose, if you want to overcome those personal giants and struggles, don't make them the focus. Make God's glory your aim. That's the point of this story. Live to glorify God and God will use you to do great things, even if you thought you were just the sandwich delivery person. God looks at the heart.*

- "What situations are there in our own day, in our own various worlds, where we can clearly see God's honor is at stake? Can we say that that matters to us more than our advantage or reputations or security?" (Ralph Davis, *Looking on the Heart*)

*David and Goliath isn't in the Bible just to help you get over your self-image problems. It's there to help you get over yourself and see that God's glory is a much bigger deal.*

## **2. The battle belongs to the Lord.**

- When David approached Goliath, he wasn't timid or afraid; he was confident. Where do you think that confidence came from?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:34-36 again. How did these previous circumstances develop David's confidence? Notice, it doesn't say that an angel saved David from lions and bears. He still had to chase them. He still had to kill them. But he attributed the victory to the Lord! Do you see how the Lord has worked/is working in your life? Are you giving Him the glory? Is that building confidence for the future?
- Saying that the battle belongs to the Lord is similar to saying that "we walk by faith and not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7) Where do you need to walk by faith and trust that God's got this so that you can live for the bigger cause of His glory?

## **Conclusion**

*God is looking for people after His heart, who put His glory first. If you will remember these two truths, that God looks at the heart and that the battle belongs to the Lord, God will help you to act in courage for His glory. Giants will fall.*

- Has God drawn your attention to a particular place where He is not being honored? Do you keep coming back to some problem where God is mocked or His ways not followed? Could He be calling you to do something about it? How do you feel about that? How could remembering the two truths we learned today help you?