

OVERCOMING THE GIANTS

1 Samuel 17
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INTRO:

1. The significance of **context**
2. The subject of **covenant**

A. **DESCRIPTION OF GIANTS IN OUR LIVES**

1. Giants **loom** out of an existing problem (v. 4)
2. Giants can appear **large** (v. 4-7)
3. Giants can **linger** in our lives (v. 8)
4. Giants **limit** your sight on God (v. 8-10)
5. Giants make us **lame** (v. 11)

B. **DEFEATING THE GIANTS IN OUR LIVES**

1. Covenant has a built-in **protection** (v. 26, 37)
2. Covenant is more effective with **practice** (v. 32-36)
3. Covenant gives you the courage of the **power** of God (v. 16: 13, 17:37-41)
4. Covenant provides us with a godly **perspective** (v. 45-50)

CONCLUSION

The cross as the symbol of the blessings of the new covenant. (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

TABLETALK QUESTIONS

1. After the Israelites refused to listen to Samuel's warnings about a king, Samuel anointed Saul as Israel's first king. As predicted, much of Saul's reign was disastrous. Because he refused to obey God, Samuel confronted Saul and told him of God's plans to choose another king to replace him, "But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command" (1 Samuel 13:14). After David was anointed by Samuel, there was a period of preparation before he actually realized his calling. His battle with Goliath, the giant, was an integral part of that preparation.

Who is someone in your life you have seen overcome obstacles and achieve great things?

2. No biblical characters began their life story by leading a nation or defeating their greatest foes in battle. Earlier, we saw Joseph leading the nation of Egypt. Joseph couldn't have known it at the time, but God was preparing him to lead while he was a household slave and a prisoner in jail.

As you look back, how was God preparing you for something in the future, but you didn't realize it at the time?

3. Read 1 Samuel 17:32–37. For every plant, the right soil, the correct amount of water and sunlight are necessary for health and growth. Like plants, faith requires the right conditions for healthy growth. Part of the conditions and nutrients required for healthy growth in our faith—whether we like it or not—are obstacles and adversity. David needed a level of faith to face Goliath.

Think of adversity you have faced in life. How does your perspective on those times compare to how David saw the lion and the bear?

4. Read 1 Samuel 17:38–40. Just like David couldn't borrow Saul's armor, we cannot borrow someone else's journey that led to their great faith. Many people have a saintly grandmother, parent, or friend whose faith is a model and inspiration. But it's their faith. We have to go on our own journey of preparation and develop our own strong faith in God. David had fought the bear and the lion. That was his journey of preparation.

How might it have affected David if he had gone to battle wearing armor that didn't fit him?

5. Read 1 Samuel 17:41–51. Much like the stone that left his slingshot speeding toward Goliath's forehead, David knew exactly where to place his faith for maximum effect. The target of David's faith was as narrow as the target of the stone from his slingshot. Faith, for followers of Jesus, requires focusing on a target.

What abilities has God given you that you could easily rely on rather than God?

6. Building a strong trust in God takes practice. It also involves obstacles, and some may feel insurmountable. But this is how faith is grown. Seeing God come through in your own life will strengthen your faith like nothing else. Finding that the promises of God's Word hold true in your life is invaluable for your faith.

- We have learned that God uses adversity and obstacles to grow our faith. How does that make you feel? How comfortable are you in accepting that truth?
- When you are tempted to take matters into your own hands as David did in lying to Ahimelech, what can you do to overcome the temptation?
- Think back to our opening story. What has God been preparing you for?
- How has God used past obstacles to shape who you are today? How does that encourage you? How could you use it to encourage others?