

Head-Hunter
Growth Group Discussion Guide
1 Samuel 17.1-53

Intro questions

- What is one of the “giants” that you face presently? By “giants,” we mean seemingly impossible challenges. Give a brief description.
- Take a moment to pray, acknowledging these challenges to God, and asking for his Spirit to speak into them.

1. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11, then discuss the following.

- What jumps out at you in this scene? Anything?
- Why do you think the narrator included the details that are here?
- What is at stake for Israel at this moment?
- Pastor Josh mentioned “champion warfare,” or “single combat,” as follows: *“In champion warfare, each side would choose their best fighter, and send him into the area between the two army lines (in this case, the valley), and let them fight 1-on-1. The champion was seen as representing his whole army. It was a way of lessening the loss of life, since only one person had to fight (and potentially die), rather than many. If your side’s champion won, your whole side got credit for the victory. If your champion lost the 1-on-1, your whole side took the defeat.”*
 - Why does this historical background matter to our understanding of the story?

2. Read 1 Samuel 17:12-24, then discuss the following.

- What observations strike you in this section?
- What do you think the narrator (or Holy Spirit) especially wants us to notice?
- Pastor Josh noted on Sunday that *“when we face an impossibly large giant, our vision can get so clouded that we can forget the size and power of God.”* Can you recall a time when this was true of your experience?
 - How is your vision of God and his power in light of your current “giants?”

3. Read 1 Samuel 17:25-37, then discuss the following.

- What stands out to you about David in this passage?
 - What is unique about David, as compared with the other characters mentioned here?
 - Where does David get his confidence that God can defeat Goliath through him? Is there anything for us to learn in this example?
- Do any other details stand out to you in this section as noteworthy?

4. Read 1 Samuel 17:38-53, then discuss the following.

- Does anything strike you about David’s choice of equipment, or lack thereof?
- What is noteworthy about David’s faith here?
- How do the other soldiers—and the nation of Israel—benefit from David’s faith, willingness to take risk, and victory?

5. Application: Pastor Josh

- Eugene Peterson writes, “We keep on telling stories, the same old ones, over and over and over again, ... [because] the stories keep releasing new insight in new situations.”
 - Is there any fresh way that God may be speaking to you through this old, familiar story? How do you see it in light of your present situation?
- Pastor Josh said that the greatest giant we face is not any of the circumstantial things we tend to think of, but rather, the “three-headed monster” of sin, Satan, and death.
 - Do you agree or disagree? To what extent have you experienced this to be true?
- Josh also suggested that we should identify more with Israel than with David, in that we needed a champion to fight our greatest battle for us—and that Champion was/is Jesus.
 - How does this story enable you to grasp more deeply what Jesus did in his life, death, and resurrection?
- The big takeaway from this week’s sermon was the following: **If you’re going to be able to trust God in your lesser “battles,” you have to know what he did for you in the greatest battle.**
 - How can we use our knowledge of the gospel—what Jesus accomplished for us—to muster up our faith in the face of our present giants or battles?
 - When have you experienced this reality playing out in your life?

6. Prayer

- Praise God for the gospel, and ask him to make it real to your hearts.
- Pray for one another about the present challenges that have been mentioned.