

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

We can change what we see by changing our perspective.

⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath... ¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Don't place your hope in human leaders- our help comes from the Lord.

²⁴ All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.

²⁶ And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

Giant problems prompt us to fight, flee, or freeze.

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

David and Saul are looking at the same giant problem but see different things.

We measure our giant problems against the giant power of the living God.

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this

day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

David's fierce love for God makes him a fierce warrior for God.

Praise changes perspective. It lifts our gaze off the giant and onto God.

Put into Practice

[] Face your giant problems in the name of the LORD of hosts.

[] Make praise a daily habit that shifts your perspective.

[] Encourage and pray for others who are facing giant problems.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a situation in your own life where your perspective on a problem shifted and suddenly you "saw" it completely differently?
2. Why was David's perspective of the giant different from Saul's?
3. How do David's past experiences with God shape the way he sees Goliath?
4. What is David's motivation for fighting?
5. The sermon suggested that giant problems prompt us to fight, flee, or freeze – Which of these is your default response?
6. Why is it so important to praise first?
7. Who in your life is facing a giant right now that you could show up for, speak up for, or pray over? Is there a giant of your own you'd be willing to name (even vaguely) so this group can pray for you?

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God's Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as, what is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God’s Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leaders Guide

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.