

Goliath Must Fall
Session # 3 Summary
October 10, 2021

We viewed two video sessions and discussed two “giants” in our lives : the giant of Rejection ; and the giant of Comfort. We started the evening off with a summary of main points from the study so far :

- We have too often viewed ourselves as David in the David & Goliath story. “If I just try harder, if I just do more,” I can beat this. In reality, we will always fall short on our own. Jesus is the David in this story. Although this doesn’t mean there is nothing for us to do also, we must remember that Jesus is the giant-killer, not we ourselves.
- Allowing giants to manipulate us is not only bad for us, it also keeps the glory of God in us from being revealed.
- Identifying our giants is an important part first step in defeating them.
- In a good small group it’s important to try not to “fix” the other person’s problem. We should allow sharing of problems and needs, and avoid the impulse to “fix” them.
- What can we do to make this small group, or any small group, a safe place in which to share anxieties or needs, or to confess sin ? Some answers suggested : (1) Trust must be developed. An important part of developing trust is to develop relationships. (2) There must be an understanding that things shared within the group are not going to be passed along outside of the group.

The Giant of Rejection. David was initially rejected by Saul who thought he would not be able to take on Goliath successfully. Louie Giglio’s teaching was about God’s acceptance of us through Christ. He asked whether we lived “for acceptance” or “from acceptance.” Group discussion was along the following lines :

- Some could remember a person who accepted them unconditionally in their growing-up years. Others had experiences of never being entirely accepted.
- Some of us struggle (like Louie Giglio’s dad who criticized Louie’s tennis play) with being critical in our speech. We too easily communicate rejection to others.
- The question was raised, “Why, for those who received much love and acceptance growing up, are we nevertheless so critical of others ?”
- We must lean on Jesus living in us to change our attitudes and our speech toward others.

The Giant of Comfort. The teaching in the video was on our tendency to settle for the easy path in life. Like the Israelite army, we like to wait things out and see what might happen rather than boldly go onto the battlefield in the name of the Lord. Faith actually thrives best in situations of discomfort. Hard situations give urgency to our faith. Some reactions from the group were these :

- The emphasis should be not so much on getting away from comfort as it should be on getting with Jesus. “Jesus, I want to be wherever you are today.”
- The specific acts of getting out of our comfort zone will look different for each person. (Some good starting suggestions are mentioned in the between-sessions personal assignments for this lesson.)
- Sometimes ignoring the voice of the Holy Spirit within us prompting us to some action is our way of staying comfortable.