

**Review – Please look over your notes from this weekend or the points below before your group meets.**

"Therefore I say: Know the enemy and know yourself, in a hundred battles, you will never be defeated. When you are ignorant of your enemy but you know yourself, your chances of winning or losing is equal. If you are ignorant of both your enemy and yourself, you are sure of defeat in every battle." Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

**Remember – you don't have to ask every question and cover all the material.**

## SHARE IT – Connecting with each other

- *What is the biggest challenged that you have ever faced or obstacle that you have had to overcome in your life?*

## GO DEEP – Connect with the Scriptures

The story of David and Goliath is a familiar one. David sees what others don't and refuses to see what others do. All eyes, except David's, fall on the brutal, armor-bearing hulk. Max Lucado wrote in his book *Facing Your Giants*, "All journals, but David's, describe day after day in the land of the Neanderthal. The people know his taunts, demands, size, and strut. They have majored in Goliath. David majors in God. He sees the giant, mind you; he just sees God more so." Read [1 Samuel 17:1](#).

*How did David's perspective differ from his country-men's perspective?*

*What reason does David give for his confidence in a fight against Goliath?*

*What do verses 45 – 47 reveal about the man after God's own heart?*

*Why does God often use the most unlikely person to accomplish great things for Him?*

*What was it that made David God's choice?*

The Philistines had been Israel's constant enemy from the day of the judges. They lived on the west side of Canaan, along the Mediterranean seacoast. From Samson's day until the time of David they were the major enemy force in the land and a constant threat to the Israelites.

Read [Genesis 10:13-14](#), [26:1-17](#); [1 Chronicles 1:1-11](#); [Judges 13:1](#); [1 Samuel 4:1-11](#), [7:7-14](#), [13:1-23](#), [14:1-6](#).

*According to Genesis 10 & 1 Chronicles 1, what is the lineage of the Philistines?*

*Sometimes the Israelites were victors in battles and at other times suffered defeat. What was the difference?*

Read [Isaiah 51:12-15](#).

*Why does the Lord say we should not fear mere mortals?*

*What happens when we forget our Creator? What kind of plans does God have for us?*

Read [Hebrews 12:1-3](#).

*In your own experience, whose lives encourage your faith? Why?*

*Why should we fix our eyes on Jesus? How is He described?*

*What is the result of fixing our eyes on Him in this way?*

David's life has little to offer the unstained saint. Straight-arrows find David's story (all his life, not this battle) disappointing. The rest of us find it reassuring. We ride the same roller coaster. We alternate between swan dives and belly flops, soufflés and burnt toast.

*In what arenas of life are you most likely to do swan dives and to make soufflés?*

*In what arenas of life are you most likely to do belly flops and to burn toast?*

*Do you find David's story reassuring? Why or why not?*

## NEXT STEPS – Applying the truth of Scripture to life

Your Goliath comes in different shapes and sizes. To the casual observer, it looks as if you can't win. Your giant taunts you publicly and you are left to gather rocks. Though the situation looks hopeless, you know better.

*In what areas of life are you now facing a giant?*

*What emotions does your giant bring out in you?*

How does the average day begin for you?

I think about the giants ←-----\_\_\_\_\_-----→ I think about God

David knew that Israel would keep getting what it was getting if it kept doing what it was doing. The nation was paralyzed because it focused on the enemy. David was empowered because he refused to tip his cap to the enemy; his focus was on God.

Read 1 Samuel 17 again and list the observations David made regarding Goliath. Compare these to what David says about God. *Which is more prevalent?*

*Are you more likely to describe the strength of God as you are the demands of your day?*

*Is your list of blessings four times as long as your list of complaints?*

*Is your mental file of hope four times as thick as your mental file of dread?*

*Do you ponder God's grace four times as much as you ponder your guilt?*

In the space below, list some personal examples of God's miraculous work in your life:

*Based on your past experience with God, which of the statements is true?*

- I have no reason to trust God.
- I have plenty of reasons to trust God.

You have a choice: battle your giants in your own power, run from your giants, allow your giants to paralyze you, or turn your giants over to God and let Him overcome them. It's your choice.

*What is preventing God from slaying the giants in your life?*

*Based on what God taught you in the message this weekend, what are you ready to do?*

## PRAY

Read David's prayer to God in [Psalm 86:1-10](#) as your closing prayer.

Hear me, Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you. You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.