

Group discussion Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”

Read I Samuel 17:33-50 aloud.

1. How did Saul and the Israelite army see the situation with Goliath?

How was David’s perspective different?
He was offended that Goliath disrespected God.

2. How did Saul assess David’s chances against Goliath?

How did Goliath assess the duel?

Why was David so confident he could fight Goliath? Was he cocky?
Youthful bravado was showing, but verse 37 makes it clear that David’s confidence rested on his faith.

3. In the sermon, Kevin contrasted seeing life at eye level vs. seeing life at the God level. Seen from the God level, Goliath was a dwarf. What did you think about this concept? How does it help you (or not help you)?

4. Would you describe most Christians as bold and fearless or cautious and risk-averse?

How would non-Christians answer that question about Christians?
While you could not describe ALL Christians with either label, more of us are known for caution rather than courage.

How does faith inspire us to be courageous?
Romans 8:31ff: “If God is for us, who can be against us?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

If we believe God is sovereign (large and in charge), why do many American Christians live in fear?

5. How does fear diminish our faithfulness?

*We fear that God will not provide, so we trust in our bank account.
We fear that others will not accept us, so we join them in activities that do not honor God.
We fear death, so we avoid risks and we waste significant energy protecting and extending our lives.
We fear failure, so we never pursue our life dream (which might be a calling from God).
We fear losing relationships, so we avoid saying things we need to say.*

How does a movie like Bucket List or a song like Tim McGraw’s “Live like you were dying” inspire you to be courageous?

Videos you could show your group:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZ0z86LmXBM&feature=related>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mHaFMqde6A>

How could our faith give us similar inspiration?

6. What would have happened if David wore Saul’s armor?
He probably still would have won because God was with him.

What principles can we learn from David’s refusal to wear Saul’s armor?

† **The big question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

Who or what is the giant in your life this week?
You could move this question to the beginning as an ice breaker.

How might God’s view of this struggle differ from your view?

Resources

Bible notes

- Fortunately, the verses in this LG guide require no extra commentary. We will let Kevin deal with all the difficult place names and interpretations!

Prayer ideas

In a chain prayer, ask each person to name their giants before God. Then pray for God to dismiss all fear of the giants and to give each person courage to act in the power of God. Ask for wisdom to know the will of God.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Ask the group to act out I Samuel 17:32-50. Characters could be: narrator, David, Saul, Goliath, and armies.

How did David feel about fighting Goliath? Was he afraid?

How did Saul feel about David's fighting Goliath?

How did Goliath feel about fighting David?

Saul & Goliath both thought David had no chance.

Why was David's view so different from the views of Saul & Goliath?

What are some things you worry about?

How are our worries like Goliath?

Undermine our faith.

Distract us from real living.

Much smaller than the power of God.

How can your faith help you face challenges in your life?



August 10, 2008

LIFE Group Guide

I Samuel 17 – David and the Dwarf

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme: **God is sovereign, much larger than any “giant” who might stand in our way.**

We love the story of David and Goliath because it affirms God's absolute sovereignty and his ability to work through willing servants. One reason David was so effective in this situation and others was that his attention was focused on God.

Leadership tip: Recruit your replacement. Christian leaders should always be on a talent search:

– Look for roles where you can invite someone to take on some of your responsibilities.

-- Watch your group members for gifts they could make available to God. Sometimes, they don't realize how special their gifts are – they are just doing what comes naturally – so make it a point to affirm the way God works through group members.

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and “break the ice.” No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ What book have you read most recently?
- ❖ What do you worry about most often?
- ❖ If you had a magic wand that could guarantee success for one of your dreams in the next year, how would you use that one wish?