



**DATE** June 10, 2018

**SPEAKER** David Smith

**TITLE** Facing Your Giant

**SERIES** David is the most written-about character in the Bible. He's most often remembered for all the good in his life, but like us, he had his fair share of failures. What can we learn from all the good, the bad and the ugly woven together in David's story?

Text: I Samuel 17

1. Sometimes we feel like the daily hardships we face are of no value, but as the story of David shows, every small battle was a training for the giant he didn't see coming.
  - a. Share an example of a time when your smaller regular battles helped prepare you to face a significant challenge with more faith.
  - b. Or share a personal experience about a giant you have faced.
2. This story begins with the future king David on an errand that unexpectedly places him in the middle of a serious confrontation at the battlefield. The Israelite army had been paralyzed by fear of the enemy's taunts for 40 days. David was immediately offended by what was being said in defiance towards God. (1 Samuel 17: 26, 32, and 45)
  - a. Why was David offended?
  - b. How should we respond when people around us mock God?
  - c. Discuss the source of David's solid faith and trust.
3. Pastor David said that people usually respond to giants in their lives either by (a) ignoring them, (b) denying them or (c) facing them.
  - a. How do you tend to respond the giants in your life? Would you like to respond differently?
  - b. What-if question (if you wish to explore how we sometimes choose to ignore/deny the giant): if David had chosen to avoid the conflict, what reasons might he have cited to justify his inaction?
4. David's oldest brother viciously criticized him (see I Samuel 17:28).
  - a. Can you recall a situation when you were criticized for taking on a giant in your life? How did you handle the criticism?
  - b. Do you think it is possible to be humble and courageous at the same time? Why or why not?
5. Look 1 Samuel 17:38-40. David was offered the best armor to face the biggest giant, but David had to know himself, his gifts, and his God well enough to take them off.
  - a. Have you ever had to stand your ground even when it didn't make sense to others?
  - b. How does spending time in the quiet moments with God's word prepare for the coming challenges of life?
6. Pastor David referred to Jesus' promise that faith as small as a mustard seed will still move mountains (Matthew 17:21).
  - a. What hinders this kind of faith?
  - b. When have you seen God be powerful in your life?
  - c. How can I know if my faith is in God and not in other things?

7. Pastor David said that courage is built by the battles and tests we face every day. The battles belong to the Lord (I Samuel 17:47).
  - a. In what ways did David's daily life as a shepherd prepare him for his epic battle with Goliath? (Discuss skills as well as spiritual preparation.)
  - b. List some qualities you want to build into your daily life.
  - c. How can you ground yourself as David, confident in God's power to deliver you from your own Goliath? (Or what does it look like for you to trust God with the giant you face?)
  - d. If you are not taking time each day to soak in God's word, what priorities can you change?
  - e. What is your next step of faith? (Or what are some practical ways to place God above the problems?)