

FACING YOUR GIANTS - 2

Pursuing God's Own Heart: Lessons From the Life of David

"For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth."
- Psalm 71:5

"Any belief *in* God, no matter how small; is better than any belief *about* God, no matter how great."

Stories don't get any better than the one about David and Goliath, do they? What little boy or girl hasn't been captivated by the re-telling of the story in Sunday School class? But the story was originally written for adults—whose "Goliaths" come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. It's a reminder that a living God is worth believing.

Welcome

What is the most daring thing you have ever done? What made it so daring?

Word

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-37

1. How did Saul and Israel respond to Goliath's challenge (verse 11)? Was their fearful response "justifiable?" What does Saul's "bribe" (verse 25) reveal about himself and the spiritual condition of Israel? Have you ever felt paralyzed by your fears? Explain.
2. In contrast, what is David's concern upon learning about their situation (verses 26-27)? Why is David's perspective different from that of his countrymen?

Read 1 Samuel 17: 38-58

3. What strikes you about the conversation and subsequent battle between David and Goliath?
4. What does David's initial concern and perspective teach you about the man after God's own heart?
5. In what area of your life are you most taunted by "giants?" What principles can you draw from this passage that would be helpful in your spiritual walk?

Worship

Read Isaiah 51:12-16, using it as the focus for a time of reflection in worship and prayer. Possible songs: "Be Still & Know" (31), "Mighty is Our God" (41), "He is Able" (213), "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (390), "Lord Be There" (413), "O For a Faith that Will Not Shrink" (540).

Works

How long has your "Goliath" stalked you? How does your average day begin (or end) for you?

I think about _____ I think about
"giants" God

Rather than measuring the size of your obstacle against your own strength, measure your obstacle against the size of your God! What are some things you can do to turn your thoughts away from the giants you're facing, and refocus your attention on God?