

Agape House of Worship
Bible Study - Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Study Series: A Man After God's Own Heart **Part 2:** Trusting God in the Face of Giants: David & Goliath
Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1–51 **Teacher:** Pastor Tunde Olugboji

Introduction

This narrative is less about overcoming giants and more about seeing situations from God's perspective and acting in faith. While David overcame Goliath, the bigger point is his trust in the God of Israel when other Israelites, especially Saul, did not. This story teaches an important lesson of bravery, courage and faith. Some of the lessons from this powerful narrative:

1. Succumb to Fear, Lose the Battle (10-11, 24)

When Saul and all Israel heard Goliath's threats, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. This was Goliath's exact intention: to demoralize and defeat them with fear and intimidation. Fear may keep them from even getting into a fight in the first place and if they do, they would fight with fear and apprehension and likely lose. This is the playbook of the devil.

Question 1: Why was Saul afraid?

2. An individual is always at the center of God's major initiative (14; 16-22)

David, the youngest of 8 brothers, left the flock with a keeper and brought supplies into Israel's camp, as Goliath continued his strategy of harassing Israel.

Question 2: Why was David, the youngest, described as God's firstborn in Ps 89:27?

Question 3: What's the significance of David's decision to leave the flock with a keeper?

3. David's approach shows why he is man after God's heart (23-27)

In desperation, Saul offered a 3-part bribe: a cash award, a princess, and a tax exemption.

Question 4: What's the significance of David calling Goliath an uncircumcised Philistine?

Question 5: Why did David accuse Goliath of defying the armies of the living God?

David cared about what God cares about. He saw the problem in spiritual terms, from God's perspective, not in material or fleshly terms, while others saw things only from man's perspective.

4. Trusting God requires humility, confidence and unwavering belief (28-32)

Eliab was not happy with his brother when young David came into the scene.

Question 6: Why was Eliab upset with David?

Eliab's statement hurt David, but he would not let it hinder him. He was concerned with God's cause before his personal safety, glory, honor, and feelings. If David lost his composure because of Eliab's hurtful words, his resolve would be gone.

Question 7: David's sounded like an arrogant person in 32. Do you agree?

David specifically volunteered to fight Goliath. It's one thing to say, "Someone should do something about the enemy," it's another thing to say, "I will do something about the enemy."

5. Prior experience prepares you for future battles (33-37)

Question 8: Why did Saul think David wasn't qualified to fight Goliath?

David recalled how he killed both lion and bear, and his boldness increased as the story progressed. First, he said someone *should* fight Goliath for a righteous cause (26). Then he said he *would* fight Goliath (32). Now he said he would *kill* Goliath (36).

6. Never fight a battle with untested weapons (38-44)

Saul clothed David with his armor, but he rejected it.

Question 9: Why did David reject Saul's armor?

Question 10: What's an example of fighting with someone else's armor?

David used the same tools he used in the past as a shepherd. And he took action by drawing near to the Philistine. He had the faith not just to talk, not just to renounce, not just to prepare, but also to actually take the battle to Goliath. (see 1 Cor 4:20)

Question 11: Why did Goliath 'look around?' (42)

Goliath felt insulted that they sent David to fight him. (Am I a dog?) The Hebrew word for **dog** (*kaleb*) is used in passages like **Deu 23:18** for male homosexual prostitutes, so Goliath felt that sending David was an insult to his manhood.

7. Confronting the enemy is a faith fight, not a physical fight (45-49)

(See **Eph 6:12**) David faced Goliath in the name of the living God. He was bold, but in God and not in himself. He knew the battle belonged to God. Saul and the soldiers thought that God could save with sword and spear. They didn't believe that the battle is the Lord's.

David hurried and ran to meet the Philistine. Many believers struggle at this very point. Is God supposed to do it or am I supposed to do it? Calmly, David hurled a stone, killing Goliath. Everyone else thought, "*Goliath is so big, I can't beat him.*" David thought, "*Goliath is so big, I can't miss him.*" A man of less faith might have been too nervous to take the proper aim. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face. Just as the Philistine god, Dagon fell on his face before the Lord (**1 Sam 5:2-5**), so now the worshipper of Dagon also fell on his face.

8. Don't leave the fight without confirming victory (50-51)

David beheaded Goliath and Israel romped over the Philistines. David made certain the enemy was dead. We must completely deal with sin or our spiritual enemies; we must finish the work. David used Goliath's own sword to cut off his head. And he wrote in **Ps 57:6** *They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have dug a pit before me; into the midst of it they themselves have fallen.*

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent. God gave the nation victory, through David.