



Scotts Hill Baptist Church

AFTER GOD'S HEART • DAVID AND GOLIATH • 1 SAMUEL 17 • 9/13/2026

MAIN POINT

When we face seemingly insurmountable giants, we can trust God's power and perspective, refuse to be intimidated, and faithfully step forward in confidence because the battle belongs to the Lord.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What is one "underdog" story from a movie, sport, or real life that you really enjoy? What makes those stories so compelling?

What are some of the "giants" people commonly face today?

When you are facing something that feels bigger than you, what is your natural response?

We all love a good underdog story because we can identify with people facing obstacles that seem impossible to overcome. In 1 Samuel 17, David faces the ultimate underdog situation: a young shepherd against a battle-hardened giant. But the story is ultimately not about how courageous David was or how skilled he was with a sling. It is about the greatness of God and what happens when His people see their circumstances from His perspective.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 17:20-23.

What do we learn about David from the way he responds to his father's instructions?

What did David encounter when he arrived at the battle line?

Why do you think it is important that David encountered Goliath while simply carrying out an ordinary assignment?

David was not looking for a fight. He was faithfully doing what his father had asked him to do. Yet his ordinary assignment placed him directly in front of an extraordinary problem. His faithfulness did not exempt him from facing a giant.

The same is true for us. Following God does not mean we will avoid difficulty, temptation, discouragement, suffering, or fear. Giants are inevitable. The question is not whether we will face them, but how we will respond when they come.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 17:25-40.

What was different about David's perspective compared with Saul and the Israelite army?

What does David remember when Saul questions his ability to fight Goliath?

Why does David refuse Saul's armor?

What can we learn from David's willingness to use what God had already equipped him to use?

While the Israelites focused on Goliath's size and strength, David focused on the greatness of God. He remembered how God had delivered him from a lion and a bear and trusted that God would deliver him again.

David also refused to fight using someone else's armor. He did not need to become someone else to be useful to God. He simply needed to faithfully use the gifts and abilities God had already given him.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 SAMUEL 17:41-51.

What does David say about the difference between Goliath's power and God's power?

What does David mean when he says, "The battle is the LORD's"?

How does David demonstrate that he is not intimidated by Goliath?

How does this passage challenge the way we think about our own giants?

David does not deny Goliath's strength. He simply refuses to make Goliath bigger than God. Goliath comes with a sword, spear, armor, and intimidation, but David comes "in the name of the LORD of hosts."

The victory ultimately belongs to God. David is the instrument God uses, but God is the one who demonstrates His power and delivers His people. The story reminds us that faith does not mean pretending our giants are small; it means recognizing that our God is infinitely greater.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What "giant" are you currently facing that feels bigger than your ability to handle?

How might you be tempted to focus more on the size of your giant than on the greatness of God?

What past experiences of God's faithfulness can you remember when you face fear or uncertainty today?

Are there areas where you are carrying unnecessary "baggage" that needs to be released so you can faithfully follow God?

Are you tempted to compare yourself with someone else or believe you need someone else's gifts, abilities, or circumstances to be useful to God?

What would it look like for you to approach your current giant with the perspective that "the battle is the LORD's"?

What is one faithful step God may be calling you to take instead of allowing intimidation to keep you from moving forward?

PRAYER

As your group closes in prayer, ask God to give each person a proper perspective of the giants they are facing. Pray that they would remember His past faithfulness, release the things that hinder them, trust the gifts He has given them, and refuse to be intimidated by circumstances. Ask God to give them confidence in His power and faithfulness, remembering that the battle ultimately belongs to Him.

COMMENTARY

1 Samuel 17:20-23 — Giants Are Inevitable

David encountered Goliath while simply carrying out his father's instructions. Faithfulness to God does not mean we will avoid difficulty. Every believer will face “giants”; the question is how we respond when they come.

1 Samuel 17:22, 25-40 — Facing Giants Requires Proper Insight

While Israel focused on Goliath's size, David focused on God's greatness. David remembered God's past faithfulness and trusted Him with the present challenge. He also refused Saul's armor, recognizing that he needed to faithfully use what God had already given him rather than trying to become someone else.

1 Samuel 17:41-47 — We Cannot Be Intimidated

Goliath tried to intimidate David with his size, weapons, and threats. David responded by declaring the greatness of God. His confidence was not in himself but in the Lord. He understood that the battle belongs to the Lord.

1 Samuel 17:48-51 — Faith Acts

David did not merely claim to trust God—he ran toward the battle. His faith produced action. God used David's willingness to step forward in faith to demonstrate His power.

The Battle Is the Lord's

David's confidence came from knowing who God was and remembering what God had already done. We may not know how God will work in the giants we face, but we can trust that He is faithful and step forward in dependence upon Him.