

GAME ON

WK.1 - GROUP DISCUSSION

“Battling Life’s Giants” - Message by Eric Parks

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

Where did you grow up? What was the best thing about the place you grew up? The worst?

SHARE

Welcome to our new series, “Game On.” Originating in sports, the phrase “game on” really just means, “I’m ready;” Ready for the challenge, ready for the unknown, ready to put fear aside and take on whatever is to come. When we take an honest look at our lives and the daily challenges we face, how many of us can say that with confidence? We all have “giants.” But, regardless of what we are facing, we seldom feel capable to take life on with confidence. The truth is, the bigger the challenge and the higher the stakes, the more unsure we feel.

In this week’s message, we took a look at one of the Bible’s most infamous “giant” stories.

Read

1 Samuel 17:1-4, 8-11

Having probably read this story for the first time in a long time, is there anything that stands out to you about the Biblical account?

If you read the Biblical description of Goliath (v. 5-7), it’s clear that he’s an imposing “problem.” Think allegorically. Can you draw any similarities between Goliath and something you are up against? Would you share with the group?

As believers, we know that we serve a God bigger than anything we come up against. Why do you think it is so hard for us to believe that; and in turn let that belief affect the way we handle these situations?

GROW

We all have something we are facing. It’s the job, or the marriage, or the kids. Maybe it’s someone at work, or maybe you just got some news from the doctor and you just can’t see past it. Isn’t

it interesting how much we trust what we see? In his message, Eric makes the point that it isn't about what you see but rather, what you focus on.

In the story, we see that David comes along to bring his brothers provisions at the request of his father. He happens to be there in the morning when Goliath comes and berates the Israelites and God attempting to -- at the very least -- shame someone to come and fight him.

Read

1 Samuel 17:24-36

What stands out to you about David in this passage?

The New Bible Commentary has this to say:

David did not come as a warrior, it is evident. In his decision to take up Goliath's challenge, David's motives were not his own wealth and honour, but the wish to honour God and remove disgrace from Israel... In the conversation between Saul and David, David's courage and faith in the living God is highlighted... Saul is shown to put his faith in military experience and in strong armour, so that his attitude was not really that different from that of Goliath. The story teller would not have denied, of course, that experience and armour are usually important in battle; but the truth was that only God could give David the victory in this unique situation.

Does anything stand out in the commentary on this passage?

All the Israelite army (Saul included) were focused on Goliath's size and physical ability. Relying on their own ability and strength they knew that there was no way they would last a minute in combat with him. It's almost as if the fact that David isn't a warrior and doesn't have combat skills to rely on that allows him to see this fight differently.

What did David see?

How did that help him?

MOVE

The truth is, David didn't see Goliath like the others did. He sees Goliath's defiance toward the Israelite army as defiance toward the living God himself. He knows that he won't be fighting alone and that gives him the courage to take on the challenge that no one else would. If we plan to fight like everyone else, we can expect the same results. But once we realize who we have fighting with us and for us, the challenges we face day to day don't seem so daunting.

Here's the truth: this story really isn't about us beating our giants. This is a story illustrating that, on our own; we can't. As a society, we have glorified this story because we want to believe we have the power within ourselves to push through. This is a story that illustrates where we need to turn when we realize that our giants are too big.

Where was David's focus? His focus was on God, so much so that it wouldn't have mattered how

big and powerful Goliath was; he knew that Goliath didn't stand a chance.

Finally, it is important to understand that we don't drift too far into helplessness either. If you recall, David packed 5 stones and was preparing for a fight. When it comes to whatever we are facing, we do have a part to play. We just need to realize where the source of our strength lies and have confidence that ultimately, the fight is already won.

What is your reaction to this?

How does this change how you view your own circumstances?

Is there anything you are facing in your life right now that needs a change in focus? Would you share with the group?

Conclude with any thoughts or comments.

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

TO GO.

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.