

# Facing Giants

Connect Group Guide - 2.22.26

## Opening Prayer

### Icebreaker

Share a childhood memory of learning the David and Goliath story. What stood out to you then? What stands out now as an adult?

## Key Scripture

- **1 Samuel 17:45-47** - "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty...'"

## Message Overview

This message reminds us that everyone faces giants—anything that stands between us and God's promises—but the key is perspective. Saul saw a problem; David saw a covenant, measuring the giant against God instead of himself. Private victories prepare us for public battles, and God calls us to use what's already in our hands rather than someone else's armor. Faith doesn't retreat or negotiate—it advances with bold trust. And while we may be in covenant with God, we experience its full blessing when we live under it through obedience and alignment.

## Key Takeaways

- **Giants are anything that stands between you and God's promises**
- **Compare your giant to God, not yourself to your giant**
- **Private obedience builds public victories**
- **You can't fight effectively in someone else's armor—be who God created you to be**
- **Faith doesn't retreat; it advances with aggressive trust**
- **Being under covenant (aligned and obedient) activates God's blessing and protection**
- **Your past testimonies are ammunition for present battles**

# Discussion Questions

## Understanding the Message

1. What giant(s) are you currently facing? How have you been viewing it—through your own eyes or through faith in God?
2. Pastor Mike said, "Your giant is never just about you—it's about you trusting God, and people are watching how you handle your situations." How does this perspective change the way you approach your challenges?
3. Explain the difference between being "in covenant" and being "under covenant" using the umbrella illustration. Where do you see yourself right now?

## Going Deeper

4. David's confidence came from his past victories with the lion and bear. What past testimonies can you draw on to strengthen your faith for current battles?
5. King Saul tried to put his armor on David, but it didn't fit. In what ways have you tried to fight your battles using someone else's methods instead of being who God created you to be?
6. The number 40 in Scripture often represents testing, trial, preparation, or transformation. With Good Friday 40 days away, what might God be trying to transform in your life during this season?

## Personal Application

7. David ran toward Goliath instead of retreating. What would it look like for you to "run toward" your giant this week instead of avoiding or negotiating with it?
8. Pastor Mike shared his struggle with the building vision and how he threw away the plans when the daily battle wore him down. Have you ever given up on a God-given vision because the giant seemed too big? What needs to happen for you to pick those plans back up?
9. David declared, "The battle is the Lord's." How can you practically surrender your battles to God while still taking action in faith?

# Practical Applications

## This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of these action steps to practice this week:

10. **Identify Your Giant** - Write down the giant you're facing and beside it, write what God says about it in Scripture. Shift your perspective from the size of the problem to the size of your God.
11. **Recount Past Victories** - Journal about 2-3 times God delivered you in the past. Read these testimonies daily to build faith for your current battle.
12. **Run Toward It** - Stop avoiding or negotiating with your giant. Take one concrete action step this week to confront it (make the counseling appointment, have the hard conversation, take the step of faith, etc.).
13. **Get Under Covenant** - Examine areas where you may be "in covenant" but not "under covenant" (saved but disobedient). Repent and get back in alignment with God's will.
14. **Protect Your Private Time** - Carve out daily time alone with God. David was prepared for public battle because of private time with God while tending sheep.

## Leader Notes

- Be prepared to share your own "giant" to create a safe environment
- Have tissues available—this topic may bring up emotional responses
- Don't rush through the discussion; allow silence for reflection
- Celebrate testimonies of past victories to build faith
- End on time but be available afterward for anyone who needs prayer
- Consider doing a mid-week text check-in asking: "How are you doing with your giant this week?"

## Prayer Requests & Closing