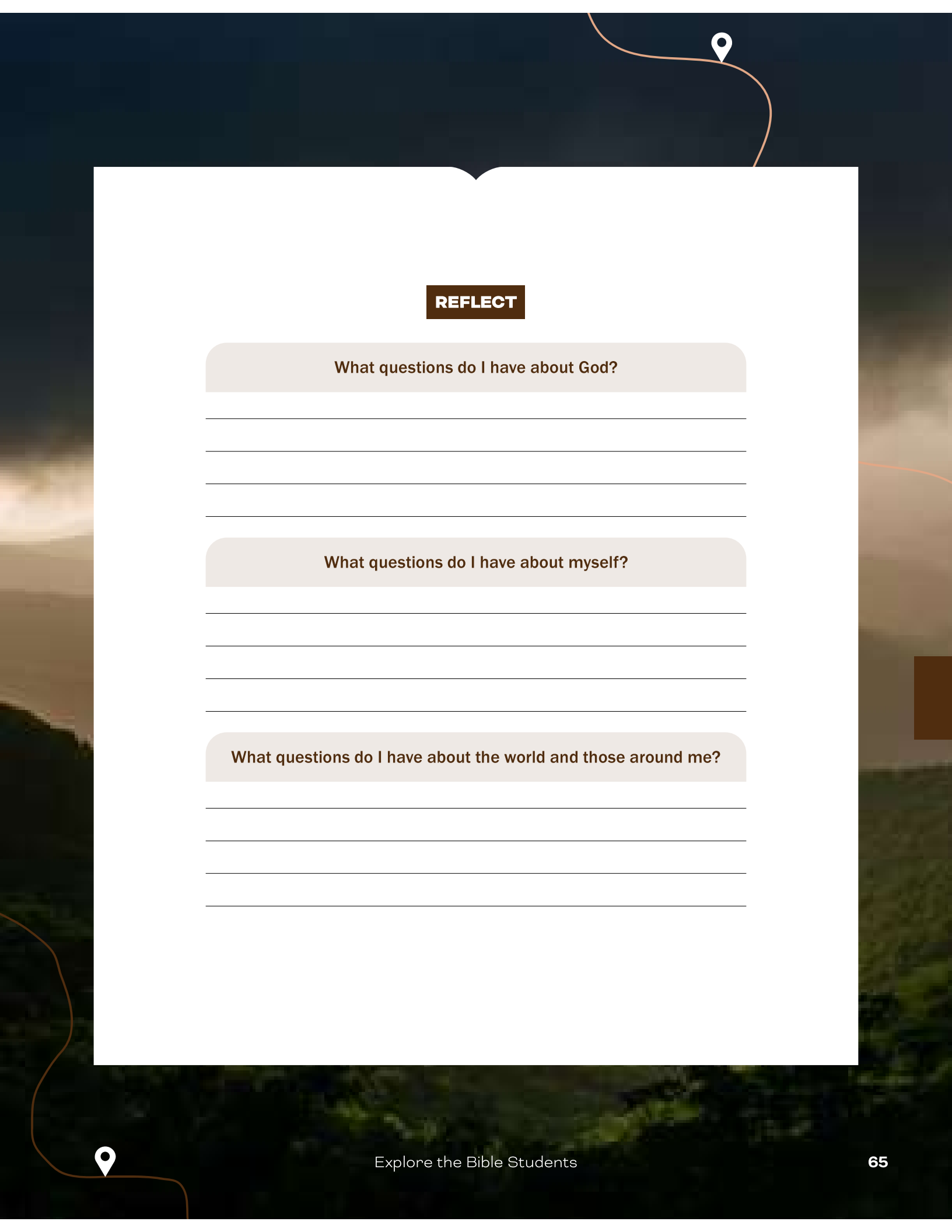


Session 08

Facing the **GIANT**

CENTRAL TRUTH | Courage and victory are found in God, the true Hero.

Underdog stories can inspire us to chase our dreams, to have the courage to do more than people expect from us. Maybe you have dreams of playing professional sports, making first chair in band, or just passing the next History test. Whether our dreams feel big or small, seeing other people's success despite their struggle, and seeing their ability to keep going no matter what, helps us feel like maybe we can do what feels unlikely or impossible to us too. The truth is, we were all underdogs when it came to facing the enemy of sin. But Jesus overcame sin on our behalf. He has empowered believers to do courageous things in His name throughout history, and He does the same for us today. Through a popular underdog story, where David faces the giant Goliath, we'll see that courage and victory are found in God, the true Hero.



REFLECT

What questions do I have about God?

What questions do I have about myself?

What questions do I have about the world and those around me?

1 SAMUEL 17:3-11

³ The Philistines were standing on one hill, and the Israelites were standing on another hill with a ravine between them. ⁴ Then a champion named Goliath, from Gath, came out from the Philistine camp. He was nine feet, nine inches tall ⁵ and wore a bronze helmet and bronze scale armor that weighed one hundred twenty-five pounds. ⁶ There was bronze armor on his shins, and a bronze javelin was slung between his shoulders. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's beam, and the iron point of his spear weighed fifteen pounds. In addition, a shield-bearer was walking in front of him. ⁸ He stood and shouted to the Israelite

battle formations, "Why do you come out to line up in battle formation?" He asked them, "Am I not a Philistine and are you not servants of Saul? Choose one of your men and have him come down against me. ⁹ If he wins in a fight against me and kills me, we will be your servants. But if I win against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me a man so we can fight each other!" ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

1 SAMUEL 17:45-47

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel—you have defied him. ⁴⁶ Today, the LORD will hand you over to me. Today, I'll strike you down, remove your head, and give the corpses of

the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the wild creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, ⁴⁷ and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the LORD saves, for the battle is the LORD's. He will hand you over to us."

1 SAMUEL 17:48-51

⁴⁸ When the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ David put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground. ⁵⁰ David defeated the Philistine

with a sling and a stone. David overpowered the Philistine and killed him without having a sword. ⁵¹ David ran and stood over him. He grabbed the Philistine's sword, pulled it from its sheath, and used it to kill him. Then he cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they fled.

Day 01

1 SAMUEL 17:3-11



Refer to page 5 for a description of the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading.

📍 READ & RESPOND

The Philistines and Israelites stood prepared for battle. Goliath began to taunt the Israelite army. He proposed a winner-take-all duel, but Saul's army was paralyzed by his massive size and heavy armor. From their perspective, Goliath was invincible. However, if they had sought God's perspective, victory was guaranteed. The Israelites saw a giant; God saw a target. By focusing on Goliath's armor and height, Saul's army forgot that the battle wasn't a physical weigh-in—it was a spiritual test. Goliath wasn't just mocking men; he was daring them to prove their God was real. When you're staring down a "giant," remember that your perspective is crucial. If you measure the problem against your strength, you'll stay in the trenches. If you measure it against God's sovereignty, the giant will look small. Victory is found in God.

↑ Even though God isn't mentioned in these verses, what does Goliath's mockery reveal about what *he* thinks of the God of Israel?

↔ How can your courage (or fear) influence the people around you who are struggling?

↻ What specific giant do you need God to help you face this week?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Samuel 17:45** on a notecard. Read the passage out loud five times. Next, read it in a whisper five times. Finally, say it in your head with your eyes closed five times.

📍 PRAY

Lord, when I face overwhelming problems, help me stop staring at the "giant" and start looking at You. Give me the courage to trust Your strength instead of my own.

Day02

1 SAMUEL 17:45-47

📍 READ & RESPOND

The Lord had delivered David from dangerous situations in the past, and David relied on Him to deliver him from Goliath. In today's passage, David promises Goliath's defeat—with a bit of holy smack talk—but we see David's faith in his confidence of victory. Goliath's strength and weapons would be no match for the LORD of Armies. David told Goliath that the victory would be the Lord's, so that all the world would know Him. The giants we fight can still be defeated by the LORD of Armies. The Lord's victories in our lives bring glory to Him, so we should face our battles with the confidence that the outcome isn't about us, but about making His power known to everyone around us.

🔄 David claimed the battle belongs to God, not himself. What did he say is the ultimate purpose of this victory?

↓ Is David's confidence from his strength or his history with God? Why does that matter?

↔ How can your courage in a tough situation show others that God is real?

📍 MEMORIZE

Write out **1 Samuel 17:45** on a piece of paper or notecard. On the back, write only the first letter of every word. Keep attempting this until you can use only the first letters to say the verse comfortably.

📍 PRAY

Lord, remind me today that the battle is Yours. Help me look past my giants and fix my eyes on Your power. Use my life—and my victories—to show the world that You are the one true God.

Day 03

1 SAMUEL 17:48-51

READ & RESPOND

Goliath, covered in the best armor and with the best weapons money could buy, was no match for God's man. David didn't need a sword for this battle. He defeated him with a sling, a stone, and unshakeable faith. While the rest of the Israelites were paralyzed by the giant's stature and equipment, David focused on God's sovereignty. He understood a truth we often forget: the battle doesn't belong to the strongest person in the room—it belongs to the Lord.

← Why was it significant to the Israelites that a “shepherd boy” took down the Philistine champion?

↑ How does this passage show that God values faith over physical strength?

↓ Why do we often rely on our own armor instead of God's power?

MEMORIZE

Instead of writing out **1 Samuel 17:45** in words, draw the verse using icons or symbols. Translating the passage into images helps you to process the meaning of the words.

PRAY

Lord, thank You for being bigger than my biggest fears. When I feel small, remind me that You are my strength. Help me stop running from my giants and start trusting You to win the battle.

Day04

PSALM 144:1-8

📍 READ & RESPOND

David didn't face Goliath in his own strength, but his confidence in God was all the strength he needed. David wrote this psalm, echoing this confidence. He calls the Lord his "rock" who trains his hands for war. God doesn't ask us to fight our battles alone or in our own strength. He is our fortress, deliverer, and shield. When the world feels overwhelming, remember that the same God who guided David's stone is equipping you today. He already has the victory!

↑ What does this psalm teach us about how God equips us for our "battles"?

↓ How can you rely on God as your strength instead of your own resources today?

↔ When friends face their own "giants," how can you point them to God as their shield?

📍 MEMORIZE

Record yourself reading **1 Samuel 17:45** different ways: (1) in a normal voice, (2) in a whisper, (3) as fast as you possibly can. Can you think of other ways? Be sure to listen back to the recordings throughout the week.

📍 PRAY

Lord, thank You for being my rock and my fortress. When I feel overwhelmed by the giants in my life, remind me that my strength comes from You. Teach me to trust in Your power today.

Day **05**

ROMANS 8:37-39

📍 READ & RESPOND

Paul writes that we are “more than conquerors through him who loved us.” And nothing separates us from that love. When the Israelites saw Goliath, he seemed impossible to beat. But David recognized that this battle wasn’t about his own strength but about God’s presence. Just as God stood with David on the battlefield, He stands with us today. We don’t fight alone. We can rest in the promise that through Him, victory is secured, and we are held in the grip of a love that never lets go.

↑ How does God’s love act as a shield, even when our circumstances are chaotic?

↔ How does knowing you are already more than a conqueror change how you treat someone who intimidates you?

↻ What specific fear do you need to surrender to the God who never lets go?

📍 MEMORIZE

Rewrite **1 Samuel 17:45** in today’s modern language. You could even text-speak it, but be sure to keep the theology accurate! Paraphrasing in everyday language ensures we comprehend what we’re trying to memorize.

📍 PRAY

Lord, thank You for loving me with a grip that never fails. Help me walk through my battles with David’s confidence, knowing that in You, I am already more than a conqueror.