

STUDY TOPIC • GARMENTS OF GOD, PART 3

ENGAGE THE ENEMY

The child of God does not fight alone, does not fight uncertain of the outcome, and does not fight in their own strength. Stop retreating. Start engaging – with boldness and confidence in God.

1 Samuel 17:45-47 • David and Goliath

DISCIPLESHIP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these to open up honest conversation in your group, one-on-one, or in your own journaling this week.

- 01** David declared victory over Goliath before the battle even began – in what areas of your life do you struggle to declare victory in advance, and what does that hesitation reveal about where you place your trust?
- 02** The sermon describes Goliath defying the army of Israel for 40 days, causing fear and paralysis – what Goliath in your life has been speaking defeat over you for an extended season, and how have you responded to that voice?
- 03** Pastor Allen draws a parallel between the Valley of Elah being set up as an individual arena and the personal nature of our spiritual battles – how does understanding that

God carves out individual confrontations with your enemies change the way you approach your struggles?

- 04** David rejected King Saul's armor because he could not operate in it, choosing instead the tools he was familiar with – in what ways might you be trying to fight spiritual battles with worldly or borrowed methods that do not belong to you?
 - 05** The sermon identifies three targets the enemy pursues along the path from the Philistine coast into Israel – your resources, your community, and your spiritual foundation – which of these areas do you feel most vulnerable to attack in right now, and why?
 - 06** David's resume of defeating the lion and the bear prepared him to confront Goliath – how have the hardships and trials you have already survived equipped you for the battles you are currently facing?
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DISCIPLESHIP

SMALL GROUP GUIDE - DEVOTIONAL

Deeper reflection questions for small group or personal devotional time this week.

- 01** The message emphasizes that the battle belongs to the Lord, yet the victory is handed to us – what is the difference between passively waiting for God to act and actively engaging the enemy in faith, and how do you find that balance?
 - 02** Pastor Allen states that if there is any doubt about winning before you enter a fight, you have already lost – how does doubt undermine spiritual warfare, and what practical steps can you take to build the kind of unshakable confidence David demonstrated?
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03

so that both the world and the assembly would know that God is real – how does your personal victory over sin, fear, or hardship serve as a testimony to those around you?

04

In 1 Samuel 17, David confronts Goliath by declaring that he comes not in his own name but in the name of the Lord of hosts – in what specific situations in your daily life do you need to consciously shift from relying on your own strength and identity to standing in the authority of God's name?

"This day the Lord will deliver thee into mine hand... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

1 SAMUEL 17:46

Leader's note: Naming a "Goliath" can surface real, current pain – health, finances, a broken relationship. Give space for honesty without pressure to have it resolved by the end of group time, and follow up individually with anyone who names something heavy.

READ

ENGAGE THE ENEMY

In this message, part three of the Garments of God series, the pastor drew on the account of David and Goliath to challenge believers to stop retreating from their enemies and start engaging them with boldness and confidence in God. The central truth is this: the child of God does not fight alone, does not fight uncertain of the outcome, and does not fight in their own strength. The Lord of hosts, Yahweh Sabaoth, is the King of glory who is strong and mighty in battle, and He fights on behalf of His people.

YOUR ENEMY PICKED THE WRONG FIGHT

When the enemy comes against a child of God, he is not simply coming against a person. He is coming against the God who chose that person for the battle. David rejected King Saul's armor because he could not operate in it – a reminder that earthly weapons cannot win spiritual battles. Believers cannot rely on worldly resources, status, or relationships to defeat spiritual enemies.

IF THERE'S ANY DOUBT ABOUT YOU WINNING BEFORE YOU GO IN THAT FIGHT, YOU LOST.

DECLARE YOUR VICTORY BEFORE THE BATTLE BEGINS

David told Goliath the outcome before a single stone was thrown. Victorious warriors win first and then go to battle. The pastor noted that Goliath defied the army of Israel for 40 days before David arrived – and the enemy's path of attack moves from your resources, to your relationships and community, and finally to your very foundation in God. Recognizing that pattern is the first step to interrupting it.

THE VICTORY HAS ALREADY BEEN HANDED TO YOU

Because of what God has done, the outcome of your spiritual battles has already been determined. Receiving that victory requires faith, not fear. And your past struggles are your resume – every hardship you have endured has been preparation for the Goliath you are facing now.

David's defeat of Goliath was never meant to be a private victory. It was meant to be a public display, so that both the world and the assembly would know that the God you serve is real. Stop running from the battle. Start running toward it.

THIS WEEK

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

Name Your Goliath

Write down the specific Goliath you are currently facing – whether it is a health challenge, a financial struggle, a broken relationship, a pattern of sin, or something else. Be specific. Naming the enemy is the first step toward engaging it.

Build Your Resume

Make a list of past battles God has brought you through. Review that list when doubt or fear arises. Let your history with God build your confidence in the battle you are facing today.

Declare Your Victory Out Loud

Following David's example, speak directly to your Goliath. This is not a denial of the reality of your struggle. It is a declaration of where your trust is placed. Speak it in prayer, write it in a journal, or share it with a trusted fellow believer.

Audit Your Weapons

Examine whether you have been relying on earthly resources – money, relationships, your own intelligence or ability – to fight a spiritual battle. Identify one area where you need to lay down Saul's armor and pick up the tools God has equipped you with.

Pray for Someone Else's Goliath

David's defeat of Goliath was meant to encourage the entire assembly of Israel. Identify someone in your life who is facing a Goliath and commit to praying for them by name this week. Consider reaching out to let them know you are standing with them.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

As you close your group time, pray together over the following.

ðŸŒŸ•ŒThat each group member would have the boldness of David to engage rather than retreat from the battles in their life.

ðŸŒŸ•ŒThat the Lord of hosts would be recognized as the one who fights on behalf of His people.

ðŸŒŸ•ŒThat any fear, anxiety, or doubt that has kept group members immobilized would be confronted and overcome.

ðŸŒŸ•ŒThat the group would be a community of encouragement, like the assembly David fought for, so that all would know the God you serve is real and present.

GO FURTHER

SCRIPTURE FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ephesians 6:10-18 â€” The full armor of God

Psalms 24:8-10 â€” The King of glory, strong and mighty in battle

Romans 8:31 â€” If God is for us, who can be against us

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 â€” Spiritual weapons that have divine power

Philippians 4:13 â€” I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

GO DEEPER THIS WEEK

Join us Wednesdays at 7:30 PM for Bible Study, or bring this guide to your small group.

Join Wednesday Bible Study

See all Connect groups