



It's Time to Fight

Adapted from "Giant" series by Rod Loy.

You can learn to do almost anything if you just find the right self-help book to buy. What a deal. Here are the titles of some self-help books on the market:

- *How to Make Someone Fall in Love With You in 90 Minutes or Less*
- *Instant Self-Hypnosis: hypnotize yourself as you read*
- *How to Hug a Porcupine: Easy ways to love the difficult people in your life*
- *The Single Girl's guide to marrying a man, his kids and his ex-wife.* (Why would you want to do that?!)
- *How to Spot a Liar* – an international spy museum best seller
- *What to Say When You Talk to Yourself*
- *The Complete Idiots Guide to the Perfect Marriage* – written by two women – probably dedicated to their husbands
- *Haircutting for Dummies*

Why are there so many self-help books on the market? Because they sell. Men are looking for anything to help them overcome the big issues in their lives. As we search for help, we are willing to try a plethora of things to get better. We should remember the Bible is our guide book for living. Help for everything you are facing can be found within its pages.

COURAGE

C1: Have you ever read a self-help book? Googled how to fix something? What was it? How did what you were searching for turn out?

C2: Do you have a big issue or obstacle in your life you are trying to overcome? What is it? What have you done this far to try to overcome it? How successful have you been?

C3: Is there a story from the Bible that sticks out in your mind of a person who overcame an obstacle? Which story is it? Why does this story stick out to you?

STRENGTH

S1: In 1 Samuel 17, we see David facing the obstacle between his sheep-herding present and his nation-leading future. Winning this battle propelled David forward into his destiny.

- Read **1 Samuel 17:1-54 (ESV)** this week.
- Write down observations you glean from these verses.

S2: Scholars believe Goliath was somewhere around 9 feet tall. Read and answer the following.

1 Samuel 17:1–7 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean about giants?
- Have you ever gone through a giant obstacle in your life only to have someone act as if the giant you are facing is no big deal? How did you feel?

S3: The Israelite's enemies used to recognize them as servants of God. Read and answer the following.

1 Samuel 17:8 (ESV)

Proverbs 14:34 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean about giants?
- How long have you faced a major obstacle in your life? Why do you think you have faced this obstacle for so long?

ENDURANCE

E1: Goliath suggests a representation battle between the Philistine army and the Israelite army. Read and answer the following.

1 Samuel 17:9–11 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are two things giants use to intimidate? Why did no one volunteer to fight Goliath?
- Has the giant you are facing ever intimidated you with words or consequences? Write out the intimidation statements.

E2: Read and answer the following.

1 Samuel 17:11 (ESV)

- From this perspective, what did the Israelite army catch from their leader?
- When you think about the one thing holding you back from your potential, what is your initial reaction?
- If you want to defeat your giant, find people who have defeated the same giant and hang around them. Who can you hang around? Pick up the phone and for the next 60 days, set up a weekly meeting with them.

E3: You cannot just wish away giants. Read and answer the following.

1 Samuel 17:16 (ESV)

- From this verse, how many days did Goliath issue the challenge? What do you think went through the Israelites' minds? What can you learn from this verse about fighting giants?

- Something happened on the 41st day. Write out your plan to start fighting your giant.