



## Big God, Little Me

Adapted from "Giant" series by Rod Loy.

Growing up I was fortunate enough to play organized team sports. Back then my coaches' words were the be all, end all. No matter the level, all of their mantras were the same--'It doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's how you play the game.' Or 'there are no loser here today, only winners.' But if the truth were to be told, the only reason we ever played those games were to win! We practiced daily. We studied film. We hit the weight room. It was our life. It consumed us! And we expected to win! But what happens when things don't go as planned? What do you do when you have given it your all and you still don't come out on top? How do you handle failure? Do you give up or do you see it as an opportunity to succeed? Do you make excuses or find solutions? How do you handle the **Giants** in your life?

Let's not be mistaken. Life has its many challenges and no one is immune. No one gets a hall pass through conflict or a wavier to travel down the road of least resistance. We all have a **Giant** we must face--be it personal or professional. Whether our **Giant** is our job, our relationships, our finances, depression or something physical, we all face them. No one wants to hear, fresh out of divorce court, that 'there are no loser here today, only winners.' No one wants to hear, fresh off of being turned down for that promotion again, that 'it doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's how you play the game.' 'Keep pounding' won't motivate you after discovering you have cancer. These obstacles can seem like **Giants** when we allow fear and self-doubt to set in and stand in your way to success. Be encouraged, because you can defeat those Giants in your life!<sup>1</sup>

As men face giants in their lives, the options are to face them with or without God. Some progress defeating the giant you are facing might be made without God. However, total defeat can only happen with God. God must increase and we must decrease.

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<sup>1</sup> Ken Rancifer, *Facing Your Giants: How to Overcome Every Obstacle in Life*, February 4, 2016, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/facing-your-giants-how-overcome-every-obstacle-life-ken-rancifer> (accessed July 7, 2017).

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## **COURAGE**

**C1:** Everyone has different giants. What is a giant for one, may not seem like a giant to others. What is the one thing in your life holding you back from your potential? What is the one area you have struggled with, but just can't seem to overcome?

**C2:** What is your go-to excuse as to why you cannot take on your giant?

**C3:** Satan wants to destroy you before you ever accomplish God's plan. Name some giants that Satan could place in men's lives.

## STRENGTH

**S1:** Goliath wanted a representative from Israel's army to come fight against him and with the outcome being the loser serving the winner. Read and answer the following.

### 1 Samuel 17:37 (ESV)

- From this verse, what can you glean about leaders who are afraid when facing giants?

**S2:** No one can fight your giant for you. It is lonely, but it enables you to grow up. Read and answer the following.

### 1 Samuel 17:38–39 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean about fighting giants?
- What are some excess things you need to get rid of before you walk out and face your giant?

**S3:** David traded armor and a sword for a slingshot and five stones. Read and answer the following.

### 1 Samuel 17:40 (ESV)

- From this verse, what can you glean about fighting a giant?
- Describe a time when you have had to rely on God.

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** Between you and your potential there is always a giant you will have to face. Read **1 Samuel 17:1-54 (ESV)** and answer the following.

- From these verses, when facing a giant what does a leader do? What does a leader understand about battle?

**E2:** David is practical; David trusted in God **AND** he made good preparations. Read and answer the following.

**1 Samuel 17:40 (ESV)**

- If God was going to deliver David, why did David even bother to take a sling and five stones into battle? Why would David even need to prepare at all?

**E3:** David, confident God was on his side, headed to the fight. David knew Goliath was stronger than him, but also knew that with God on his side; the odds were in his favor. Read and answer the following.

**1 Samuel 17:41 (ESV)**

**Psalms 3:3 (ESV)**

**Psalms 5:12 (ESV)**

**Psalms 7:10 (ESV)**

**Psalms 18:2 (ESV)**

From these verses:

- Did Goliath really need a shield bearer against the little shepherd boy?
- Why did Goliath bring a shield bearer?

- After all of Goliath's threats, why did he need a shield bearer?
  
- Why didn't someone walk out to the battle line with David?

**E4:** Just because you are thinking about or preparing to fight, do not expect the giant in your life to give you a break. Read and answer the following.

**1 Samuel 17:41–44 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are three things you can glean about fighting your giant?