

facing giants

a discussion sheet

Giants in our life can be huge - Goliath was pretty tall, with armour weighing in proportion to his size and a spear that was h-e-a-v-y. He was a huge guy who used his voice and words to terrify as well.

David was a boy. He was so opposite to Goliath. He could only move a 'step or two' when Saul's armour was on him. David was a shepherd, so probably quite physically fit.

When David looked at the PROBLEM, at this GIANT in his life - he likened it to other situations he had encountered - protecting his sheep gave him the confidence to tackle this GIANT-matter head on.

But Saul offered a solution. Yet his solution didn't fit. It was cumbersome. It was too heavy. David didn't have the ability to move with it.

David needed space to work this out his way. Saul didn't listen to David's confidence ["I have done this to both lions and bears"] nor did he realise that David could see how he was going to apply what he already knew from the past to the situation.

Then David involved God. This may be an aspect of life you have not tried before. To me, I see that David called on a living power greater than himself to add another dimension to his courage and actually relied on God, his living and higher power, to help him in the situation.

As the battles lines are drawn, David moved towards the giant. He was not afraid. He wanted to follow through and finish this matter. He wasn't going to run away at the last minute.

The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.

Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over three metres tall! He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 57 kilos. He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed nearly seven kilos. His armour bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.

Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons. Jesse's three oldest sons—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shimea—had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines. David was the youngest son. David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem.

For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

One day Jesse said to David, "Take this basket of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, and carry them quickly to your brothers. And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along, and bring back a report on how they are doing." David's

As far as 'giants' go - this was one HUGE giant!

giants i'm facing

The writer gives us information that matches up with interaction David has later on

Still misunderstood. He's seen physically and age wise as incompetent to fight this giant.

When we face our giants, we have to take ourselves out of the places others put us - little sister, unworthy, no opinion, no value, what would you know - out of the places we've been relegated to

statements we believe about ourself

"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth."

But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"

Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the Lord be with you!"

Then Saul gave David his own armour—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

"I can't go in these," he protested to Saul. "I'm not used to them." So David took them off again. He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. "Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled.

David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

David had faced giants when tending the sheep. Shepherding doesn't exactly sound dangerous to us - in our context. But consider that he was looking after his sheep in open pastures; no neat and tidy fences

Saul gave tools he used in approach a situation - when he was in a 'giant encounter' he used armour. He figured they would work for David as well.

Saul saw 'problem A' and 'solution B'. He didn't consider David as a unique person with unique abilities and having had unique experiences.

To his credit, David tried Saul's suggestion. To Saul's credit, he allowed David to find the solution that was most workable

There is thought that Goliath had four brothers!

Again David is put down for his age and size or age and stage of life

tools i have learned

This particular battle had a spiritual aspect to it. Have you ever considered that life's battles may have a spiritual connection too?

Read David's answer. The put down by Goliath is no match for the courage of a boy who has confidence in God

David did not falter. He wasted no time. Doing what he knew - achieving what he had aimed for

As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

The giant fell because David used what he had learnt previously. Use what you have and watch what God can do

So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

thought

How do you accept someone else's advice or armour without it becoming overbearing or too cumbersome for you?

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran.

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Sometimes behind the giant we are facing, there are other smaller matters niggling away at us. But because we tackle the giant issue, those matters sometimes fall away too.

thought

Have you considered praying to God and involving Him in a 'giant' you're facing?

Not all 'giants' are as easy to defeat. Sometimes they require time, energy and effort.

Remember that David had to continually overcome prejudice to achieve his goal of defeating the giant

reminder

I can use the life defining principles I have learned in the past to affect my future

giants i have overcome	

reminder

My child will not necessarily find my 'suit of armour' easy to use at a time when facing a giant. I can support them through their pain