

Five Stones

Giants in the Land

Life's giants demand *radical God-focus* (1 Samuel 17:36-47). When David first heard the taunts of Goliath, his response was to bring all attention to God. While Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified from their focus on Goliath, David fixed his gaze on his Heavenly Father. His one desire was to dwell in God's presence all the days of his life, to behold the beauty of the LORD (Psalm 27:4). When we come up against our Goliath, what would happen if we took our eyes off of that giant and set them on God – on His faithfulness, blessings, and goodness? God designed us to walk through life with Him, focused on Him, following Him, and relying on His strength. When this happens, we can experience victory over life's giants.

GET THINGS STARTED

What are your initial thoughts or feelings about the Five Stones series? What do you hope to gain from it? What are your biggest reservations? What might be some of the strongest distractions right now that would keep you from fully engaging?

WATCH THE GROUP VIDEO FOR WEEK 1

GO DEEPER

1. What stood out or resonated with you from the video this week?
2. Why do you think so much detail is given in 1 Samuel 17:4-7 about the stature and armor of Goliath? And how did Saul and the Israelites respond to what they saw, and to the taunts they heard in 1 Samuel 8-10?
3. In contrast, how does David respond when he sees and hears Goliath, according to 1 Samuel 26, 36-37, 42-47? What is his focus, and how did David come to have such a radically different perspective?
4. From Psalm 27:4, what was David's one desire, the one thing he purposefully pursued? How do we today pursue the same *one thing*, and what might we see as the result of that pursuit?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What giant are you facing right now that has you terrified and dismayed?
2. What might it look like for you to take your focus off that giant and have a radical God-focus? How would you think, feel, or act differently? What is your next step in pursuing the same *one thing* as David?
3. What are you feeding your mind with right now (social media, gaming, movies, TV series, work, politics, etc.) instead of pursuing the *one thing* that matters most?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully pray and to ask God to shift your attention and focus off your giant and onto Him. Set aside time and space to create an atmosphere of prayer, intentionally pursuing the presence of your Heavenly Father and declaring in prayer (verbally) the reality of who God is – His goodness, faithfulness, blessings, etc. Ask Him to help you not be terrified or dismayed, but instead to have the confidence and boldness of David. Take time also to pray for those who are facing real giants and who are open about the struggle. Invite God to work and move in those specific situations.

BLESS

Who do you know, in your sphere of influence (family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc.), that is facing a Goliath in their life right now? Ask God to highlight specific people around you to begin praying for.