



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of June 20, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connect

- What's your favorite "underdog" story? Who's your favorite "underdog" character (book, movie, TV, etc.)? Why?
- When have you been an underdog in life (health, sports, activities, etc.) and "beat a giant"?

Engage the Bible - Read [1 Samuel 17-18](#), [Psalm 60:11-12](#).

The Context

Real Giants

We love a good story. And we especially love underdog stories. On the surface, David and Goliath is the ultimate underdog story. On one side, you have the untrained, untested, scrawny David in his youth. On the other side, is the 9' 9", skilled and trained killer in Goliath. Yeah...that sounds like an underdog story alright. The reason we like underdog stories - and the reason we like David and Goliath so much - is we can put ourselves in this story. We often see ourselves as the underdog, because like David, there are giants in our way all the time.

And although we might not be facing a literal giant, we find ourselves in a similar situation to David all the time. We're facing some sort of insurmountable challenge or problem that rips into our lives or holds us back from God's best and his plan for us. Maybe it's fear. Maybe it's addiction. Maybe it's anger. Maybe it's the feeling of rejection, a feeling that permeates so many areas of our lives. It's likely that most of us have something lurking nearby stealing our joy and taking our focus and attention off of our God.

And if it's there, it needs to be dealt with. Ignoring giants isn't the solution. Wishing them away doesn't work. And going to battle in my own power won't ultimately change a thing. This is the point.

We like to think of ourselves as David in this story. We place ourselves as David - the underdog. We often feel like the underdog anyway. But what if this was never supposed to be an underdog story at all?

What if David's victory over the giant Goliath was a picture of Jesus' victorious work on the cross? What if we aren't supposed to be David at all? What if the victory is taken care of for us and we get to live in the freedom of that victory?

What if we're supposed to be drawn to Jesus - to God - instead of being drawn to David. When David was successful, he wasn't drawn to himself, but he was drawn to God. That's why he was a man *after* God's own heart.

- **When I focus on the giant more than my God, I will lose every battle.**
- **When I focus on God more than the giants, God will overcome in my life and battles.**

Discuss & Apply

1. Why is it so easy to get drawn towards underdogs and not the Creator of the underdog?
2. Why do we so often want to emulate people instead of Jesus? What did David focus on as he prepared to battle Goliath? ([1 Samuel 17:32-37](#))
3. How has God helped you overcome a "giant" in the past? How could reflecting on this help you in any future battles or challenges?
4. What giants are you going up against right now? What do you think about more: the giant in front of you, or the God who's for you? Is your attitude toward the challenges more like Saul's, the Israelite army, or David's? What steps can we take to help each other change this dynamic?
5. Who could you help or encourage that you know is in a battle or struggle right now?
6. Read the following passages and discuss how these help you understand more about the God who fights for and with us. [Romans 8:35-39](#); [Isaiah 41.10](#); [Psalm 118.6](#);

End your group time in prayer.