

**“Facing Giants” - 1 Samuel 17:32-49 - Rev. Jeffrey B. Childs**

Last Sunday we celebrated with our graduates all of their accomplishments in school and life so far. But we know, graduation is not the end of the journey, but a milestone along the way. It is a high point and an achievement for sure, but higher and, yes, even tougher ones lie ahead. But do not fear. Face your fears. In our scripture this morning the fear had a name – Goliath. He was a giant of a man and he challenged the mightiest of the army of ancient Israel to fight him one on one. And no one dared to stand up to him until the young boy David came along. What can we learn from this story? What lessons can we take home with us? Today notice that there is an insert in the bulletin with some questions for you to fill out. I invite you to take some notes today as a way to help remember the lessons we might learn from David.

Facing giants isn't easy, but it is a part of life. So, let's see what this text can teach us about it from David's perspective. There are various giants that we will face in our lives. Let us begin by writing down what giants have you faced in your lifetime? And then write down which ones are you facing? Some might not be giants, they might be elephants and they are right in the room but no one wants to face up to them! Dare to do that today by naming them and writing them down. And now let's see what we might learn from David about how to face them head on.

Let's begin with your experiences. First, face giants with what you have already learned. David had learned as a shepherd how to face lions and bears. When you are challenged with a new situation, remember any similar situations you have faced and what you have already learned. David knew how to sling stones. What life skills have you learned growing up at home, in school, playing sports, summer jobs and life experiences? You will need those to face your giants now and in your future. Use the skills and knowledge of what you already know.

Second, what have you discovered that does not work for you? David quickly discovered that wearing the king's armor did not work for him. (Please know that when David grew up and became a warrior and then a king, he had his own armor and sword. But that is later, it does not work for him in this story as a boy. As technology evolves there will be things that can be beneficial in facing giants, but others will be more challenging to utilize than of any real value. And though some of you youth and younger adults are great at the technology of today. (And thank goodness for we older folks need your help to figure out the cell phone apps and laptops we did not grow up with!) But mark my words a day will come when you too will have to ask your grandchildren to help you figure out the giants of future technology! Just sayin'! When that happens you remember that wise old Pastor Jeff said so!

Back in the day, three thousand years ago, David was given the king's armor. It probably was the best of what they had back then – it was the king's armor after all! But it wasn't the best for David. Learn what doesn't work and let it go rather than trying harder to make what doesn't work, work. And what works today, may not work best forever. You will need to learn to adapt. Things are rapidly changing, and they changed for David. As he grew to be a soldier, he put away his childhood sling and learned to wield a sword. As he

became king, he put away his sword and used his knowledge and wisdom to rule Israel and build the city of Jerusalem.

Third, and most importantly, David knew God was with him. David told the king, "*The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.*" (1 Samuel 17:37) Remember you are not going out into the big bad world all alone, God is with you. Pray each day and ask God to guide you as you face your giants. David knew this battle was already won as he faced his giant - not with fear but unfailing faith. Believe in God who believes in you, and just watch what God can do through you with such faith. Max Lucado in his book *Facing Your Giants* put it this way:

Focus on Giants – you stumble.

Focus on God – your giants tumble.

Do you focus more on the giant than on God? In your accomplishments and defeated giants do you or God get most of the credit? How might you give credit where credit is due? You, and God, have got this! Praise God! Alleluia and Amen.

### **David Faced the Giant**

Rev. Jeffrey B. Childs 6/5/24

David faced the giant,  
Goliath was his name,  
To Israel defiant,  
Until young David came.

Take time to think about it,  
What giants do we face?  
With God's help let us commit,  
To put them in their place.

It's only in perspective,  
That giants seem so large.  
But our God is protective,  
And always is in charge.