



# STUDY GUIDE

## GOD IS FOR ME: Week 3 9.29.13

### [set up]

Can you remember a time in your life when you felt really small and the opposition felt really big? What happened? What did you learn from that experience?

Describe a time in your life when someone cast doubt on your ability to do something.

Do you think that others have more confidence in you than you have in yourself? Or do they have less confidence? Why?

Watch the following video from the TV series, The Bible: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PITpu5yHXz8>

### [digging deeper]

Read the story about David and Goliath found in I Samuel 17. Ask your LifeGroup members to be various characters in the story. You will need someone to play these parts: 1) a narrator – perhaps a female with a dynamic, dramatic voice; 2) Goliath – a strong, tough, muscular confident man, about 35; 3) Jesse – a quiet, dignified, experienced man, about 70; 4) David – a passionate, innocent, God-dependent teenager, about 17; 5) Eliab – a cynical, jealous man, about 27; 6) and Saul – a fearful, authoritative man about 40.

How was this scenario impacting God's reputation? Note David's godly obsession that glory be given to God in many of the scripture songs that he wrote – Psalm 3:3; Psalm 29:1-2; Psalm 57:5; Psalm 57:11; Psalm 63:2; Psalm 108:5; Psalm 138:4-5; and Psalm 145:10-12. Why should this concern be our paramount concern, too?

Describe what must have been Eliab's attitude toward Goliath (v. 24). Toward David (v. 28). When have you been like Eliab? How can we fight this temptation?

How would you describe the sibling rivalry between David and Eliab (vv. 28-30)? What might be the root cause of the conflict (I Samuel 16:6-13)?

Look for 2 motivations in vv. 25-26. What do you think primarily motivated David to fight Goliath? Why do you think this way?

How did David seek to persuade Saul to let him fight Goliath vv. 32-37)?

Describe Saul's attitude toward David (v. 33). How have you been like him? What can you learn (how not to relate toward a young leader) from Saul?

What is significant about the fact that David refused to wear Saul's armor?

Where does David find the confidence to face Goliath (vv. 34-36)?



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What is the end result of David's victory? For Israel (vv. 47, 52)? For the Philistines (vv. 47, 51b-54)? For David (17:55-18:2)? For the world (v. 46)?

In Sunday's message, we learned that David in this story is a symbol of – a forerunner of, an illustration of – Christ. He is the set apart one, the sent one, the scorned one, the substitute one, the saving one. Which of these truths about Christ encourages you the most? Why?

## [living it out]

What giants are you currently facing? How are they taunting you? How are they defying God and detracting from his glory? How do you react when someone or something defies God?

Are you more like Eliab, Saul, or David as you face your giants? How have you tried to defeat your giants with human strength?

What might be “the shepherd's sling” that God has given you for winning this battle? Have you been overlooking or under-appreciating a weapon?

What do you fear might happen if you truly faced the enemy who taunts you and defies God? What larger purpose might be accomplished for God if you fought this battle in the Lord's strength?

How would you answer the question, “How much does God do and how much do I do in battle against an enemy”?

Complete the sentence: The thing that I most fear is \_\_\_\_\_. The most reassuring things about God in this story is \_\_\_\_\_.

Now, connect the dots between this story and you living on mission. What local or global Goliaths are there in our world that defy God and destroy people? How can you, small and inexperienced, work to bring the Goliath down? What can you and your LifeGroup do together to defeat some local or global Goliath?

Spend some time as a LifeGroup talking about a possible mission together as a LifeGroup. We have many local and regional opportunities listed here: <http://cvconline.org/images/uploads/MissionalLiving.pdf> Check out the opportunities and discuss how you might volunteer as a group.

Close this time in prayer. Lift up anything that is a “giant” to you (or those in your LifeGroup) right now. Thank God for the reminder that others may seek to discourage you, doubt you, and dissuade you from your mission. Ask God to help you fight your Goliath live in a way that glorifies Him and helps others come to the conclusion that there is a God that is with you and for you.