

# PBCC LifeGroups: Goliath Must Fall



## Schedule for Goliath Must Fall using RightNow Media

### Week of:

- **April 17** Lesson 1: Dead but Still Deadly
- **April 24** Lesson 2: Fear Must Fall
- **May 1** Lesson 3: Rejection Must Fall
- **May 8** Lesson 4: Comfort Must Fall
- **May 15** Lesson 5: Anger Must Fall
- **May 22** Lesson 6: Addiction Must Fall

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## Goliath Must Fall – Louis Giglio, Pastor, Passion City Church, Atlanta, Georgia

**Description:** It's likely you have a giant in your life. It's holding you captive, intimidating you with its taunts, and stealing your joy. Adversaries such as fear, anger, addiction, and others can stake a claim and, before you know it, gain a foothold in your heart. How do you live as if these giants are dead and silenced once and for all? In this six-session video Bible study, Louie Giglio examines the David and Goliath story to show you how: by focusing on the size of our God, not the height of your giants. As they go down, you gain freedom to walk in the victory Christ already won over the enemies that rob you of God's best for your life.

**Introduction:** Maybe you're familiar with the story of David and Goliath in the Bible. In this epic tale, the nine-foot-tall Goliath holds the entire Israelite army in the grip of fear and humiliation because none of the Israelites dares to go out and fight him. Day after day he taunts them, challenging them to send out one soldier to battle him man-to-man. Nobody volunteers.

Plenty of us face a similar predicament every day. Although we're not fighting literal giants, our giants are every bit as intimidating and damaging. Maybe it's fear. Maybe it's an addiction. Maybe it's anger. Maybe it's the feeling of rejection, a feeling that permeates so many areas of life. Or maybe it's the sneaky but all-too-familiar giant of comfort that compels us to live for something lesser.

Have you ever felt like King Saul and the Israelite army did? Some kind of giant stands before you, taunting you, harassing you, insulting you. Day after day this giant robs you of your power. You've tried any number of approaches to stop the taunts, but you feel immobilized. Held back. Paralyzed from moving forward in the direction you know you should go. Ultimately, you know you're not living the fullness and freedom of life that God intends for you. If this is part of your story, this study is for you.

This study is all about experiencing the power of Jesus to live in victory over the giant in your life. Each session will equip you with practical, hands-on steps to take after engaging in passages from the Bible and Louie's video talks. In each gathering, expect an opening question, a short Bible study, and then some time taking notes on the video teaching. The real action will then come as you dig into each topic during a guided small group experience. During this time your group will be invited to participate in a practical activity designed to move the session's lesson from your head to your heart. This section is called "Living in Victory," and it will serve as a place where the big ideas of this study take on some flesh-and-blood reality.

If you want to get the most out of your experience in this study, you need to keep a couple of things in mind. First, the real growth will happen during your small group time. This is where you will process the content of the message, ask questions, and learn from others as you listen to what God is doing in their lives. This leads to point two: As much as small groups can be a deeply rewarding time of intimacy and friendship, they can also be a disaster. Work to make your group a "safe place." That means both being honest about your thoughts and feelings as well as listening carefully to everyone else's opinion. Third, resist the temptation to "fix" a problem people might be experiencing or to correct their theology. That's not what this time is for. Finally, keep everything your group shares confidential. All this will foster a rewarding sense of community in your group and give God space to do something new in your life.

The great news is it's not God's plan for you to live with some big giant standing in the middle of your life, demoralizing you day by day by day. These giants harm you and rob God of his glory in your life. And it's critical to understand that your freedom and God's glory are forever interwoven into one beautiful story. God wants you to live free. God wants your giants to fall. He wants you to live in liberty and abundance and hope and trust. This is the great outcome that God offers to you.

Goliath MUST fall!



## Session #1 – Dead but Still Deadly

**Orientation:** When Louie was a college student, he worked summers at a church camp on a rustic, jungle-esque island off the coast of South Carolina. One of his jobs was to deal with the poisonous snakes and ensure they didn't become too much of a problem on the path to the bathhouse. Louie and some of the camp counselors would wallop a snake on the head with a baseball bat until it was dead. Then they'd hold the head down with the bat and pull on the snake's body until the head popped off. Finally, they'd grind the head down into the sand and bury it with more sand.

Why bury the head? Because even though the snake was dead, there was still enough venom in its fangs to poison anyone who happened to walk by and step on them. The snake's head was *dead but still deadly*.

That's a good picture of our enemy, Satan. Jesus defeated him on the cross. The battle is over, the victory won. Because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection Satan is nothing but a beaten snake with his head torn off. And yet, if we step unwarily on his dead head, those spring-loaded fangs can cause grave harm. If we listen to him or give in to his schemes, we'll get a jab of his crippling venom. It will poison the robust life we are meant to have in Christ.

This week in *Goliath Must Fall*, we'll see this double truth in action. We will explore how on the one hand, Jesus defeated Satan dead on the cross; but on the other hand, that dead serpent's head still has venom. It can still cause serious damage and destruction in our lives.

Pretty much all of us have an area in our lives where Satan threatens to rob our job and steamroll our capacity to love others. It might be fear, rejection, anger, addiction, or even comfort. We need to know that in Christ, the enemy is dead. We also need Jesus' help to stop stepping on those poison-filled fangs. We need both. In this series, you will discover how to walk in the victory that Jesus has won and keep from falling prey to the giants that rise up to oppose us. We'll discover that we're called to live from that victory, not for it.

When we look at the account of David and Goliath, we often assume that we are David in the story. We think that if we can just muster enough courage and willpower, we can overcome the enemy through our own efforts. But the truth is that Jesus represents David in this story, and we can only truly overcome the enemy when we rely on his strength, not our own.

Isn't that a huge relief?

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

1 Peter 5:8-9 (ESV)



## Lesson #1 – Dead but Still Deadly ~ Open it up!

1. How have you changed in the past five years?
2. How would you like to change in the next five years?

## Hearing it from the Word!

**1 Samuel 17:1-9 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. <sup>2</sup> And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. <sup>3</sup> And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. <sup>4</sup> And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. <sup>5</sup> He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. <sup>6</sup> And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. <sup>7</sup> The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. <sup>8</sup> He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

## Explore it!

3. What was one thing that stood out to you from the Scripture, and why?
4. What do you think we are meant to learn from this story?

Watch the video segment for session one, and jot down some notes using the comments below:

- It's not God's will for us to have "giants" in our lives that are demoralizing us and stealing God's glory from us.
- Our enemy is like a snake without a head—dead but still deadly. He has been defeated at the cross, but there is still poison in his fangs.
- Just as David's day, the enemy will send giants against us to torment us and make us miserable. We can't allow those giants to have power in our lives.
- We often view David and Goliath as the classic underdog story. The message we often take away from the story is that if we try hard enough, we can overcome any giant.
- But we are not "David" in the story. We can't bring our giants down by trying harder. Jesus represents David, and he is the one who does the work in bringing Goliath down.
- When Jesus sets us free, we are free indeed (see John 8:36).
- David wasn't motivated simply by his own personal freedom. He was motivated to defeat Goliath so he could bring glory and fame to God.
- If there is a giant with its foot on our neck, God is not getting the glory in our lives. This is why any Goliath that comes against us *must fall*.



## Reflect on it!

5. What do you think is meant by living *from* victory as opposed to living *for* it?  
How might that play out in your life?

6. How do you respond to the notion that Jesus, not you, is the David who has defeated the giant in your life?  
What are the implications of this for the way you live your life?

7. Jesus has been given "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). The reason Jesus came to earth was to crush the power of sin and death. What difference does this make as to how you view the giant in your life?

8. If Jesus has all authority and has defeated the enemy, and if he wants us to have life to the full, why do you suppose he lets the problems in our lives still have the venom to harm us? How does God's glory figure into the situation?

9. How do you go about drawing close to Jesus so that you won't step on the venomous head of a dead snake?

10. Our ultimate defense against the enemy is leaning into the all-sufficiency of Christ. What does his all-sufficiency mean? How can we lean into it?

## Apply it to your life...Living from Victory (Everyone needs a blank sheet of paper.)

In this session, you have explored the idea that Jesus, not you, is the David who has brought down your Goliath. Your enemy is dead but still deadly, and your hope is in the all-sufficiency of Jesus. Your power to change isn't in Christ-plus something. It's in Christ-plus nothing.

On your sheet of paper, make a list of things you tend to rely on to make your life work the way you want it to work. Include things about you (your intelligence, your willpower, your determination) and people or things outside you (your phone, your spouse, your money). You may wish to put Jesus on this list—but for now, list only the *things* and *people* you rely on to have as abundant a life as possible.

When everyone is finished writing, the leader will instruct you to tear up the piece of paper. As you do offer these items up to God and choose to rely on him alone as your source of strength in life. Say a silent prayer that you desire to start living as though you have Christ-plus-nothing—leaning on Him instead of yourself.

To go deeper, check out the resources on the church website under the LifeGroups tab.

## Pray within your group...

Close the session by praying the words of Psalm 18:1-6, 13-19, and 46-48 together. You can pray it in unison, or you can let your leader say the odd-numbered verses and the group members say the even-numbered verses. Finish by praying for each other!



## **Going Deeper ~ Act, Worship, & Proclaim!**

### **Act: Write a Letter.**

Write a letter to Jesus about his all-sufficiency, using either a separate sheet of paper or your journal. You can express questions you still have about what it means. You can thank him for being enough to defeat Satan and everything that comes against you. You can confess to him the other things you often turn to for dealing with the challenges in your life. Tell him any areas of your life where you're struggling, and ask him to help you know that he is all-sufficient for these concerns. You can talk with him about any of the ways you are experiencing the deadliness of your enemy, and ask him to help you know that our enemy is really dead for good.

Feel free to be entirely candid and blunt with what you write. If you aren't yet able to understand that he is all-sufficient for everything life throws at you, say so. The psalmists were very blunt in the way they poured out their hearts to the Lord.

Make a few notes about what it was like to write this letter to share with your group next week.

### **Worship: Offer Your Body.**

One of the best things you can do to give God full access to your life and your heart is to worship him. Worship puts you in an open posture so that the Holy Spirit can go to work in the deep places of your soul. In Romans 12:1, the apostle Paul writes, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." So, for today's worship experience, you're going to offer your body to God.

Stand with your arms outstretched. Beginning with your feet, offer the parts of your body to God as instruments of righteousness (see Romans 6:13). Pray aloud if possible. Say something like, "Jesus, I offer my feet to you. Help me to walk as you walk. The gospel of peace is like my stabilizing and protective boot (see Ephesians 6:15). I offer my legs to you. Let them support me as I stand firm in faith and as I run in the pathway of your commands."

Pay particular attention to parts of your body that are related to ways you've experienced the continued deadliness of your enemy. For example, if you've struggled with negative thoughts, address that when you offer your mind to God so that you can focus on "whatever is true, whatever is noble whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lively, whatever is admirable" (Philippians 4:8).

Take your time. When you're finished, allow a couple of minutes to rest in God's presence.

Take note of how God uses this activity to speak to you. Write a few sentences about it below to share with the group next week.

### **Proclaim: Share the News.**

If you're getting something out of this study, don't keep the news to yourself. One great way to worship God is to proclaim what you know about him to others. "As for me, I will declare this forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob" (Psalm 75:9). You might tell a friend what you've learned about David and Goliath or about Jesus' all-sufficiency or about your enemy being dead but still deadly. You might confide in someone about a giant in your life and ask them to pray for you.

Write a few sentences of what you might share with a friend or nonbeliever. After you share your insight with someone, make a few notes about how it went so that you can report back to your group next week.