



SESSION FIVE: LESSONS SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, AND A BONUS

WATCH THE MESSAGE AND FILL IN THE BLANKS

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we asked you to pray for our staff going into our retreat. Because you prayed for us, God answered those prayers and our staff was encouraged and inspired (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Today, we're jumping back into our series called Face Your Giants.

We've got things in our lives that holds us back: things that _____ us, things that _____ us, things that intimidate us and keep us in bondage.

You may not want to acknowledge it, but you've got things that roar, and growl, and drool, and are nasty, and are ruthless, and relentless, and we said it's time to _____ them in Jesus' name so we can move forward.

We defined a giant as anything that stands in between you and the promises of God that feels impossible to overcome.

This is not a series to just deal with that _____ giant in your life. This is a series that's teaching you how to live a _____ of dealing with the giants in your life.

Consider Joshua.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

These are the kings of the land that Joshua and the Israelites conquered [...] thirty-one kings. Joshua 12:7, 24

Every king has a kingdom full of giants. That wasn't about a _____ and _____ giant; that was about learning to live a lifestyle of increasing and advancing, of moving forward, of going to new places with God (Romans 8:37).

What we're doing in this series is building a manifesto. I'm going to give you three more lessons today and, if we have time, a bonus lesson at the end.

LESSON NUMBER SEVEN: CHANGE YOUR THINKING – CHANGE YOUR LIVING

Change your thinking. The reason we live _____ lives is because we have _____ thinking.

The battle isn't out there; the battle is in here.

I hate to break this to some of you, but your giants are not the _____ in your life.

Why does it seem like my giant is often winning? Because giants are empowered through human _____.

When you believe a lie, you empower the liar and you're allowing him to shape your thoughts, which ultimately _____ your life.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

You have strongholds in your life. It's anything that has a _____ on you.

We have divine power to demolish strongholds or to defeat the giants in our life. How? By taking captive our thoughts and bringing them into _____ and surrendering to the finished work of Jesus.

Every time you have a thought, you can ask yourself these two questions:

First, does this thought _____ God? And second, is it in _____ with the finished work of Jesus?

Here's what you've got to do: you've got to remove it, release it, and _____ it.

We have to stop waiting for Jesus to do what He's already told us to do.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

In other words, don't allow the giants to _____ your thoughts. Allow God to shape your thoughts.

Have you ever gotten stuck in a rut? The only thing you can do when you get stuck in a physical rut is stop, back up, and _____ a new path to go around it.

We create ruts in our minds: _____, _____, things that get etched so deep in broken, giant-thinking that when life happens and we hit all of a sudden, boom (Romans 10:17).

We need God's trust to pave a new path that takes us _____ into the heart of His Kingdom.

Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing in your eyes, O Lord. Psalm 19:14 NLV

You've got to change your thinking, and you've got to change your living.

We expect our giant to just fall over and die. That's not how it works. We've got to learn how to _____ our giant.

Stop feeding your giant. Start feeding your _____ .

LESSON NUMBER EIGHT: HANG OUT WITH GIANT KILLERS

Hang out with people who have found _____ and are battle-tested and are warriors and know how to use the weapons of God and have stories to tell and scars to show and have a faith to move forward.

Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth. Numbers 11:28

Joshua positioned himself at the feet of Moses.

Or how about David? Do you realize after David's victory over Goliath, he starts to build an army, and his men come and they gather around him, and David teaches them how to be _____ killers.

Goliath had four relatives, and all four of those relatives were killed by David's men. David's men hung out with the giant killer, and they became giant killers.

These four were descended from the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hands of David and his servants. 2 Samuel 21:22 AMPC

David picks up five stones — five. He didn't pick up five because he was afraid he was going to miss on the first one. No, he picked up five because there were five of them, and he was ready to take them all on. But the other four weren't his battle to fight. They were his _____ battle to fight.

All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. 1 Samuel 22:2

People with giants gathered around David to learn how to be giant killers.

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. Proverbs 13:20

You need to hear the stories of warriors. Where do I find them? Right here. This church is _____ of giant killers.

You will tolerate your giants until you become desperate enough to deal with them.

LESSON NUMBER NINE: GET UP AGAIN

Some days, it feels like the giant _____ . Some days, the giant knocks you down, some days he beats you, some days he defeats you, some days he haunts, some days he swings the sword so hard you just fall down.

Go back to lesson three that says, "Know your giant has already been defeated in Jesus' name."

[His mercies] are new every morning. Lamentations 3:23

Every morning, there's a fresh mercy and a grace from God.

For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again. Proverbs 24:16

The only difference between a righteous man and an _____ man is the righteous man gets up again.

Think of the apostle Paul.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecution, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Some of you are here today, and your giant's not falling the way that you want it to. But even in the midst of a giant in my life, God's _____ is enough.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. Psalm 23:5-6

If something follows you, it means you're _____ forward.

BONUS LESSON: DEAL WITH YOUR GIANTS SO THE NEXT GENERATION DOESN'T HAVE TO

David should have never had to fight Goliath. That generation of Israelites took 31 giant kingdoms, but they didn't _____ the job.

What one generation tolerated, another generation had to deal with. You empower whatever you tolerate.

Your kids don't need more _____; they need less giants.

Don't hand your kids a battle that God has empowered you to win.

Either you increase or advance, or your giants increase or advance. There's no in between.

Deal with your giants so the next generation doesn't have to. That's called _____.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

It's time to face our giants. It's time to rise up. It's time to say, "I'm tired of you squatting on my life. That is mine; it belongs to me because of the finished work of Jesus."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Are you paving new paths or are you stuck in old ruts? Close your eyes, and imagine what it feels like to be driving somewhere, then suddenly, to end up stuck in a rut. What comes to mind? Frustration, anger, inconvenience, regret? Now pick up a journal and write out what it feels like to be stuck in a rut with your giant. What is that experience like? Jot down your thoughts and feelings.
- When you have a giant in your life, who do you gather around? Do you gather around people who face their giants or run from their giants? Do you hang out with people who talk fear or faith?
- Remember, at the name of Jesus, every giant must bow. Find a quiet space and ask Jesus to defeat the giants in your life. Pray your own prayer, or consider declaring this prayer aloud:

“Jesus, I ask You right now to defeat the giants in my life. There are things standing between me and Your promises, and they feel impossible to overcome. Would You re-shape the way I think so that these strongholds no longer shape the way I live? Would You come and heal me and make me whole? Would You teach me how to be a giant killer so that I can live free?”

So, Lord Jesus, today, I pray that You stir up within me a weightiness, a gravity to what You’re inviting me to. I pray for renewed strength to get up again. I’m tired of dealing with this stuff. Today, I declare that You have already won my battles and defeated my giants, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

ASK, LISTEN, RESPOND

- Take some time right now to ask God what He wants to say to you.
- Spend a moment listening to His voice.
- Write down how you are going to respond to God’s invitation.

MY NEXT STEP IS: