

*Overcoming Opposition*  
**I Samuel 17**  
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**Introduction: (*HOOK*)**

The Goliath-like giants of opposition can intimidate us just like Goliath intimidated the people of God. Perhaps your "Goliath of opposition" may be...

- a crippling disease which afflicts you and inhibits you
- a circumstance
- a caustic habit
- a critical spirit which you desire to change.

The Good News this day is that there is a way to handle the giants of opposition in our lives. **I Samuel 17** describes how David defeated Goliath and how we, too, can defeat the giants in our lives.

**Explanation: (*BOOK*) I Samuel 17:1-3**

Two observations from this passage:

- \* The Philistines were trespassers
- \* The situation was a stalemate

**Principles: (*LOOK*)**

Just as David will secure five pebbles from the brook, we can secure **five principles** from this battle to help us handle opposition.

**I. Remind yourself of the truth (I Samuel 17:26).**

**II. Realize that opposition will often oppose us also from within (I Sam. 17:28-29).**

**III. Affirm that God Is faithful (I Samuel 17:32-37).**

**IV. Trust God to be your defense and offense (I Samuel 17:39-40).**

**V. Take the initiative against the giants of opposition (I Samuel 17:45).**

**Application: (*TOOK*)**

## **Overcoming Opposition**

1 Samuel 17:1-58

*Thought questions for personal, family, and small group discussions  
(Reflect especially on the ones that have asterisks)*

### **Open It**

1. What is your image of a totally intimidating person or situation?
2. When and why will people root for the underdog, even when there is little or no chance of victory?

### **Explore It**

1. What was the placement of the Philistine and Israelite armies at the beginning of the story? (17:3)
2. What were the superhuman characteristics of Goliath? (17:4-7)
3. What was Goliath's challenge to the Israelites? (17:8-9)
4. How did Saul's army react to the challenge? (17:11)
5. What was David's position among Jesse's sons? (17:13-15)
6. How long had Goliath been coming forward with his daily challenge? (17:16)
7. How did David happen to be going to the front lines? (17:17-20)
8. In David's view, why should the Israelites not have been intimidated by Goliath (17:26)
9. What was Eliab's reaction when he found David asking about the reward? (17:28)
10. How did David come to meet with Saul? (17:31)
11. How confident was young David when he met the king? (17:32)
12. Why was Saul skeptical about David's ability to defeat Goliath? (17:33)
13. Why did David believe that God would deliver him? (17:34-37)
14. What happened when David tried on Saul's armor? (17:38-39)
15. How did David end up arming himself for the confrontation with Goliath? Why? (17:40) (17:48-49)
16. How did Goliath react when he saw David approaching? (17:42-44)
17. What was David's response? (17:45-47)

### **Get It**

1. What causes us to be paralyzed and to lose heart when we encounter opposition?
2. Which of David's "weapons" were the most powerful? Why?

### **Apply It**

Think through the five principles that we observed in the message. How can you move from cowering to courage the next time you confront a "giant" problem or trouble with faith? How might you, through the power of God, break the chains of opposition?