

PART 1: Comparison's Trap

DATE: 09-24-2023

START

We may never face Goliath or a giant physically, but we certainly face giants in our life. You know, those ones lurking in the shadows that attack our thoughts and emotions. These giants are extremely crafty at what they do. They are **Gifted**, **Intrusive**, **Alluring**, **Nefarious**, and **Testing**, with the goal to **Seek** and **destroy**

What giants are you facing right now? An ominous, menacing presence trying to keep you down, break you into two?

How do we identify and slay them?

READ

[1 Samuel 16:1-13](#); (NIV)

- Samuel is fearful that Saul will kill him if he were to hear what Samuel was doing, but even in his fear, Samuel obeys God.
- When Samuel sees Eliab, he thinks surely he is the anointed one, but God says to him, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- Jesse had 7 of his sons come before Samuel, and none were chosen by God, it is only when Samuel asks, "Are these all the sons you have?" Then Jesse mentions his youngest son, who is tending the sheep.

THINK

- Whatever our giants may be, it is safe to say that in the face of them, it will be fearful. Samuel was called to anoint a new king, something he could be killed for, yet he obeyed God. Will we, in the face of fear, obey God and his words?
- Giants lurk in our thoughts and our emotions. It is very easy to compare ourselves to others. It's especially easy to do this with social media these days. What we see, will deceive. What lens are we looking through? The lens of outward appearance, what people look at? Or are we looking at a person's heart as God does?
- Are we living in a life chasing the "ER"? RichER, tallER, funniER.
- Do we unleash the giant of comparison on our kids?
- Are we pushing others down as a method of positioning ourselves up?

PRAY

God, I pray that you help me identify the giants in my life, those things that hold me back or push me down. I ask that you help me identify when I start to compare when I look at someone or myself through the wrong lens. Help me shift my lens on yours and see myself and others how you see them. Help me to slay the giant of comparison by lifting others up and celebrating them, even when it's not authentic. Give me the strength and endurance to do my best in everything I do, and also experience your peace and rest. In Jesus' name, amen.

ACT

- Celebrate people; even when it's hard. Celebrate their promotion, their new home, celebrate THEIR win, whatever it may be.
- Encourage; even when the giant of comparison has you feeling discouraged. Choose to encourage.
- Speak Life; speak meaningful affirmations to those who have something to celebrate.
- Be mindful of how you, as a parent, identify your giant. It will impact the way your children spot and slay the giants in their own life.
- Even if it feels like it's not authentic, keep doing it. Keep celebrating, encouraging, and speaking life to those around you. As you do this, you slay the giant until it becomes authentic because the giant of comparison holds no power over you, and you're looking at people through God's lens.

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