



STUDY GUIDE – June 21, 2020

Message Title: Horizon – Giants

Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind and can be used by individuals as well.

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

President Truman, when asked how he managed to keep so young and energetic given the demands of office, replied, “I have a foxhole in my mind.”

Imagine that you have a foxhole in your mind that you retreat to, in order to rest and re-energize yourself. What does your foxhole look, sound, and smell like?

Enough retreating, time to face the Giants!

Pray:

Dear God, thank you for our time together to grow deeper in our faith. You are always with us, You never leave us or forsake us, and we bring our hearts and minds to you passionately today. Open our minds and hearts to do some honest and hard work to be willing to see the giants before us, and empower us to face them in Your strength.

Get Started:

“When God leads me to dangerous places and circumstances, the best choice I can make is to follow him there.” **Pastor Brian Hughes**

Fear doesn't advance God's Kingdom, faith does. Though the Israelites had personally experienced the powerful and faithful hand of God both in their deliverance from Egypt and in His sustenance in the desert, they struggled to believe at a place that could have been the end of the journey. God already knew what was in Canaan, the land that He would give them to possess, but in sending out the spies to see what was there, the Israelites had to **choose faith or fear**. That choice would determine their time in the wilderness.

Read Numbers 13:26-33, 14:1-10

- What is the stark contrast between the 10 spies and the Israelites' response versus the stance of Joshua and Caleb? Did the people even see that they had a choice?

After 40 years in the wilderness and a generation dying who did not get to see the Promised Land, it was Joshua and Caleb that led the Israelites to the Promised Land in the **same** stance of faith in God that they had **40 years prior**.

- Have you reflected enough to come to the point that you acknowledge you have giants and that you have a choice regarding those giants? If not, what has kept you from processing?

Watch and Discuss video:

- Out of all the Giants Pastor Brian mentioned, Fear, Judgement, Discontentment, Anger, Insecurity, Loneliness, Failure, Ego, which resonated with you the most?

Reflect and Commit:

Read Psalm 143- a psalm of David- believed to be a psalm of the battle of David and Goliath

“And remember - the only way to the Horizon is through the Giant. See, it turns out that the opposite of fear is NOT courage or bravery, it’s faith. David moved on faith in God, not fear of his circumstances. There is a common thread. Every giant falls when we face it like David did. As he approached Goliath, David said, ‘The God who delivered me from other giants will deliver me from you.’ Like David, you can say to your giant, “You come against me with all your power, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of heaven’s armies. This day the LORD will hand you over to me...” Your giant does not have to win. He doesn’t have to keep you from the horizon. But you have run towards the giant, not away. Face your giant leaning on your faith, surrounded by the one True God, and fighting your giant with the confidence of victory.” **Pastor Brian Hughes**

- Have you been running towards or away from your giants, and has it been in your own power or God’s power?
- Considering both Psalm 143 and Pastor Brian’s words, what strategies can you put into place today to get equipped and gain momentum to move toward the giants?

Pray:

Dear Father, thank you that you are with us as we walk through the valley. Empower us, Holy Spirit, to choose faith over fear and to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that You are with us, fighting our battle. Give us the boldness to run in faith towards whatever giant we are facing as we move toward the Horizon.