

“Conquering Death”
Series: “Conquering Your Giants”
(Part 1 of 5)

Discussion Starter: What is one giant fear you have had to conquer in life (public speaking, heights, needles, driving in Houston, etc.)?

Explore: Read John 11:38-44.

Jesus was very good friends with three people named Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. When Lazarus became sick his sisters sent for Jesus, but Jesus chose to wait several days before going to visit. Before Jesus arrived Lazarus passed away.

1. What emotion was Jesus experiencing when he arrived at the tomb of Lazarus (vs. 38)?
2. Why was Martha concerned when Jesus instructed the people to “take away the stone” covering the tomb of Lazarus (vs. 39)?
3. How did Jesus show Martha the importance of her belief (vs. 40)?
4. If you had been there when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how do you think you might have responded (vs. 41-44)?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. Read 1 Samuel 20:3. How did David view the space between life and death? How do you believe most people view life and death?
2. Death is one of the true certainties in life. Discuss ways people might choose to prepare for the inevitable.
3. When thinking about death, some fear is expected. What anxieties or questions do you have regarding death and dying?
4. The good news is that believers never have to face anything alone; including death. How have you experienced God’s peace or provision in your life? How might that experience help at the end of your life?
5. Because of the promise of heaven, followers of Christ can live with incredible hope in the present. Practically speaking, how can we continue to “fix our eyes” on what is unseen and live with an eternal perspective?

Live: Take it home.

As a group: How has this lesson (and the knowledge that no one will live forever) changed the way you live each day?

On your own: What is one attitude you need to change about life and death? Thank God for the life you have and the incredible hope that comes from the promise of heaven.

Listening Guide Notes

“On hearing this Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.”
–1 Samuel 17:11 (NIV)

“...they all ran from him in great fear.” –1 Samuel 17:24 (NIV)

“The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” –1 Samuel 17:37 (NIV)

“But David took an oath and said, ‘...as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death.’” –1 Samuel 20:3 (NIV)

To conquer the giant of death...

1. Be prepared for the inevitable.

“That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient I’ll send for you.” –Acts 24:25 (NIV)

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.” –Romans 6:4-5 (NIV)

“Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where O death is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”
–1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (NIV)

2. Accept the fact that some fear is normal.

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me...” –Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

“My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me.”
–Psalm 55:4 (NIV)

3. Be confident that God will give you what you need when the time comes.

“God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” –1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

4. Get a new perspective.

^[16] “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ^[17] For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ^[18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” –2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)