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POWER AID Michael B. Beaugh  
I Samuel 17:31-37 August 17, 2008  
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Do you remember this guy? The bald headed sailor man who was always coming to the rescue of his girlfriend, Olive Oyl, to save her from a mean ogre named Bluto? Usually, Bluto would knock Popeye around until Popeye got tired of it. And you knew something was about to happen when he would say, "That's all I can stands, and I can't stands no more!" Then he would pull out a can of spinach, down it in one gulp, and goodbye Bluto!

We have been talking about locker life-savers. These are things our kids can put in their lockers or book bags and keep in their hearts that will help them stay strong, safe, and successful in the crowded hallways of life.

One thing our kids will need is something like Popeye had in that can of spinach, a POWER AID. Why do they need power aid? Because there are giants out there that they will have to overcome.

Let's look at the story of David and Goliath to see what I mean.

When David was a teenager, the mighty army of the Philistines set out to destroy the army of the Israelites. The Israelite army camped on one side of the valley of Elah. The Philistine army on the other side. Between them was no man's land. It seems as if neither army wanted to be the first to go down into the valley. You would be a sitting duck for the army that stayed up high on the valley sides.

For 40 days, neither army moved. They mainly traded insults. "Hey, you scumbag pantywaist Philistines, what're you afraid of? Your shadows?" (The Israelites didn't have very good joke writers!) And every day the Philistines would send their giant named Goliath out to taunt the Israelites with a challenge. "I spit on your whole army, you chickens. Send just one real man to fight me and let's see who has the last laugh."

Of course, the army of the Israelites never sent anyone because Goliath was really big. Huge. About 9 feet 9 inches tall in his stocking feet. You didn't want to be caught sitting behind him at a football game or a concert. Nor did you want to be in the path of his spear that looked the size of a telephone pole.

This went on for 40 days, until a shepherd boy name David volunteered to fight this giant of a man mano-a-mano. One on one. Everybody thought David was crazy. His oldest brother Eliab told him to go back to his shepherding and let the real men fight it out.

But do you know what David said? "That's all I can stand, and I can't stand no more!"

Actually, he said, "Who is this prissy Philistine that he should spit on the armies of the living God?" Whoa! No one had ever put it quite that way. Kind of had a ring to it: "Armies of the living God." "We're the armies of the living God," the soldiers started whispering to one another. That's kind of cool, they thought, and some of the big soldiers told King Saul what David had said, and Saul was so impressed, he called for David, and David told the good King not to fear, he would take care of the giant, and the King told David he was too short in the pants to take on the giant, and David told how he had saved his sheep from many a lion and bear, and Saul said it wasn't the same as fighting a 10 foot tall man (he tended to exaggerate), and David said to the King that the same God who saved him from vicious sheep-eating animals would save him from this giant who spits on the armies of the living God.

And here is what I want our kids to see. When it came to giants, David had a boatload of confidence. He did not back down, not because he was so tough, but because he had a secret weapon. He had God in his heart. A POWER AID named Yahweh. David's one aim was to serve the living God, and he knew that as long as he served the living God and depended on the living God, he could not fail.

And I don't know anyone who serves and depends on the living God who ends up failing in life.

Our kids face lots of giants in the crowded hallways of life. The giants our kids face could be lots of things. Things that seem impossible to overcome. The giant might be some unimaginable barrier or hurdle to get over. A shyness. A learning disability. A laziness. A lack of ambition and drive. A perceived inadequacy of some sort. The unreal expectations of parents. A temptation. But here's the deal. If you belong to the army of the living God, and in your heart you want to serve God and you depend on the living God, you will not fail. You will not fail. So, you think you have giants in your life? Watch this: The Scott Rigsby Story

[http://www.godtube.com/view\\_video.php?viewkey=3a44ada9659d13ab2f1a](http://www.godtube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=3a44ada9659d13ab2f1a)

I love it where Scott Rigsby says he wanted God to do extraordinary things through his ordinary life. I love it that a pastor helped him get in touch with God. I don't want to suggest that you can do anything and everything if you just have the confidence that you can do it. I do want to suggest that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. (Philippians 4:13) Whatever God wants for your life, you can do it, if you depend on God.

Now we are going to hear from some of our youth who depended on the living God and took on the giant of hurricane recovery in New Orleans.

[Youth in mission]

Because I know God is with me, there is no giant so big that it can keep me from achieving God's purpose for my life.

I will let nothing stop me.