

FACING THE GIANTS STUDY SERIES



“Never Give Up”

Clip No. 4 ... Study by Michael Catt



- THE BIG QUESTION:** What does it mean to persevere in the midst of feeling defeated?
- SCENE:** David misses his first field goal attempt and expresses his defeat as he talks with his dad after the game. From his wheelchair, David's father challenges his son (and his attitude).
- SCENE LENGTH:** 40 seconds
- TOPICS DISCUSSED:** Feeling Defeated. Failure. Beliefs. Not Quitting. Encouragement.
- BACKGROUND INFO:** Soccer player David Childers is encouraged by his dad to go out for the football team since the school has no soccer team. Battling with his own insecurity and fear, David's dad tries to teach his son to do his best and learn from his mistakes.
- KEY STUDY SCRIPTURES:** **Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 6:9; Proverbs 24:16**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think caused David to miss the field goal?
2. What does David's father mean when he says that your actions always follow your beliefs?
3. Why is it important for David not to give up in the midst of discouragement and defeat? Does the same hold true for you?
4. How can defeated thoughts lead to defeated living? How can you avoid feeling defeated?

For a righteous man falls seven times and rises again ... Proverbs 24:16 (NASB)

TACKLING THE BIG QUESTION: What does it mean to persevere when feeling defeated?

We cannot allow our lives to be dictated by our feelings. Our feelings are fickle and deceptive. God will never do His deepest work in the shallowest part of our being. People who live by their feelings often live defeated lives. We cannot wait until we feel like trusting and obeying God, and we can't wait until a crisis hits to work up a strong belief system. Feelings and circumstances will change constantly, but God's Word is sure, and He will never change.

FACING THE GIANTS

STUDY SERIES



TAKING IT FURTHER

“NEVER GIVE UP”

FURTHER STUDY

When we think of the heroes of the Bible, we think of people who were called by God to make a major impact in their day. That wasn't always the case, however.

In the Old Testament, for example, many of the prophets preached for years with little or no response. The nation of Israel ignored, and even mocked, their warnings. These prophets often saw little change in attitudes and actions, yet they continued to preach in obedience to the Lord.

READ ACTS 14

In the New Testament, Paul traveled throughout Asia Minor preaching the gospel. On his first missionary journey, people from Antioch and Iconium stoned him. However, Paul continued on in his mission and urged other Christians to do the same.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Do you believe what God says or do you tend to function more by your feelings? (see 1 Timothy 1:12)
- Do you wait to act until you feel like obeying God or do you step out in belief? (see Mark 9:20-27)
- Read Philippians 3:7-14. In verse 13, what does it mean to forget what lies behind and reach forward to what lies ahead?
- What is hindering you from pressing forward? (see Hebrews 12:1-2)

UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE

After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:21-22 (NASB)

Paul had just been stoned and left for dead, yet he didn't enter the next town in defeat. He believed God — despite the circumstances — and persevered with even greater passion and determination. His actions for God followed his beliefs about God.