

## WARM UP

1. What is your favourite sport to play? What's your favourite sport to watch?
2. Who/what has been a big influence on your life? (*for good or for bad*)
3. What type of entertainment do you enjoy, and why? (*TV programmes, movies, books, sports, arts, etc.*)

## WORD

*"The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." - 2 Chronicles 16:9a (NLT)*

God is looking for people who:

- believe in His **Promises**,
- allow Him to **Place** them according to His plan,
- are faithful in His **Positioning** (not itching to be somewhere else),
- will humbly receive help and **Power** from the Holy Spirit,
- and be a positive influence for His **Purpose**—for God's Kingdom.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the 1st century church in the city of Corinth about "the area of influence God assigned to" him and his co-workers for the purpose of the good news about Jesus being taught and proclaimed (2 Cor. 10:13). He knew where God had assigned Him, and He did not want to cross over into someone else's assigned task from the Lord. This leads us to our first point:

### 1: God assigns each of us to a Place (area) of influence

*"We do not boast beyond limit in the labours of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, **our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged**, so that **we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you**, without boasting of work already done in **another's area of influence.**" – 2 Corinthians 10:15-16 (ESV)*

Let's take a moment to think about what we did during our last two days. Where are some places we have been positioned to influence others? [*The CG Leader can ask for quick responses: work, school, home, friend's house, etc.*] Now let's consider: what do we influencing with? Have you ever recommended a restaurant, musical artist, TV show, movie, book, work-out routine, sport, or something else, and the person you recommended it to actually took your recommendation? If so, you influenced that person's decision.

Here's another reflection question: Have we considered the quality of our influence? Is it for good, or to distract someone from reality, or for mockery reasons to get a laugh, or for more sinister reasons – like the giant Goliath.

## 2: How we influence matters – whether we influence for good or bad.

*“The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. [King] Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.*

*“Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!... Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. “Why are you all coming out to fight?” he called. “I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!”*

*“When Saul and the Israelites heard this, **they were terrified and deeply shaken...** For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.” - 1 Samuel 17: 1-4, 8-11, 16*

Goliath not only towered over the people of Israel, his words had terrifying influence upon the army. No one answered Goliath’s taunts until David— (approx.) 16 year-old Shepherd boy—came to the camp to bring his older brothers food. He heard Goliath and saw the Israelite army run away in fright (1 Sam 17:24). When David asked about what was happening, the soldiers replied:

*“Have you seen the giant?” the men asked. “He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man’s entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!” - 1 Sam 17:25*

David, at 16 years of age, offers to fight the over nine feet (3 meters) tall giant. King Saul attempts to influence David and talk him out of his decision. David relays his shepherding protection skills and how he fought off lions and bears. Then King Saul adjusted his influence by offering David his armour; however, it did not fit. So, David being faithful to his shepherd training (positioning) gathered some smooth stones, his shepherd’s bag, shepherd’s staff and a sling to fight the giant.

*“Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.*

*“David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, **but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD’s battle, and he will give you to us!”***

*“As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.”- 1 Sam 17: 41-50*

Goliath influenced for terror. David influenced his countrymen to believe in God’s promises and power: that the Lord rescues His people because He has a purpose. This was the beginning of David’s pathway to becoming the King of Israel one day. One of his descendants was Jesus.

### 3: Our choices and decisions can influence current and future generations.

*“You have heard me [Apostle Paul] teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.” - 2 Timothy 2:2*

Will we heed the Apostle Paul’s encouragement to pass on the knowledge of Jesus to others? Before David’s, Jesus’s, and Paul’s time, Moses encouraged God’s children (the people of Israel):

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These words I am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts. And **you shall teach them diligently to your children** and speak of them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” – Deut 6:4-7*

How much does God, His Word, and His character influence us? Do we speak of God when we sit at home, and when we are out of our home? Are we passing on to others how good God is?

*“For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.” – Ps. 100:5*

God desires all to be influenced for His good so we can all participate in His purpose. Are we willing to be influenced by Jesus—God the son—so others can hear of God’s love poured out through Jesus’s life, death, & resurrection?

## APPLICATION

1. What did you learn from today’s lesson, and what does God want you to do about it this week?
2. What “giant(s)” are you facing? How can you express trust in God that He can slay the giant(s)?  
*[option: find scriptures to pray and declare God’s truth to the ‘giant’]*
3. Who are you influencing? Are you a good or bad influence, and why do you think that?

## Prayer

- Pray that we would be people who believe in God’s **Promises**. Pray that We would seek God’s placement and be faithful to His positioning. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s help and power to flow through our life to be a good influence for God’s Purposes.
- Pray for a deeper knowledge of God’s Word to know His truths and promises, for greater confidence to believe the Lord will slay giants that attempt to lie to us and defy the Lord.
- Pray any scriptures for situations mentioned in application question 2.
- Pray to receive God’s influence, so we can be influential to pass on faith in Jesus to those who will continue to pass on God’s truth.
- Pray for anyone by name that you have influence with who does not know the Love of God yet, nor follows Jesus. Pray that you would be good influence and a channel of God’s love.

*(Apart from that, please remember to always pray for each other and any church/ministry needs)*

