

Film Title: **Big Fish**

Clip Name: **Meeting The Giant**

Main Idea: When You Truly Embrace Your Eternal Destiny Your Fear Will Diminish

Scene Setup: Edward Bloom is a storyteller. Most of his stories, which he swears are completely true, are fantastic and designed to teach a spiritual life lesson. In this story, Edward tells about growing up in Ashton with a scary giant, who lived in a cave by the river and who would come into town and eat the livestock. The townspeople, wanting to avoid killing the giant, asked for volunteers to go and talk the giant into being more cooperative. Edward was the only one willing to go.

Application: Edward was willing to face his fears because he had a proper sense of his true destiny. "Armed with the foreknowledge of my own death, I knew the giant couldn't kill me," he says. Because he truly believed he knew the future, he acted differently than anyone else in town.

God tells us clear stories about our eternal destinies to help us overcome our fears. We too have giants in our land: getting good enough grades to apply for advanced education, getting a degree, pursuing a great career, purchasing a home, building a life of meaning, etc. These are all gigantic goals that can cause fear. Many people never attempt to face these fears, and thus, create a life for themselves where the giants wander into their towns and eat their livestock. God want us to overcome our fears about this world because this is not our final destination.

Fears seem real. Ed had to walk past the bones of the giant's victims. Ed had to tell himself that he had faith that he was not going to die at the hands of this giant. This faith propelled him to stand up to one that could knock him backwards with a puff of his breath. Faith is God's plan for us to overcome fear and experience our Promised Land. Even Joshua was full of fear. God had to tell him over and over not to fear, but exchange fear for courage and boldness. It's no sin to be afraid. It's a sin to let your fear keep you from crossing your Jordan River and entering your Promised Land.

Correlating Scriptures:

1. Ephesians 2:9-10 (New International Version) ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast...
2. Matthew 6:25-27 (New International Version) ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about ...
3. Mark 12:28-31 (New International Version) ²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him,...

Alternative Idea(s):

1. Ed is on a mission to visit a strange "people group." Even though there is only one giant in this story, he represents a mission field. Ed broke down the barriers between himself and the mission field by identifying with him. He tells the giant, "This town is way too small for the both of us...We both need a bigger opportunity." He then asks the giant if he would like to join him on a journey. We have a tendency to set ourselves apart from outsiders who appear different from us. We isolate instead of looking for opportunities to connect with different people. Even neighbors or co-workers are strangers after years of sharing space. Don't let Identity Politics ruin your mission. Break down the walls that separate.
2. When Ed decides to let his faith control his choices, he overcomes the dead bones, the scary signs and the gruesome carnivorous birds to take his first steps forward. Even when he is thrown backwards by a frightening voice saying, "Go away," Edward wins the day because no elements of fear can control him. "I'm not going anywhere until you show yourself." Edward had a goal. He believed he could win the day. It wasn't enough to just enter the area, he had set a goal to accomplish something specific. Be specific. It will help you overcome the obstacles along the way.

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