

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17



Contents

Message	We can face our challenges and succeed when God is with us.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ David's trust in God helped him defeat Goliath.■ Despite all evidence to the contrary, God can always help us.■ How to call on the Lord for help when we cope with challenges in life.
Bible Text	1 Samuel 17

David and Goliath



The Philistines had gathered their armies together on a mountain to prepare for battle. King Saul and the Israelites prepared themselves for battle as well on a nearby mountain. Between the two forces was a valley.

From the ranks of the Philistines, a giant appeared. His name was Goliath and he was over three metres tall and wore armour from head to toe. Goliath stood before the Israelite army and volunteered to fight one of their men.

He yelled, "If one of your men kills me, then we Philistines will be your servants. But if I win, then you will be our servants." For forty days he teased the Israelites in this way. King Saul and his people were terrified of Goliath. No one wanted to fight him. David's three older brothers had also gone to fight.

Their father was already too old to fight. He sent David to the camp to take corn and bread to his brothers. When David arrived at the camp, he ran through the ranks looking for his brothers. While he was talking to them, Goliath appeared again and once more offered to fight one of the Israelites.

David asked, "Who is this Philistine who mocks God's people?" The men explained who Goliath was and that King Saul had promised he would make the man who killed Goliath very rich and give him his daughter's hand in marriage. David said, "I will fight Goliath!"

King Saul said to David, "You cannot fight this Philistine. You are too young and he is an experienced fighter."

David replied, "I look after my father's sheep and if a lion or a bear comes anywhere near, threatening one of the sheep, then I fight it off. God helps me to defeat it. In just the same way He will help me against this Philistine, for Goliath has mocked the people of the living God."

The king realised that David was the only one who had the courage to fight Goliath. He insisted that David should wear a bronze helmet and a coat of armour. David put them on and strapped Saul's sword to the armour and tried to walk, but could not move because it was so heavy. So he took off all the armour.

He searched for five smooth stones in the stream and put the stones in his bag. David took his sling and then went to find Goliath. Goliath shouted, and he cursed David and God, "Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?"

David replied, "You come with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come in the name of God, whom you have cursed. I will defeat you so that everyone can see that there is a God in Israel."

The two walked towards one another. David put his hand in his pocket and took out a stone. He put it in his sling and hurled it at Goliath. It hit him on the forehead. The giant fell down. When the Philistines saw that their strongest man was defeated, they fled.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....
Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.
Provide disguise / fancy dress and additional materials like helmet, sword, javelin, sling....

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What does David see when he comes to the camp?
(Goliath heavily armed, Goliath mocking God, and the fearful Israelite army)
- How do the Israelites feel when they see Goliath and hear him? (Shocked, anxious)
- What is David's reaction? (David is angry and is ready to fight against Goliath.)
- Compare the clothes of David and Goliath.
- Why does David win although he was so poorly armed? (The giant depends on his own strength while David trusts in the help of God: "I come in the name of the Lord")

Have the children repeat...

- David's trust in God helped him defeat Goliath.
- God can always help us.
- We call on the Lord for help when we have to cope with challenges in life.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- David completely trusted in the help of God. God blessed this attitude.
- Have you ever faced any giants in your life today? (Sickness, examinations, ...)
- How did you overcome it? (Ask for God's help, strength, wisdom and strategies.)
- We also trust in the help of God under all circumstances.

<p style="text-align: center;">Repeat the Message We can face our challenges and succeed when God is with us.</p>
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