

# David and Goliath

## Overview

### Materials You'll Need

- construction paper
- foam shapes or shapes cut out from construction paper
- tape
- stapler
- scissors
- markers
- glue



### Scriptures

1 Sam 17

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

God has the power to do anything

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To ask God to help the students overcome specific things they are having difficulty with

### Memory Verse

"For the battle is the Lord's." (1 Sam 17:47)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Philistines

The Philistines were a sea people who migrated across the Mediterranean Sea. They are first mentioned in Genesis (Gen 21:32), but their history really began during the period of the Judges. They were a constant threat to the Israelites, as witnessed in the stories of Samson. During the time of Samuel, the Israelites were able to defeat the Philistines on occasion but it was only when David became king that he was able to curb their invasions (2 Sam 5:17-25).

Goliath, from Gath, was the huge Philistine champion who taunted the Israelite army for forty days. The Bible records that he was six cubits and a span tall (1 Sam 17:4). A cubit was about eighteen inches and a span was nine inches. Therefore, Goliath would have been nine feet and nine inches tall. He also wore extremely heavy armor and carried a formidable sword. He would have been a menacing opponent. Saul and the Israelites were afraid of him, and the army was pretty much immobilized.

### David

David was the youngest son of Jesse, from the tribe of Judah, and he was the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz. David was brought up to be a shepherd. As a shepherd, he learned courage, which was later to be evidenced in battle (1 Sam 17:34-35). When Saul realized that David was serious about fighting Goliath, he offered him his armor. But because David was still very young, he could not fit into it. In addition, David knew it was not the armor that was going to protect him from an almost ten foot tall giant; it was God who was going to guide him.

David picked a sling as his weapon. A sling was typical equipment for a shepherd. Therefore, David would have been very comfortable using it. A sling was made of two cords fastened to a hollow pocket of leather. A stone would be put into the pouch and the hurler would whirl it around his head to build up momentum. A stone hurled by an expert could exceed one hundred miles per hour. David was able to hit his target with one blow. He was quick to run to Goliath and cut his head off. This was a disgrace in battle for the enemy and this was what sent fear throughout the Philistine camp.



## Understanding Your Students

When the children hear the story of how Goliath was killed by David, they will no doubt feel a sense of awe. With just one stone, this giant was knocked to the ground and killed. This is what makes a superhero these days. As amazing as the story is, it is important to emphasize the presence of God throughout this entire event.

Saul had offered to fit David with his own armor, but David understood that no piece of metal would protect him if God was not with him. In addition, David did not just blindly go into battle. His experience as a shepherd fighting off wild animals had prepared him for this day. He was also careful in picking out the right stones to use in the sling. He charged at Goliath at the right time so that the stone would hit the giant with one blow.

None of this came about by accident or through David's own skill. David had led a life that was filled with God's guidance. In fact, he acknowledged that just before he went into battle. He said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" (1 Sam 17:45).

Imagine if our children said these words one day. That would be an amazing moment. It would be a triumph in their faith. We can see from the life of David that his was a moment that came about because he knew God from a young age. Even before he was anointed by Samuel, God had said he was someone who loved God and obeyed His will. That is why it is vital we talk about God all the time. When we praise and acknowledge Him in all that we do, our children will sense how God is a part of their daily lives. Then they too will be able to give glory to God as they grow.



## Vocabulary

### **Enemy**

someone who is not your friend; someone who might want to hurt you

### **Philistines**

they were the enemy of the Israelites

### **Armor**

a metal suit someone wore during battle to protect him

### **Sling**

two cords with a leather pocket for throwing rocks far away



## Before You Teach

The Bible records that Saul and the Israelite army were filled with fear and dread because of Goliath. He was huge and menacing. How could they possibly win in battle against him? While it may be true that Goliath was tall, and seemingly a great warrior, he would have been no match for God.

Again and again, when faced with a problem, the Israelites failed to remember all the things God had done for them. He was the one who had saved them from the hands of the Egyptians. He was the one who had parted the Red Sea. He was the one who had given them manna and quail to sustain them during their forty-year journey in the wilderness. He was the one who had caused the walls of Jericho to come tumbling down. How could such a mighty God be forgotten?

Yet it is in our human nature to turn to our own powers when we come upon a problem. And when we can't find a solution, we just assume that there is nothing else that can be done. But nothing is impossible for God. When we choose to come to Him, He will not disappoint us. He will always provide a path for us if we are patient and obedient. And He doesn't just help us face physical giants. He can also help us overcome the things that are burdening us in our lives. It could be the "giant" of pride, or the "giant" of anger, or the "giant" of jealousy. What we cannot overcome on our own, God can help us with. We need to first come to Him and confess our weaknesses. Then we need to pray earnestly for guidance and strength. We have heard many testimonies of believers who have been able to overcome addictions and bad habits through the power of prayer. If we have a giant to face today, let us face it with God on our side.



## Bible Story

Before the class, tape a strip of paper from the floor to at least seven feet high. Mark each student's height as they enter the room (they can be called up one by one after class has started, ). Ask them to stand up against the paper to see how tall they are. The teacher can also mark his or her height on the paper to show the contrast.

Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a young boy and a giant. There aren't any giants today but a long time ago, there was a really tall and mean giant. This giant was an enemy of God's people, the Israelites. He was so tall that he almost reached the ceiling (point out that Goliath was about nine feet, nine inches tall; teacher can mark this on the strip of paper if the room allows). He was much taller than any of you and he was taller than any grown-up you know. Let's hear about this story.

### **Goliath the Giant**

Last week, we learned about David and how he was chosen by God to be the next king. But it wasn't the right time to be the next king yet. So David still continued to help his father look after the sheep. Remember that David was the youngest in his family? He had seven older brothers. These brothers did not look after the sheep like David did. David's brothers were in the army. They were soldiers, ready to fight any enemies that might come and attack them. At that time, the Israelites were enemies with the Philistines. The Philistines wanted the land that the Israelites were living in so they always fought.

One time, these enemy soldiers marched into the land where David lived. They wanted to take the good land for themselves. They wanted to make God's people their servants. At that time, Saul was still the king. So King Saul gathered together all his soldiers to chase out the enemy soldiers. They gathered and faced each other: the enemy army was on a mountain on one side, and King Saul's army was on a mountain on the other side. Each army waited on their mountain, and wondered what they should do to win the battle.

As the Israelite army thought about what to do, a man who was tall, strong, and mean walked out of the enemy camp. King Saul's soldiers all ran back to their tents when they saw him. They were afraid. This

man was taller and bigger than any person they had ever seen! He was much taller than the paper we put on our wall. He was almost as tall as the ceiling. He was a giant, and his name was Goliath.

The giant wore a heavy helmet on his head, a heavy coat of armor, and heavy shoes to protect him. He carried a shield in front of him. The shield also protected him from anything that might be thrown at him. So Goliath came out, and he stood between the two armies.

He shouted with a loud, thundering voice, "Have you come to fight me? Am I not your enemy? Aren't you all servants of King Saul? Choose one man, and come and fight me if you dare! If he wins and kills me, then we will be your servants. But if I win and kill him, you will be our servants."

The giant frightened King Saul's soldiers. They were so scared they started shaking.

"What are we going to do?" they probably whispered to each other. Not one of them dared to go out to fight Goliath. Even David's big brothers did not dare to go.

### **David Goes to See His Brothers**

While all this was happening, David was at home taking care of his father's sheep. One day his father was worried about David's brothers. So he said, "David, take this bread, corn, and cheese to your brothers who are in the king's army. Find out how they are doing."

So David left someone else in charge of his sheep. He obeyed his father and went to visit his brothers. It was a long, long walk but he arrived safely at the army camp. After David got there, he left the food with the person in charge of all the food, and he ran to see his brothers. As he was in the army camp talking to his brothers, Goliath came out of his tent and called in a loud voice, "Choose a man to come out to fight with me!" David heard what the giant said about God and His chosen people. He waited to see who was brave enough to go. But not one soldier was ready to fight the giant. They were all afraid.

### **David Is Willing to Fight Goliath**

"How dare this man come and say these terrible things against God's army! I will fight the giant," said David.

He knew that God was mightier and stronger than any giant. If no one dared to go and fight,

then he would rely on God and fight this giant. Someone told the king what David had said. King Saul called David to see him.

"You are only a young boy," the king said to David. "You're so small and he's so big. You cannot fight the giant. This giant has been fighting since he was a boy!"

"God helped me take care of my sheep. The Lord saved me when a lion or bear tried to eat my sheep. He even helped me kill them," answered David. "This giant is just like a lion or a bear. The Lord will help me fight this giant."

Finally, the king said that David could try. But he didn't want David to fight without any armor on. So King Saul gave David his own armor. But when David put it on, it was too big and heavy. It was so big and heavy he couldn't even walk. So David took the armor off. Instead, he went to a little brook. He carefully picked out five smooth stones and put them in his bag. In his hands David carried his staff and sling. (Teacher may wish to bring in a home-made sling to show to the students what it would have looked like.) As a shepherd, he had learned to throw stones very, very straight and very, very hard with his sling. He had practiced when he was in the fields with the sheep. He knew that with God's help, it was all he needed to fight the giant.

When Goliath saw David coming, he was angry because David was only a boy. He expected the king or someone stronger to come out. Then he saw the staff and sling in David's hands.

"What? You have chosen this little boy to fight

me? And he is trying to fight me with these sticks?" yelled the angry giant.

Even though the giant was loud, David was not scared.

"You fight with a sword and spear, but I come against you with the help of the great Lord God," answered David.

Then he put a smooth stone into his sling and whirled it around and around over his head. After the stone spun around many times, David let it go. It flew far away and it hit the giant on the forehead. Do you know what happened next? Goliath fell down and died.

### David Kills Goliath

King Saul's army could not believe what had happened! They couldn't believe that David had killed the giant with just a sling and a stone.

"Hurry! Hurry!" shouted the king's soldiers. They ran forward to drive out the enemy soldiers from their land. "David has killed the giant! We have won the war!"

But David knew it was the Lord God who had helped him kill Goliath. David was glad he had trusted God. He knew God would help and protect him, just as He had when he was a shepherd.

Even though we don't have to fight with giants today, there may still be things that are hard for us to do. God can help us, just like the way He helped David. We have to be like David and trust that God will show us what to do. We have to believe that God can do anything.



### Check For Understanding

1. **What was the name of the giant who wanted to fight the Israelites?** (Goliath.)
2. **What did David use to fight Goliath** (He used a sling and a stone.)
3. **What did David say to Goliath before he fought him?** ("You fight with a sword and spear, but I come against you with the help of the great Lord God.")
4. **Where did the stone hit Goliath?** (On his forehead.)

5. **Who helped David kill Goliath?** (God.)
6. **We don't have to fight giants today like David did, but we have things which are just as hard to do. What is hard for you to do?** (Let the children respond. Possible answers: listening to our parents, going to bed early, praying to God, sharing our toys with others, etc.)
7. **How can we fight these "giants"?** (Let students share their ideas. Possible answers: ask our parents to help us, pray to God for help, set up a chart so that we can work on something that is hard for us, etc.)



## Life Application Story

### A Great Teacher

Michelle Marsh came into the family room with a sad look on her face.

"What's wrong?" Nicole Lim asked. The Lim family had come to visit the Marsh family that day.

"My friends are riding their bikes to the park this Sunday, but I can't go with them," Michelle explained

"Why not?" Nicole asked.

"I still don't know how to ride my bike really well," Michelle said sadly. "I just can't seem to stay on the bike for a long time. I keep falling off."

"Come on, Michelle," Nicole said, putting an arm around her. "I can help you."

Nicole was a good bike rider. She had been riding her bike for a long time. Her family often went bike-riding together on Sunday mornings.

Michelle and Nicole walked outside to Michelle's purple bike, which was resting on the driveway. Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Lim were outside looking at the garden.

"Nicole is helping me with my bike-riding," said Michelle to her mom.

"Okay," said Mrs. Marsh, "just remember to put on your helmet."

After Michelle put on her helmet, she picked up her bike.

"I keep falling to one side," Michelle explained. "I can't seem to stay on the bike."

"Well," Nicole said, "it's easier to stay on when you're already going. Let's just practice going along the driveway first. That way you don't have to worry about pedaling too far."

Nicole held onto the bike, steadying it as Michelle went along the driveway. After a couple of tries, Michelle went by herself.

"Whoa...here we go," Michelle said to herself. Michelle started off a little shaky, but she steadied herself. Faster and faster the bike went. Faster and faster Michelle went. Pretty soon, she was all the way at the end of the driveway.

"Way to go, Michelle!" Nicole shouted.

But Michelle could not stop.

"How do you stop this thing?" Michelle yelled out to Nicole.

"Put on the brakes!" Nicole started running after Michelle. Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Lim came running too.

Michelle went past the mailbox and headed straight to the tree by the curb. But before she hit the tree, her front wheel hit a rock.

"Aaaargh!" Michelle cried. She landed by the sidewalk.

Nicole came running to Michelle. "Are you okay?"

"I'm okay. It's just a scraped knee. I got so nervous I forgot how to stop the bike. I'll never learn how to ride my bike by Sunday," Michelle sighed.

Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Lim were just glad Michelle was okay.

"Don't worry. I had a hard time learning how to ride my bike too," Nicole said, as she helped Michelle up

"You did?" Michelle asked. "But you're so good at it now."

"Well, it took a lot of work. You may not be able to learn how to ride a bike by Sunday, but if you keep practicing, you will learn one of these days. And you know what? When I have a hard time at something, I always pray to God to help me. It makes learning new things easier," explained Nicole.

"Really?"

"Yes, Jesus taught me not to be afraid to try new things, and I know I can ask Him for help when I need it."

"Do you think Jesus will help me learn to ride my bike, too?" Michelle asked.

"Of course! All you have to do is ask," Nicole said. "Besides, Jesus has already helped you get halfway down the street!"

"He did, didn't He?" Michelle smiled, as she walked back to the house.

"Come on, we'd better go back inside," said Mrs. Marsh. "Let's go and clean up your knee."

### Questions to Think About

1. **What are some things that are hard for you to do?** (Allow students to share.)
2. **How can you ask God to help you?** (Allow students to share.)





## Activity 1

### **David and Goliath**

Review the story with the help of the rebuses.



## Activity 2

### **God Can Help Me**

Look at each picture. How can God help you?

1. God can help me pray longer.
2. God can help me go to bed on time.
3. God can help me not be afraid of the dark.

How else can God help you?



## Activity 3

### **“God Helps Me” Crown**

#### Materials:

1. construction paper strips, long enough to wrap around the heads of the students
2. foam shapes (store-bought) or shapes cut from construction paper (rectangles, circles, triangles, ovals, stars)
3. tape
4. stapler
5. scissors
6. markers
7. glue

#### Directions:

1. Provide each student with a strip of construction paper long enough to wrap around their head (teacher may need to tape two pieces together to lengthen it).
2. Cut pointed ends to create a crown.
3. Help students glue foams shapes to the pointed ends of the crown. This is a good time to review the names of the shapes with the students.
4. Along the crown, write “God helps me.”
5. Wrap the construction paper around the student’s head and tape or staple at the appropriate length so the crown will fit the head.
6. As the students wear the crown, remind them

that God can help them overcome anything. The crown can show them that God is the King and He can do anything to help His children. Encourage them to place their trust in God.



Activity 5:1

### David and Goliath

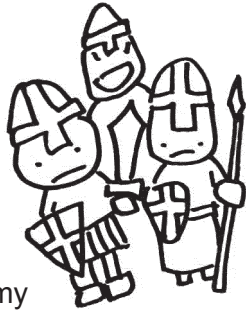
Review the story with the help of the rebuses.

The Philistines came to fight Israel. The Philistines sent



Goliath

to fight Israel's



army

. Everyone was afraid of



Goliath

went to



David



King Saul

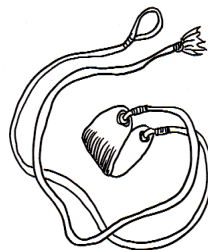
. He said, "I am not afraid. God will help me

fight this giant."



David

took his



sling

and got five

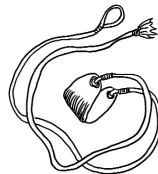


stones

put a stone in his



David



sling

and shot it at



Goliath

died.



Goliath

trusted in God.

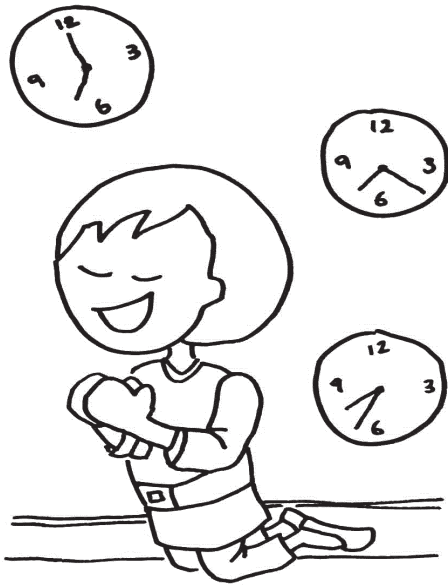


David

Activity 5:2

### God Can Help

Look at each picture. How can God help you?



1. God can help me pray longer.



2. God can help me go to bed on time.



3. God can help me not be afraid of the dark.

How else can God help you?