

LESSON 7

DAVID KILLS GOLIATH

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Goliath

Goliath was one of several unusually tall and stalwart individuals mentioned in the Bible. Using the normal length of the cubit and span, the biblical text gives Goliath's height as 9 feet, 9 inches. His coat of bronze armor weighed 125 pounds and the point of his spear weighed 15 pounds.

In comparison, the average Israelite warrior was a little over 5 feet tall, carried an 8-pound spear, and held a 60-pound shield. Goliath taunted the Israelite soldiers and seemed invincible to them. However, a boy called David proved that God could conquer even the most formidable of enemies.

Sling

A sling was a weapon for hurling stones with power and accuracy, used both by shepherds and the military. The sling was made of two long straps of leather attached to a flat pad. The slinger held the end of the two straps in one hand and placed a stone loosely in the pad. He then swung the stone around to build momentum. Releasing one of the straps, he allowed the stone to fly free toward its target.

While primitive, the projectile weapon was quite powerful. Round stones found at biblical sites and identified as sling stones were two to three inches in diameter. Skilled warriors could "sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss" (Judg 20:16). Given the effectiveness of the weapon, David's victory over Goliath was not as surprising as many might assume.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Samuel 17:1-54

BIBLE TRUTH

The Lord is all-powerful and is able to help us overcome any difficulty.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To ask the Lord for courage when we are afraid or encounter challenges.
2. To have full confidence in the Lord by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God."

(Isaiah 41:10a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We thank You, Father, for guiding us throughout this past week and for bringing us here to worship You. Sometimes we might have troubles or problems that we can't solve. Help us to rely on You when we have problems and are afraid, for You are all-powerful. You love us very much, and we know that if we ask, You will help us during these times. May Your Spirit guide us through today's class. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Have your students ever encountered overwhelming situations or ones that strike fear? In this lesson, you will help your students ask the Lord for courage and strength to overcome their feelings of despair or fear.

Allow your students to identify situations in which they might feel hopeless or scared. All of us are afraid sometimes, but letting fear control us reveals a lack of trust in God. Instead, God wants us to face our problems with courage. Having courage means being calm and brave in our thoughts and actions.

But where does courage come from? Courage comes from knowing that God is with us and that He is in control of everything. When we have a fearful problem to face, we can do several things. We can: 1) think about God's love for us and how He controls everything; and 2) ask God to help us be brave and do what He tells us.

The Bible tells us, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid; nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Josh 1:9). As we develop trust

in God and an understanding that He is in control, we will have the courage to face any difficulty.

It is never too early for children to begin to trust in God's almighty power starting from the smallest problems in life. David's trust in God developed from previous experiences as a shepherd while fighting the beasts that would try to snatch his sheep. In a way, David's courage and confidence in the Lord came from his own testimonies of God's protection.

Encourage your students to trust God in everything in their lives, because one day, they may encounter something as big as Goliath, but they will be confident like David, who said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam 17:37).

At that time, your students' courage and confidence in God may have been developed because they have had experiences of God helping them with small problems.

VOCABULARY

armor: a suit of metal that soldiers wore; it kept soldiers safe in battle

slave: someone owned by someone else, just like a car or a house is owned by someone

rescue: to save from danger

sling: a weapon used for hurling rocks

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how David was anointed as king. Do you remember why God wanted to choose a new king? (Because Saul disobeyed God, God wanted to choose a man after God's heart—1 Sam 13:14.)

Who was David? (He was the youngest son of Jesse.) Even though he was the youngest out of all of Jesse's sons, and the least likely to be the next king, David was the one that God had chosen. What did we learn from this lesson? (We learned that God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance of a person; we shouldn't judge other people by what they look like, either.)

Students, have you ever had a problem in your life so big that you could not do anything about? [Let students give examples of their problems.] How did you feel when you faced the problem? [Let students answer, paying attention to remarks such as "discouraged" or "afraid."]

Today, we will learn more about David, years before he became the king of the Israelites. At that time, David and all of Israel had a big problem. If no one could solve this problem, then all of Israel would be doomed! Most of the Israelites were afraid and discouraged, but David wasn't. Let's find out why David had the courage to face the challenge and how all of Israel was saved.

BIBLE STORY

The Israelites and Philistines Prepare to Fight

During the time when Saul was the king of the Israelites, they faced many troubles from their enemies, the ruthless Philistines.

The Philistines got ready for war and brought their troops together near the town of Sochoh in Judah. They set up camp at a place called Ephes Dammim, which is between Sochoh and the town of Azekah. King Saul and his troops set up their camp in the Valley of Elah and got ready to fight the Philistines. The Philistine army was on a hill on one side of the valley, and the army of Israel was on a hill on the other side of the valley. [This is a good time to draw 2 hills and a valley with soldiers on each, labeling them "Israelites" and "Philistines"—if you have time, you may also make more vivid visual aids, such as puppets or colored drawings of the landscape and people, and show them to the students at this point.]

Goliath Challenges the Israelites

The Philistine army had a hero by the name of Goliath, who was from the town of Gath and more than 9 feet tall. [Before class, try measuring the ceiling in your classroom, and compare your classroom height to the height of Goliath.]

Goliath wore a helmet and had armor to protect his chest and legs. His armor was made of bronze, and he carried a bronze sword on his back. The armor on his chest weighed about 125 pounds. His spear was huge, and even its iron head weighed more than 15 pounds. A soldier always walked in front of Goliath and carried his shield.

Goliath came out and shouted to the army of Israel, "Why are you lining up for battle? I am the Philistines' best soldier, and all of you are Saul's soldiers. Choose one of your men to come out and fight me! If he can kill me, we will become your slaves. But if I kill him, you will become our slaves. I challenge Israel's entire army right now! Choose a man for me to fight!"

When Saul and his men heard this, they became weak with fear. Goliath came forth to challenge the Israelites every morning and evening for forty days.

Boys and girls, why do you think that the Israelites were afraid? Would you be afraid of Goliath if everyone else is afraid of him? Why or why not?

David Goes to the Battlefield

Jesse was very old and had eight sons, and the three oldest ones, Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah, went with Saul to battle. David, the youngest, came back and forth from serving King Saul to tend his father's sheep in Bethlehem.

One day, Jesse told David, "Hurry and take this sack of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers in camp. And take these ten chunks of cheese to the officer in charge. Find out how your brothers are and bring back something to show me that they are all right.

They are with Saul's army in the Valley of Elah, where they are fighting against the Philistines."

Early the next morning, David left the sheep that he usually took care of with someone else. He loaded the supplies and started off, just as his father had told him to do. When he reached the camp, the men were taking their places and shouting the battle cry. The army of Israel and the Philistine army stood there facing each other.

David left his things with the man in charge of supplies and went up to the battle line to greet his brothers. While he was talking with them, the Philistine hero Goliath came out and started bragging as usual, and David heard him.

When the soldiers of Israel saw Goliath, they were scared and ran off. They said to one another, "Look how this man keeps coming out to insult us! The king will give a big reward to the man who kills him! The king will even let him marry his daughter and will never make his family pay taxes again!"

David was standing near some men and he asked them, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and stopping him from insulting our people? Who does he think he is to make fun of the army of the living God?" The soldiers told David what they had been saying and what would be given to the man who killed Goliath.

When David's oldest brother Eliab heard him talking with the soldiers, he became angry and said to David, "What are you doing here? Who is taking care of the little flock of sheep out in the desert? You came here just to watch the fighting!"

David replied, "Now what have I done? Can't I even talk?" He turned and asked another soldier the same thing he had asked the others, and he was given the same answer.

David Goes to Fight Goliath

Some soldiers reported to Saul what David had said and he sent for David, who said to him, "Your Majesty, tell your men not to give up because of this Philistine! I'll go out and fight him!" Saul replied, "You don't have a chance against him! You're only a boy, and he has been a soldier since he was a boy."

But David said, "Your Majesty, I take care of my father's sheep. And when one of them is dragged off by a lion or bear, I chase after it and beat the wild animal until it lets the sheep go. If the animal turns and attacks me, I kill it. Sir, I have killed lions and bears, and this worthless Philistine will be like one of them. He should not have made fun of the army of the living God! The Lord has rescued me from the claws of lions and bears, and He will keep me safe from the hands of this Philistine!"

Saul told David, "All right, go ahead, and may the Lord be with you!" So Saul had his own fighting clothes and armor put on David, and he gave him a bronze helmet to wear. David strapped on a sword and tried walking

around. He was not used to wearing full armor and felt weighed down.

"I can't move with all this stuff on," David said. "I'm just not used to it!" So he took off the armor. After David had picked up his shepherd's stick, he went out to the stream and found five round stones, which he put in his small leather bag. Next, he took his sling and went toward Goliath.

David Defeats Goliath

Goliath came toward David with a soldier carrying his shield walking ahead of him. When Goliath saw that David was just a healthy, good-looking boy, he made fun of him. "Do you think I'm just a dog?" Goliath asked.

"Is that why you've come after me with a stick?" He cursed David in the name of the Philistine gods and shouted, "Come on! When I'm finished with you, I'll feed you to the birds and wild animals!"

David answered, "You've come out against me with a sword, a spear, and a dagger. But I've come out against you in the name of the Lord of hosts. And He is the God of Israel's army! Today the Lord will let me defeat you, and I will knock you down and cut off your head. Then I'll feed

your body to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! Everybody here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save His people. The Lord always wins His battles, and He will let us defeat you!"

When Goliath started forward, David ran to meet him and took a stone from his bag. He put it in the sling and swung the sling around with its straps. When he let go of one strap, the stone flew and hit Goliath in the forehead. The stone cracked his skull, and he fell face down on the ground. David defeated Goliath with a sling and a stone. He killed him without even using a sword.

At once, David ran over to Goliath. He took out the dead man's sword and used it to cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they started running away. But the men of Israel and Judah let out a battle cry and chased them as far as Gath and Ekron. The bodies of the Philistines were scattered all along the road that leads from Shaaraim to Gath and Ekron.

When the army of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, they took what they wanted from their enemy's camp. David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but he kept Goliath's weapons in his own tent.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God." (Isaiah 41:10a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. The Lord is all-powerful and is able to help us overcome any difficulty.

Materials: a paper copy of a standard dictionary

Write the following memory verse on the board, underlining or highlighting the words in bold:

Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
(Isa 41:10a)

Ask the students if they can define the words in bold. If they cannot, assign one student to look up the words in a dictionary and tell the class.

This verse is God talking to each and every one of us. Let's see what it means.

Read Isaiah 41:10 in its entirety. Go through each line of the verse and ask the students to explain what it means. You might need to explain that the right hand was a symbol of control (because most people were right-handed), so it meant that God was in control.

Boys and girls, can you think of anyone else in this world who could say this to us? Can our parents say this? Can our teachers? Sometimes adults around us can help us, but even they cannot always help. Can you think of a time when your parents cannot help you? (E.g., when you are at school and they are at work, they cannot help you.) But God is always with us no matter where we are, and He promises in this verse that He will help us and uphold us with His right hand. He is in control of everything, so we never need to be afraid.

2. Ask the Lord for courage when we are afraid or encounter difficulties.

Draw a figure of a big and tall Goliath on the board. Have different students take turns to draw each of Goliath's weapons and armor, according to 1 Samuel 17. [Keep track of time.]

Now, draw a picture of an ordinary-sized person (compared to Goliath) on another area of the board.

Distribute an index card to each student. Ask the students to write on the index card one difficulty that they or their family face (or if they cannot think of any, a hypothetical but realistic problem) that they cannot solve by themselves. Have one student collect all of the index cards in a pile. Tape them up next to Goliath while reading them aloud.

Point to the ordinary-sized person and ask the students, "When King Saul and the Israelites saw Goliath, how did they feel and why?" (Afraid and discouraged.) "What did the Israelites not have that made them afraid?" (Courage and bravery.)

When you face a difficulty like the ones we listed on the board, how do you feel and why? (Afraid and discouraged.) What do we need in order to not be afraid? (Courage.) But WHERE can we get this courage?

Ask students to turn to 2 Timothy 1:7 and read aloud. Ask your students, "What kind of spirit does God NOT give us?" (Fear and timidity; you may need to explain that it means being afraid.) "What kind of spirit does God want to give us?" (Power, love, discipline, and a sound mind.)

So when we are afraid, we need to ask God to give us a spirit of courage and power so that we don't get caught up in fear.

3. Have full confidence in the Lord and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit when we face challenges.

In today's Bible story today, who showed courage? [Next to the ordinary-sized person drawn on the board, write "David."]

Let's find out why he had courage while everyone else was afraid. When David met Goliath, what did he say? Turn to 1 Samuel 17:45-47.

Do you think that David knew that he would win the fight? Why or why not? (Yes, because David had full confidence in the Lord.)

Write on the board, "Sword and spear," "sling and stones," and "the Lord." Which one of these did David have confidence, or trust, in to win the fight?

When Goliath and the Philistines came to fight against the Israelites, they were actually fighting against the army of God. Instead of fearing God, the Philistines and Goliath made fun of them and therefore made fun of God.

Boys and girls, have you ever been made fun of because you believe in God? What happened? What did you do about it? Allow students to share.

Did you know that when others make fun of us because we believe in God, they are actually making fun of God? We should not be afraid of them, but have full confidence and trust in the Lord just as David did. We need to pray in our hearts and pray in the power of the Holy Spirit at all times to ask God to give us courage and confidence in the Lord.

ACTIVITY

1**Memory Verse Banner****Materials**

- Long sheet of butcher paper
- Poster paint (or markers, if you don't have paint)
- Pictures of flags of different countries

Instructions

1. Sing verse one of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" (try to have the students memorize it).
2. Explain to the students the following vocabulary words: banner (flag), foe (enemy), vanquished (defeated).
3. Show students picture of flags of different countries and explain what some of the pictures on the flags mean.
4. Brainstorm what pictures would be on the royal banner of God. Some ideas include the Bible, a dove, the cross, a heart (meaning love), etc. Avoid putting images of people, including depictions of Jesus Christ.
5. Spread the sheet of butcher paper on a long table. Depending on the number of students, assign each student to draw on the butcher paper one of the items that you brainstormed. Assign one student to write out the memory verse somewhere on the banner.
6. After the banner has been completed, post it up somewhere in the classroom.
7. Ask the students if they ever have to say the pledge of allegiance at school. Ask them if they know what it means to pledge allegiance (it means to promise to be true to their country and to stand up for their country). Explain that in God's kingdom, the Lord Jesus is our King, and we need to pledge allegiance to and stand up for Jesus.
8. Students, from the story we learned today, do you think that King Saul held up his pledge of allegiance to God's kingdom? (No, he was afraid.) Do you think that the Israelites did? (No, they were afraid.) How about David? (Yes.) In what way did David stand up for God's kingdom? (He was brave enough to stand up against Goliath for God.) What gave him the courage to stand up for God's kingdom? (David had faith in God's almighty power.)
9. Students, in what ways can we stand up for God's kingdom? Ask each student to share at least one way.
10. Sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" again.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God." (Isaiah 41:10a)
2. C
3. E
4. C
5. True
6. True
7. David, daughter, family
8. lions, bears, God
9. armor, bag, stones, sling
10. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 7—David Kills Goliath

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: The Lord is all-powerful and is able to help us overcome any difficulty.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To ask the Lord for courage when we are afraid or encounter challenges.
 2. To have full confidence in the Lord by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bible Reading | | | | | | | |
| Prayer | | | | | | | |

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Isaiah 41:10a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. Write down the memory verse for this week.

Multiple Choice

2. _____ : Goliath, the hero of the Philistine army, was taller than 9 feet and carried _____.
- A shield, a sling, and an axe
 - A bow and arrow, a cannon, and a knife
 - A sword, a spear, and 125 pounds of armor
3. _____ : When David faced Goliath, _____.
- Goliath made fun of David because he looked like a boy going after a dog.
 - David made fun of Goliath because he looked like a gorilla.
 - David bravely said that he came in the name of the Lord and that the battle was the Lord's.
 - None of the above.
 - Both A and C.
4. _____ : David beat Goliath because _____.
- He used a sling and stone.
 - He had better weapons than Goliath.
 - He had courage and full confidence in the Lord.

True or False

5. Goliath challenged the Israelites to send their best soldier to fight him and said that whoever won would be the king of all of the Philistines and the Israelites. _____
6. David was not afraid of Goliath like the rest of the Israelites. _____

Fill In the Blank

(sling God bag daughter lions stones David family armor bears)

7. Jesse sent his youngest son _____ with some food to see how his older sons were doing. When he arrived, many of the Israelite soldiers were saying that whoever could beat Goliath would be given the king's _____ in marriage and his _____ would be free from taxes.
8. David told King Saul that he wanted to fight Goliath. He said that he had fought _____ and _____ that were after his sheep before. He also said that _____ would rescue him from Goliath just like He had rescued him from their claws.
9. David tried on King Saul's _____, but he was not used to it. Instead, he brought his _____, picked out five round _____, and took his _____ in his hand to face Goliath.

Life Application

10. Work with your mom or dad. Ask your mom or dad to share a testimony in the family of when someone was in trouble but was able to overcome it by having courage and full confidence in the Lord. On another piece of paper, write a one paragraph summary of the testimony.