



# DAVID & GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17

## GOAL

▶ To help children understand that they should trust God in any situation.

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## CHARACTERS

▶ **David:** This shepherd boy trusted God enough to face Goliath, a giant, trained warrior, in hand-to-hand combat.

**Goliath:** He was a giant Philistine soldier who taunted the Israelite army. Goliath hated God and was killed by David.

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## MEMORY VERSE

▶ **1 Samuel 16:7:** Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

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## OVERVIEW

▶ **Read 1 Samuel 17:** David, a young shepherd boy went to visit his brothers who were serving Israel's army. The giant Goliath was the Philistine champion warrior, and no one was brave enough to fight him. David grew angry at Goliath's defiance of God, and he took the challenge. With no armor to protect him and armed only with a slingshot, David killed Goliath.



## SUGGESTIONS

There is much to learn from the story of David and Goliath. Unfortunately, we often reduce the story to "be strong and brave like David," or "fight your giants in God's strength." Those are great things to focus on, but they miss the biggest point. The key to the story is the glory of God. Before David killed Goliath, he announced his goal:

"This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand ... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (1 Samuel 17:46).

The point of the story is that God is great, powerful, marvelous, so wonderful that it is impossible for us to adequately praise Him. He is so wonderful that we can't even describe his majesty. What God does for us, like helping us slay giants, is one way that we can point to His greatness before the whole world.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

### **Duck, Duck, David, and Goliath!**

Play Duck, Duck, Goose, except have the students say David in place of Duck and Goliath in place of Goose.



MEMORY  
VERSE  
MEANING

▶ **1 Samuel 16:7:** To win a battle, physical strength isn't always necessary. Sometimes, the battles we face in life are best fought with strength of character, mind, and heart. God knows us. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. In the story of David and Goliath, we see a shepherd boy entering into a battle that is impossible for him to win. God saw an arrogant man about to be easily defeated by a faithful boy who loved Him.

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POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY

▶ **How Big is Giant? | Supplies:** a long length of butcher paper, tape measure, markers, tape. Lay the butcher paper on the floor and have the students measure out and mark the paper at 9 feet 5 inches. Have students lie down on or next to the paper and mark each student's height on the paper. Once all of the students have had their height marked on the paper, hang it on the wall to help students get a perspective on how enormous Goliath was.

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TAKE  
HOME

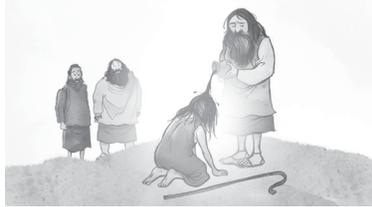
▶ We are more likely to face giant tasks and trials in life than literal giant warriors like David did, but that doesn't make our situations any less trying or frightening. We often feel like we are outmatched, but the outward appearance of the situation didn't stop David from taking on a formidable foe—he knew that with God on his side, no opponent stood a chance against him. With God on our side, the same is true for us. God will give us the strength and courage we need to make it through any difficult situation we may face.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** Who did God tell Samuel to anoint as the new king?

**A1:** God told Samuel to anoint David as the new king.

**Q1b:** Why do you think football players dump water or Gatorade on their coaches after winning a game?

**TN:** Explain that, while a bit strange, it is a tradition—a sort of victory dance. When people are anointed, oil is poured over their heads. This tradition stems from shepherds pouring oil on their sheep to keep bugs off of them. Pouring oil on someone is a symbolic way of showing that someone who has been called by God to do something is protected and blessed.

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### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** Who were the men of Israel preparing to fight?

**A2:** The men of Israel were preparing to fight the Philistine army.

**Q2b:** How do you prepare for a game or a performance.

**TN:** Athletes usually warm up their muscles, and actors, singers, and dancers practice their parts of a performance. The men of Israel had reached the site where they would fight the Philistine army. There they practiced and prepared for the coming battle.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** What did Goliath challenge the men of Israel to do?

**A3:** Goliath challenged the men of Israel to come out and fight him.

**Q3b:** Do you have any pet peeves?

**TN:** Pet peeves are things that irritate and upset us. Sometimes these things are really minor, and they shouldn't upset us as much as they do. When David heard the Philistines and Goliath insulting the men of Israel and God, he became angry. Anger in response to this kind of taunting is appropriate. Anger is an emotion given to us by God, but we must be careful before acting on this emotion. We should always make sure that our anger is justified and our response is appropriate. To do this, we can pray and turn to Scripture for answers.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What did David tell King Saul he would do?

**A4:** David told King Saul that he would fight Goliath.

**Q4b:** When playing baseball, would you rather be the pitcher or an outfielder?

**TN:** Pitchers get to play a lot more than outfielders, but outfielders play an important part on a baseball team. If someone on the other team gets a good hit and there is no one in the outfield to catch or field the ball, the other team will be able to score very easily. Taking roles or responsibilities no one else wants in an effort to help the whole team or group is the mark of a good leader. All of the men of Israel were afraid of Goliath, but David heard this man disrespecting God and saw the need to stop him and his blasphemy.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What did Saul give David to wear in battle against Goliath?

**A5:** Saul gave David his armor, sword, and shield.

**Q5b:** Have you ever wanted to go on a ride at an amusement park but were too short to go on it?

**TN:** This is a bummer, but the height restrictions are in place for our safety. King Saul's equipment was way too big for David and would have made him ineffective in battle against Goliath. Because there was no armor that would fit him, David would have to go into battle with only God to protect him—that is the best armor in existence!

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### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** When David walked toward Goliath, what did Goliath do?

**A6:** Goliath laughed at David.

**Q6b:** What is something you're good at that might surprise others?

**TN:** Maybe you're a really good dancer or singer. Whatever it is, God isn't surprised by it. He knows your talents and abilities.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** How many stones did David pick up?

**A7:** David picked up five stones.

**Q7b:** Have you ever killed a fly with a fly swatter?

**TN:** Flies are small and fast, so they are hard to hit with a fly swatter. It sometimes takes several swings before we actually get one. David flung a stone at a moving target and hit him in just the right spot to take down Goliath in one shot. That's a pretty unlikely outcome, but with God, it was possible.

### SLIDE 8



**Q8a:** What happened to Goliath after the David hit him with the stone?

**A8:** Goliath fell to the ground and died.

**Q8b:** If David had relied on his own strength and abilities, do you think he could have beaten Goliath?

**TN:** Probably not. Without God, David was just a little shepherd boy armed with a slingshot standing in front of a huge warrior. With God, David was victorious.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

▷ **1 Samuel 16:7:** Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

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**BIG IDEA**

▷ With God, we can face and defeat the giants in our lives!

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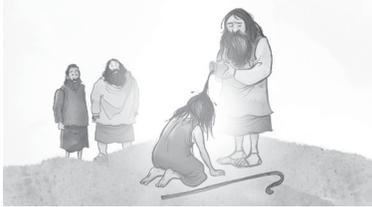
**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▷ Dear Lord, thank You for helping David to face Goliath. You are so great. Help us to trust You, too. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



In the land of Israel, there lived a prophet by the name of Samuel. God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem where he would find a young boy named David. God told Samuel to anoint David as the new king of Israel. He was to replace Saul as king, because Saul had turned away from the Lord.

### SLIDE 2



At that time, Saul and the men of Israel, including David's brothers, were camped in the valley of Elah where they were preparing to fight the Philistine army. David traveled to the valley to bring more food and supplies to his brothers. As he stood on the hill overlooking the valley, he could see both armies on either side.

### SLIDE 3



When David arrived, he found his brothers hiding from the scary Philistine army. The Philistines were great warriors and many in number. For 40 days, they had been shouting insults at the men of Israel, calling them cowards. In the Philistine army, there was a man called Goliath. He was bigger and scarier than any of the other Philistine men. He was a giant. Goliath was afraid of no one, and challenged the men of Israel to come out and fight him, but everyone was too afraid. Day and night, Goliath mocked the God of Israel and the army of Saul. While David was with his brothers, he saw Goliath come out and he heard his insults. David could not believe it. David was a brave young man who he loved the Lord, and he would not stand to hear Goliath insult God or his people any longer.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



Word got around of David's inquiries about Goliath, and King Saul sent for him. With great courage, David told Saul that he would fight Goliath. Saul knew the Lord was with David, so he agreed to David's request.

### SLIDE 5



Saul clothed David with his armor, his sword, and his shield, but they were too big and heavy. David could not even walk. In the end, David decided to fight Goliath with the one weapon he used as a shepherd and knew best: his slingshot.





## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 6



David went outside, picked up five stones, and walked towards Goliath. Goliath laughed at David. The Spirit of God came upon David and empowered him with courage and bravery to fight the giant. David knew he could not do this alone, so he trusted God to give him and Israel the victory.

### SLIDE 7



As Goliath charged towards David, David shouted, "You come to me with a sword, spear, and shield, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied!" David took up his slingshot, put in one of the five stones, and started swinging it in the direction of Goliath. As Goliath drew near, David released the stone, and with great force, it struck Goliath in the middle of his forehead.

### SLIDE 8



Instantly, the giant fell to the ground on his face and died. That day, God gave David and Israel the victory. David ran towards Goliath and stood over his body. David took Goliath's sword and cut off his head. When the Philistine army saw this, they were afraid and ran away. When the Spirit of God came upon David, who was just a little shepherd boy, he became a brave warrior who defeated a giant.