



# 1

# David and Goliath

## Key Theme

- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

## Key Passages

- 1 Samuel 17:4–11, 17:24–26, 17:32, 17:45–51

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Contrast the faith of David with the Israelite soldiers.
- Identify the source of David's confidence in battle.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Students will place a bookmark at 1 Samuel 17.

Students will practice the memory verse by unscrambling the words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and then reciting the verse to each other or to the class.



### Activity 1: David and Goliath Class Notes

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Students will fill out the David and Goliath Class Notes as you study the lesson. Pass out the class notes before you begin to teach.



### Studying God's Word

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Goliath the Philistine challenged Saul's entire army, causing great fear. But David wasn't afraid. His faith in Israel's mighty God led him to fight Goliath. God's name was glorified when David defeated the giant with just one stone.



### Activity 2: They Stood Up to Giants

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Students will play beanbag toss to match the biblical character described with his or her name taped to the floor.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Cut paper into strips for each student to mark today's study passage in 1 Samuel 17.
- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Paper strips
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### DAVID AND GOLIATH CLASS NOTES

- Print one David and Goliath Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- David and Goliath Class Notes for each student
- David and Goliath Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### THEY STOOD UP TO GIANTS

- Print one They Stood Up to Giants Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Print one set of nine Hero Names from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- They Stood Up to Giants Teacher Guide
- Nine Hero Names
- Masking Tape
- Beanbags



## Memory Verse

**2 Samuel 7:22** Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

God gave David the gift of faith and used him in a mighty way to accomplish His perfect plans. David had been chosen by God to take the throne of Israel after Saul had failed to lead Israel in a God-honoring way (1 Samuel 15:10–26). Samuel had anointed David in the presence of his father, Jesse, and his older brothers, and David was now the king in waiting (1 Samuel 16:11–13).

From the time of David's anointing, the Spirit of the Lord was with him (1 Samuel 16:13). But the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul (1 Samuel 16:14). God had rejected Saul and set His favor on David from whom the promised Messiah would come to reign forever. In His wisdom, God had sent a distressing spirit to harass Saul, and David was brought in to Saul's palace to play for him (1 Samuel 16:23). When David played his harp, the distressing spirit left Saul, and he was refreshed. David became a part of Saul's household and was made his armor-bearer.

Although Saul loved David greatly at the beginning (1 Samuel 16:21), he soon became envious and despised the talented, courageous, godly young man. Saul's jealousy toward David began in the account we are studying today—the account of David's defeat over Goliath, the Philistine from Gath (1 Samuel 17:23).

How is it that the shepherd David, the youngest of the sons of Jesse, would be the one used by God to display trust, courage, and faith? The entire army of Israel was not able to exhibit this degree of valor against its enemy (1 Samuel 17:24). The Israelite soldiers had no courage because their confidence was not in the omnipotent God of Israel. Yet David, unarmed and unprepared for battle, volunteered to go and fight the one who would dare to defy the army of the living God (1 Samuel 17:36).

And on he went—armed with trust in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel (1 Samuel 17:45). David's faith was in his God, not in sword and spear. His purpose was not glory and honor for himself but a desire to display that God's power alone can save (1 Samuel 17:47).

As mentioned earlier, when Samuel anointed David as king, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. The Spirit gave David the strength, courage, confidence, and trust to continue in the name of the Lord to defend Israel against its enemies. His conquests made in the

name of his sovereign and all-powerful God brought him honor among the people (1 Samuel 18:5–7). This increasing popularity provoked Saul's jealousy and hatred. Saul became consumed with this vendetta and sought to kill David on multiple occasions over many years. David roamed about the region with a band of valiant men and even spared the life of Saul on two occasions, acknowledging that because Saul was the Lord's anointed he must respect him as his authority for the time (1 Samuel 24:6, 26:11).

Throughout history we see God using imperfect people to accomplish His plans. While the entire Israelite army feared one Philistine giant, a God-fearing young man came forward to kill the enemy. From the line of this young man David would come the Messiah (Jesus Christ) to provide forgiveness, mercy, and grace to sinners—and the promise of eternal life.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Even though David was the youngest son of Jesse, he was no pipsqueak. The common depictions of David and Goliath in Sunday school materials, coloring books, animated movies, and even paintings is of a small boy facing a giant man. While this makes for a good “story,” this is not what the Bible presents. In 1 Samuel 16:18 we have a description of David:

Then one of the servants answered and said, “Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him.”

This description paints David as a valiant young man quite capable of fighting, and this was some time before his encounter with Goliath.

Another point often raised is the description of David trying to wear Saul's armor. We know that Saul was a head taller than the normal Israelite (1 Samuel 9:2). Many people assume that David refused to wear Saul's armor into battle because it was much too big for him (1 Samuel 17:38–39). Looking carefully at the text, however, David said that he had not “tested” the armor—he was not comfortable fighting in gear he had not trained in. Also, Saul would not suggest David wear his armor if it was much too big for him. To do so would put David at a disadvantage. We need to purge the little-boy image and have a biblical perspective of the young man, David.

Although David was no flea of a man, he might have appeared so next to Goliath. This warrior from Gath was probably a descendant of the giants who caused the 10 spies to be fearful of entering the Promised Land. Like those spies, the warriors of Israel did not trust God to fight for them, and they stood in fear of a mere man. The details of Goliath are indeed impressive—he stood 9'-9" tall, his coat of mail weighed 125 lbs., and his spearhead weighed 15 lbs. There was not a man among the Israelites in his own strength who could defeat Goliath.

Over the years, many falsified photos have circulated showing giant skeletons being excavated around the world. Unfortunately, some well-meaning Christians have used these to "prove" that someone as tall as Goliath could have lived in the Middle East. We must remember that we can trust God's Word to record the height of this man accurately, and we should not start with outside sources to demonstrate the Bible's trustworthiness. If these archaeological finds (were they

even real) could prove the Bible to be true, then we'd no longer be looking to the Bible as the authority. We must always look to Scripture as our ultimate authority.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Almighty Lord, you thrill me. I will never tire of learning and applying the truths of your Word! Help me to look to you instead of the circumstances the next time I face a giant in my life. Help me to prepare and teach this lesson in a way that it will really impact my students. Bless them with a desire to have a relationship with you like David had. Draw them to you so they will have faith and trust in you as Savior and Lord.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will mark their Bibles at 1 Samuel 17 with strips of paper.
- They will unscramble the scrambled words on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and practice reciting the verse to each other and to the class.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. Students should unscramble the letters of the missing words and then recite the verse to you or another student. Each week the verse will get harder to unscramble. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## David and Goliath Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- David and Goliath Class Notes for each student
- David and Goliath Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study 1 Samuel 17.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Try not to work ahead. Fill in the blanks as we come to them. I'll let you know when to fill in something.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete our class notes, we will see that great things can happen to those who put their trust in the Lord.



# Studying God's Word

## READ THE WORD

We have been reading and studying the exciting biblical account of King Saul, the very first king of Israel. We saw how God arranged things perfectly so that David, after being anointed king by the prophet Samuel, would be invited into King Saul's royal home to play the harp for him. David's playing comforted the king.

Remember that David was a man after God's own heart and he quickly won the love and respect of the people of Israel. The Bible tells us that he was talented, strong, brave, spoke carefully, and he was handsome. He had become King Saul's armor bearer. Now God was presenting an opportunity for David to prove his strength and courage—but more importantly, to prove that his faith and love for God were indeed real. Let's see how David did as we begin to study the true account of David and Goliath.

Most of you have heard of the giant Goliath. Let me set the stage for what was happening. The Philistines, Israel's enemy, had gathered their armies together against King Saul and Israel. The Bible tells us that the Philistines stood on one mountainside and Israel stood on a different mountainside with a valley between them. *Draw two mountains on the board. See the Class Notes Answer Key.*

You are going to complete the scene on your class notes as I draw on the board. See the two mountains with the valley in between? You're going to draw a lot of little *Ps* (for Philistine) on the side of the right mountain, and a lot of little *Is* (for Israel) on the side of the left mountain. The valley in between the two mountains separates the two armies. *Put Ps and Is on the "mountains" you have put on the board. Pause to allow the students to draw their Ps and Is as you draw them on the board.*

Good. Now we have a visual. Listen to what happened next. The Philistines sent out a "champion" from their camp. Let's read about this champion!

Turn to 1 Samuel 17. We'll read verses 4–11. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

So who was this champion? What can we learn about him?

### Observe the Text

How tall was he? *1 Samuel 17:4. Six cubits plus!*

► Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

1 Samuel 17:4–11

? That is nearly 10 feet tall! Can you tell me some more things about this warrior according to 1 Samuel 17:5–7? *He had a bronze helmet; coat of mail; bronze armor on his legs; bronze javelin; a heavy spear with a spear head that weighed almost 15 pounds; and a shield-bearer went before him.*

He was huge, strong, brave, and well-protected! This Philistine giant came out and challenged the Israelites to send someone who would be willing to fight with him.

Let's show Goliath on the notes with the letter G. *Have students draw a big G on the Philistines' side of the valley to represent Goliath. Add a G to your board drawing. See the Class Notes Answer Key.*

? What did Goliath offer the Israelite who would be brave enough to fight him? *1 Samuel 17:9. If he was killed, the Philistines would be Israel's servants. If he killed Israel's warrior, Israel would be the Philistines' servants.*

? This giant Goliath made another statement. It's in verse 10. What did he say about the armies of Israel? *He defied them!*

Goliath defied the armies of Israel. In other words he dared them! He was daring someone to come and fight him. He was very confident in his power and his strength!

? What did Saul and all of Israel think of this mighty Philistine? *They were afraid.*

The entire Israelite army was afraid. Now look at #1 on your class notes.

How will you complete the statement according to 1 Samuel 17:11? *1*

*Samuel 17:11. They were dismayed and greatly afraid! Have students fill in #1 on their class notes—dismayed, afraid.*

➤ After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

## Discover the Truth

Do you see what is happening here? Goliath was defying or daring the army of Israel to come and fight him. In defying the people of God, Goliath was actually mocking and insulting the sovereign God of Israel. He was challenging God's people to stand up to him. Goliath wanted to see if the Israelites really believed that their God was more powerful than he and the Philistines were. The people of Israel were discouraged, scared, and overwhelmed by this giant! They were afraid of him because of his size and outward appearance.



## READ THE WORD

This is where David came in. The Bible tells us that David wasn't at the battle in the valley, or on the mountain. David was back with his father tending the sheep. However, David's father Jesse sent him on an errand to take food and supplies to his older brothers, who were with King Saul's army.

## 1 Samuel 17:24–26

Do you see where Bethlehem is on your class notes? Draw a path from Bethlehem (where David was tending sheep) to where the battle was taking place. *Add the path onto your board diagram.*

When David caught up with the army, he would see what was going on. Let's keep reading! Jump ahead to 1 Samuel 17:24–26. *Divide the passage for members of the class to read aloud.*

### EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's try to answer some more questions so we can understand this better.

#### Observe the Text

- ? What did ALL the men of Israel do when they saw Goliath? *1 Samuel 17:24. They fled and were afraid.*
- ? They were ALL afraid! They fled from one man! Look at #2 on your class notes. How will you complete that statement? *Have students complete #2 on their class notes—fled, afraid.*

## 1 Samuel 17:32

They were scared! When David arrived, he wondered who this Philistine was. Who would dare to defy the armies of the living God? David's attitude was different from the rest of Saul's soldiers. This giant was insulting his God and David didn't like it at all! Now let's skip ahead a little to read 1 Samuel 17:32. *Choose a student to read 1 Samuel 17:32.*

- ? David was now talking to King Saul. What did David say? *1 Samuel 17:32. I will go and fight the Philistine.*

That's right! David offered to go by himself. Well, King Saul couldn't believe that David could fight the giant because he was young and not as experienced in battle as Goliath. But David convinced King Saul to let him go. David went out to the valley to meet Goliath. He took his shepherd's staff and carried his sling. He picked up five smooth stones and placed them in his shepherd's bag. David had no armor and no sword.

Let's show David with the letter *D*. This *D* is smaller than the *G*. David was much smaller than Goliath! *Have students draw a smaller D face to face with the large G they already drew in the valley. Add this to your drawing.*

David was ready! He was not afraid. He would fight the giant Philistine. How would you complete #3 on your class notes? This is what David told the people. *Have students fill in #3 on their class notes—I, Philistine.*

## 1 Samuel 17:45–47

David was very brave. Why? Why would he have courage when ALL the army had none? Well, let's find out. Let's read 1 Samuel 17:45–47. *Read the verses dramatically. Or assign students to read the verses.*

- ? Goliath came at David with a sword but David came with someone on his side—someone very powerful. Who was it? *1 Samuel 17:45. The Lord of hosts. The God of the armies of Israel.*
- ? So, how will you complete #4 on your class notes? *Have students fill in #4 of their class notes—Lord, God.*
- ? Now look at 1 Samuel 17:46. David said the giant would be delivered to him. Who was going to deliver him? *The Lord.*
- ? And David said he was going to take something of Goliath's. What was David going to take? *His head!*

David was confident. He went up to Goliath. He said, "Today you will be mine! And I will take your head!" And David proclaimed that when he beat Goliath, all the earth would know that there is a God in Israel. And He is the one and only God!

- ? David was confident in God. Look at 1 Samuel 17:47. Whose battle was David fighting? *1 Samuel 17:47. The battle was the Lord's.*

David knew the battle was the Lord's. David knew that the Lord did not need a sword or spear to win. David knew that the Lord would give the Philistine into his hands.

- ? According to 1 Samuel 17:47, how will you complete #5 on your class notes? *Have students fill in # 5 on their class notes—sword, spear, Lord's.*

So the battle began. David with stones against Goliath with his armor and strength. Listen as I read the conclusion of this battle between David the Israelite and Goliath the Philistine. Turn to 1 Samuel 17:48–51. *Read the account with plenty of emotion and enthusiasm.*

- ? How did David kill the Philistine? *1 Samuel 17:50. With a sling and one stone.*

David faced Goliath with only his staff, a sling, five stones, and the power of the Lord. And the Lord gave him the victory!

### Discover the Truth

David proclaimed, "The battle belongs to the Lord. Then all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel. I fight for the Lord of hosts!" David was confident in God. He expected to win the battle because he believed in God and had faith in Him. This wasn't the case for the rest of the army! The soldiers were afraid. They fled. They were discouraged. They didn't trust that the God of Israel, the Lord of hosts, would fight for them and give them the victory. God showed all of Israel that day that He alone could save them.



1 Samuel 17:48–51



# They Stood Up to Giants

## MATERIALS

- They Stood Up to Giants Teacher Guide
- One set of Hero Names (printed on cardstock)
- Masking tape
- 2–3 Beanbags

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Divide the class into 2–3 teams. Tape the Hero Names on the floor. Tape a line on the floor at an appropriate distance from the names. As you read the descriptions of the biblical heroes from the They Stood Up to Giants Teacher Guide, students will toss the beanbags onto or close to the correct person's name. The team that gets the beanbag closest to the correct answer will get a point.*

David had faith in God when he was facing the giant Goliath. God used David to accomplish His perfect plan for Israel. This activity will give you an opportunity to think back on some other heroes of the faith that, like David, trusted God when

they faced giant problems. As I read the description of the biblical hero, each team will toss a beanbag onto or close to who you think the person is! Whoever is closest to the correct answer gets a point. So don't give the answer away!

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We will face giants in our lives. Probably not giants like Goliath, but perhaps situations that are difficult for us. When we do, we can remember to focus on God's Word, God, and His faithfulness and not on what might appear to be something that is too hard to handle. Think of David and the many others in God's Word who overcame their fears and circumstances by focusing on the Lord, obeying His commands, meditating on His Word, and trusting in Him.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

We saw today that God used David in a big way! David had absolute faith that God would fight for him and he trusted God for the results of the battle against the giant Philistine. All the people of Israel were afraid because they were focused on the size of the person standing against them. They looked at Goliath—his size, his armor, his outward appearance—and felt like they could never win the battle. They did not put their trust in God, but in their own abilities and weapons.

On the other hand, David placed all of his trust in God. God was the source of David's confidence in battle. David compared Goliath to God, and he wasn't afraid at all! And God was faithful to David, so the victory belonged to the Lord!

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

David's courage was not his own. And David was not fighting the giant for himself. God gave David courage because David trusted God and knew that God would win the battle! David went into battle knowing that the battle was the Lord's and that the victory would be the Lord's as well. David's courage came from God. This is an important lesson for us.

God uses people every day to do His will. We can only do what God asks us if we cling to our faith in God and know that He alone has the power to help us! God can use us to do His will. But we **MUST** trust Him, believe Him, have faith in Him, remembering that He has helped His people in the past and He will help us, too. God is the same today as He was back in David's time. The more we know of God through His Word, the more we will be able to rely on Him to get us through any situation with strength and courage.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**2 Samuel 7:22** Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He is able to defeat every giant that would want to defeat us.
- Ask God to help us trust Him like David trusted Him, believing He will help us to do His will, just like He helped His people in the past.

