



1

David and Goliath

Key Theme

- God uses people to accomplish His perfect plans.

Key Passages

- 1 Samuel 17:4–11, 17:32–34, 17:45–46, 17:48–51

Objectives

Students will be able to:

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



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by spilling out the Memory Verse Cards and putting them in the correct order. Then, they will recite the verse to each other and/or to the teacher.



Activity 1: David and Goliath Class Puzzle

Students will complete the David and Goliath Class Puzzle as they study the lesson. Pass out the Class Puzzle Pieces and Class Puzzle Outline Sheets before you begin to teach.



Studying God's Word

Goliath's challenge caused fear among all of King Saul's army. 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: Battle Bingo

Students will answer questions about the lesson to mark their bingo cards.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO



COME ON IN

- Print and cut out the Spill the Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each group of 2–3 students. Print the cards on cardstock.



DAVID AND GOLIATH CLASS PUZZLE

- Print one Class Puzzle Outline Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.
- Print and cut apart the Class Puzzle Pieces from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Paper-clip them to the Class Puzzle Outline Sheet.



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Class Puzzle Outline Sheet and Class Puzzle Pieces from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.
- Print one Lesson Board Work Outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.



BATTLE BINGO

- Print one Battle Bingo Question and Answer Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Print one Battle Bingo Card from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. There are four different cards. Use all four as you pass them out so students will have different cards.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Memory Verse Poster
- Spill the Verse Cards for every 2–3 students
- Containers with a lid, or small paper bags to hold the cards

- Class Puzzle Outline Sheet
- Class Puzzle Answer Key
- Class Puzzle Pieces
- Paper clips, pencils, glue sticks, crayons

- Class Puzzle Outline Sheet and Class Puzzle Pieces
- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Board Work Outline

- Battle Bingo Question and Answer Sheet
- Battle Bingo Cards
- Beans, small stones, buttons, or some other small items for students to mark their cards



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 lesson key passages along 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 spill the Memory Verse Cards out and put the words from the memory verse in the correct order.
- They will practice saying the verse aloud to their group and/or for the entire class.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity, Spill the Verse, on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. 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 the continuity as you teach through the lessons.



David and Goliath Class Puzzle

MATERIALS

- Class Puzzle Outline Sheet for each student
- Class Puzzle Pieces
- Class Puzzle Answer Key
- Paper clips
- Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the Class Puzzle Pieces and Class Puzzle Outline Sheet for each student. Cut the Class Puzzle Pieces along the dotted lines and paper-clip them to the Class Puzzle Outline Sheets. You'll need an additional copy of both for your use during the class. Students will put the puzzle

together and fill in the blanks on the puzzle pieces as the lesson progresses. If time permits at the end of the lesson, allow the students to color their puzzles.

We will be completing a puzzle and filling in the blanks on the puzzle pieces as we study our Bible passages today. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill in the blanks and glue the puzzle pieces to the puzzle.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the David and Goliath Puzzle today, we will see that David trusted in God. And when we trust God, He will put all the pieces together perfectly.

➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

► 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.

► Print the Lesson Board Work Outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning. As you teach the lesson, you will draw the images and write the words on the board.

1 Samuel 17:4–11

► Re-read the appropriate portions of the Scripture passage as you answer the questions.

We have been reading and studying the exciting biblical account of King Saul, the very first king of Israel. We saw how God planned things perfectly so that David, after being chosen by God and anointed king by Samuel, would be invited into King Saul's royal home. David played the harp, which comforted the king.

Remember that David was a man after God's own heart and the people of Israel loved him. The Bible tells us that he was talented, strong, brave, handsome, and that he spoke carefully. He had become King Saul's armor bearer, an important position in the king's home. Now God was going to let David show everyone the strength and courage he had—strength and courage that came from God alone! And, more importantly, David would prove that his faith and love for God were real. Let's see how David did as we begin 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 were the enemy of the Israelites. They were a mean and strong army. They 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, and there was a valley between them. *Draw two mountains on the board.*

Here are the mountains. I'll write "Philistines" on the right mountain and "Israelites" on the left mountain. The valley in between the two mountains separated the two armies. As we learn what happened between these two armies, we'll be completing the puzzle I gave you when class began.

So Israel was being threatened by this army. And the Philistines sent out a "champion" from their camp. The Bible tells us about this champion. Let's read about him!

Turn to 1 Samuel 17:4–11. *Help students with Bibles find the passage.* Listen carefully as I read.

EXAMINE THE WORD

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

Observe the Text

- ? What was his name? *Goliath. Write a "G" on the board under the word "Philistines."*
- ? How tall was he? *1 Samuel 17:4. Six cubits and a span.*

That is nearly 10 feet tall! He was very big and very scary. *Compare the height to the room you are in to give the students an idea of how tall 10 feet really is.*

I'm going to read this again. Listen carefully and then tell me some more things about this giant according to 1 Samuel 17:5–7. *You may want to stop between verses and allow the children to tell you what they heard. 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. Now find the puzzle piece labeled #1—the picture of Goliath with his sword. Where will you fit that onto your puzzle? *Have students find puzzle piece #1 and glue it in the proper place on the Class Puzzle Outline Sheet.*

This giant champion meant business. He promised that if a man from Israel could beat him, the Philistines would become servants of Israel. He was very confident!

- ? He made another statement. Let me read it to you. It's in 1 Samuel 17:10. *Read the verse with enthusiasm. What did he say? Did you hear it? I defy the army of Israel! Send a man to fight me.*

He defied the armies of Israel. In other words he was daring them! He thought they would be too scared of him and run away! Now look on puzzle piece #1 that you glued in. Look at the words at the top of your puzzle outline. Which word should you use to complete the statement on #1? *Defy.* Now someone read that back to me. *Assign a reader or read it yourself. Write "defy" on the board.*

- ? Listen to what King Saul and all the army of Israel thought of this Philistine. *Re-read 1 Samuel 17:11. What did they think? They were afraid!*

The entire Israelite army was afraid. Now find puzzle piece # 2 and glue it in the proper place on the puzzle. It shows some of the men who were afraid! What word goes on #2? *The Israelite army was afraid. A-f-r-a-i-d, that's right! Write "afraid" on the board.*

Discover the Truth

Do you see what was happening here? Goliath was defying or daring the army of Israel to come and fight him. Goliath was making fun of the sovereign God of Israel. He was telling God's people they couldn't stand up to him. Goliath was going to see just how much the people trusted and believed in the power of their God! And the people of Israel were discouraged, scared, and overwhelmed by this giant—they weren't trusting in the God of Israel! They were afraid of Goliath because of his size and outward appearance.



➤ As you complete the puzzle, you may want to write the words on the board so the students can copy easily and quickly onto their puzzles.

READ THE WORD

The entire army of the Israelites was afraid of this one man. This is where David came in. *Write a "D" on the board under the word "Israelites."* The Bible tells us that David wasn't at the battle; he was back with his father tending the sheep. However, David's father Jesse sent him to take food and supplies to his older brothers who were with King Saul's army.

When David caught up with the army, he saw what was going on. Remember, all the men of Israel were afraid of the giant Philistine! They fled from one man! They were still 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 disrespectful to his God, and David didn't like it at all! Hmmm! I wonder what David would do?

1 Samuel 17:32–34

Listen carefully to what David said to King Saul! *Read 1 Samuel 17:32–34.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who was offering to go fight the Philistine? *Re-read 1 Samuel 17:32. David was!*
- ? And what did King Saul say to David? *Re-read 1 Samuel 17:33. You can't go! You are a youth.*
- ? Does anyone know what a youth is? That's right. A youth is a young person—no longer a child but not quite an adult.

So, David offered to go by himself. Well, King Saul couldn't believe that David could fight the giant because he was young and didn't have any practice fighting. But David knew he could go. So King Saul agreed to let him go.

- ? Why did David want to fight the Philistine? Do you remember? It had to do with Goliath and God. *Allow discussion. David didn't like that Goliath had dared God's people—and did not honor God.*

So, 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, only these stones to fight the Philistine giant. What would happen!?

David was ready! He was not afraid. He would fight the giant Philistine. Find puzzle piece #3; it has David on it. Find where that piece goes in your puzzle and glue it down. *Help the students get the piece in place on their puzzles.*

David was very brave. Why? Why would he have courage when ALL the army had none? Well, let's find out. Listen as I read 1 Samuel 17:45–46.
Read the verses dramatically.

- ? How was the giant Goliath armed? What did he have to fight David with?
1 Samuel 17:45. A sword, a spear, a javelin.
- ? And what did I say David had to fight the giant? *Five stones and a sling.*
- ? But David came with someone on his side—someone very powerful. Who was it? *Re-read 1 Samuel 17:45. The Lord of hosts. The God of the armies of Israel.*

David came in the name of the Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth. David trusted God's power over the power of the giant, his sword, his spear, his armor, and his javelin!

- ? Let's complete puzzle piece #3. What word will complete that sentence?
Lord. Write "Lord" on the board. Someone read that statement for me!
- ? The Lord would deliver the giant to David. What did David tell the giant he would take from him! *Re-read 1 Samuel 17:46. His head!*

David was confident. He went up to Goliath. He said that Goliath would be his, and he would take his head! David wanted all the earth to know that there was a God in Israel. And He is the one and only God!

- ? Who was David fighting for? Look at puzzle piece #3. *He came in the name of the Lord.*

David came in the name of the Lord. David said, "This battle belongs to the Lord." David knew that the Lord did not need weapons or a sword or spear to win. David trusted the Lord to bring victory.

So the battle began. David went alone armed with his stones. He came in the name of the Lord against Goliath with all of his armor and strength. Listen to how this battle between David the Israelite and Goliath the Philistine ended. 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.*
Let's find puzzle piece #4 and glue it on the puzzle. David faced Goliath with only his staff, a sling, five stones, and the power of the Lord. And the Lord gave David the victory! God killed the giant with just one stone from David's sling.
- ? Which word will you use to complete the sentence on #4? *Stone. Write "stone" on the board and have a student read the sentence aloud.*

The battle was over. The Philistines were defeated! God had given David the strength and courage to fight Goliath. The battle belonged to the Lord! Find puzzle piece #5 and put it onto your puzzle. It shows David

praising God. God won the battle! What word will complete the sentence on puzzle piece #5? *God.*

We've completed our puzzle. Let's review it! *Ask students one at a time to read statements 1–5 on their David and Goliath Puzzles.*

Discover the Truth

David proclaimed that the battle belonged to the Lord, that all the earth would know there was a God in Israel, and that he fought for the Lord of hosts. David trusted in God. He expected to win the battle because he believed in God and had faith in Him. This wasn't true for the rest of the army! They were afraid. 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. David was an example to all of Israel of what it means to trust in the Lord.



Battle Bingo

MATERIALS

- Battle Bingo Question and Answer Sheet
- Battle Bingo Cards
- Beans, stones, buttons, or some other small items for students to mark their bingo cards

INSTRUCTIONS

Print out several sets of Bingo Cards. There are four variations. Distribute different cards to the students. Each student will need one. Go through the words on the bingo cards to make sure the students can read them. If students still have trouble reading the words, pair them up with a better reader. Read a question aloud and provide time for the students to mark their cards. Some of the words are repeated on the cards. Students should only mark one word for each question. Call on a student to give the correct answer. The student who gets five in a row is the winner. Continue play as time permits, mixing up the questions each time.

David had faith in God when he was facing the giant, Goliath. God used David to

accomplish His perfect plan for Israel. In Battle Bingo you'll answer review questions from today's lesson and mark the answers on your card with a bean/stone/button. If you get five answers in a row, shout Battle Bingo! *Play the game.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Even though David was young and didn't have a lot of fighting experience, God still used him in a mighty way. He stood up against what all of Israel was afraid of, the giant Goliath. David went into the battle upset that the Philistines had made fun of his God. He trusted that the Lord was with him and would allow him to have the victory. And sure enough, God won the battle, using the shepherd boy and one stone! God's plan was perfect.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

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

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

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

David's bravery was not his own. And David didn't fight the giant for himself. God gave David courage because David trusted God and knew that God would win! David went into battle knowing that the battle was the Lord's and that the victory would be the Lord's as well. The courage David had was from God. This is an important lesson for us. David was able to face the giant and go on to do even more amazing things for the Lord because he trusted in the power of God and not in his own power.

God uses people every day to do His will. We can only do what God asks us if we are faithful and know that He has the power to help us! God can use us to do His will. But we **MUST** trust Him, believe Him, and have faith in Him. Remember that He has helped His people in the past and He will help us, too. The more we know about 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 children 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 His plans will always be accomplished perfectly. He is in control.
- 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.

