

# David And Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-52

## MEMORY VERSE

1 SAMUEL 17:47

“The LORD does not save with sword or spear; for the battle is the LORD’S and He will give you into our hands.”

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Masking tape and markers.

Construction paper, “Walking in David’s Steps” template, crayons or markers and a paper bag.

Small square pieces of leather or suede (approximately 3” x 3”), leather lace or string (4 pieces per child approximately 12” long), a hole punch, ping pong balls and markers.

## ATTENTION GRABBER!

### How Big is the Giant?

To get an idea of how big Goliath was in comparison to David, use a tape measure to measure out 9’ 9” in the center of the room. Mark off the size using masking tape.

Have each child lay on the floor next to the measurements with their feet at the line where you began your “Goliath” measurement. Mark the child’s height using a piece of masking tape. Write the child’s name on the piece of masking tape.

Have all of the children mark their height and then as a class compare their height with Goliath’s height. Why do they think it was so important for David to trust in the Lord? It’s a good thing that **God fights our battles for us!!!**

## LESSON TIME!

In our lesson today, we are going to study about one of the most popular stories in the entire Bible. It is a story about a young man by the name of David who stood before a mighty and scary giant by the name of Goliath. David stood to fight Goliath for his nation and for the honor of the Lord. The stakes were high, because the victor would not only win his life, but victory over a whole nation.

In a great demonstration of faith, David moves to stand before the giant, risking his own life and the welfare of his nation. David was much smaller and without the same weapons and armor; yet his confidence was not in his ability but in the Lord—he knew the Lord would be with him. **God fights our battles for us.** Let's see how our story unfolds.

### SAMUEL 17:1-11

Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.

And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.

The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.

Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

"If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

Because the Israelites were not obedient to the Lord when they first came into the land, the Philistines would be a problem for them through many years. Once again, the Philistines have gathered their army against Israel. How important that we learn to obey the Lord.

The Israelites were at a stand still. They were just holding their ground, too fearful to attack. Meanwhile the Philistines sent out their champion, Goliath. Goliath was a giant and was probably very scary to the Israelites. He carried a big sword and wore heavy armor. Not one of the soldiers from Israel wanted to go and fight Goliath.

War is not a game; it is a matter of life and death. In Bible days, battle with an enemy meant hand-to-hand combat and the best man won. It was bloody, violent, and ruthless. The winner walked away with not only his life, but with all the spoils of victory. And the survivors of the losing side would become slaves to the victors, only to be oppressed. The loss of family and loved ones would be a sorrowful reminder of the battle's outcome.

Occasionally, an army would avoid the high cost of battle by matching its strongest warrior against the strongest warrior of the enemy, thus avoiding great bloodshed. This was the case in this Israeli/Philistine encounter. Goliath, the Philistine champion, challenged the Israeli army to send out a man to fight for Israel.

In the days of the Exodus, most of the Israelites were afraid to enter the Promised Land because of the giants living there (See Numbers 13:32-33). Goliath, a towering nine feet, nine inches tall, laughed and mocked Israel's soldiers and King Saul. Who would stand up to this monster of a man and risk his life?

### 1 SAMUEL 17:12-25

Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.

The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.

But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.

"And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."

Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle. For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.

And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.

Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

David, the youngest, had been chosen by God to be the next king of Israel; but at this time, he was running errands for his dad (bringing food to his brothers) and tending sheep at home in Bethlehem. Though still a young man, he also served as a personal musician to Saul.

David, sent to deliver food to his brothers, now witnesses the dilemma of the Israeli army. Goliath makes his appearance and again challenges Israel to send a man to fight against him. David learned that whoever defeated this giant would be richly rewarded.

### 1 SAMUEL 17:26-30

Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.

The mocking words of Goliath, not only towards Israel, but also towards God, set a fire in the heart of David. It was not so much the reward and freedom that was offered by King Saul that caught David's attention, but the boastful words of the giant against God's people. David replied, "Who is the uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"

David had a different perspective than that of King Saul and his army. When David looked at Goliath, he saw a mortal man defying almighty God. King Saul was afraid and perplexed. David must have been disappointed as he saw the army of Israel scared and hopeless, but David knew that **God fights our battles for us.**

Eliab, his oldest brother, was not very happy to see David's interest in this standoff and harshly expresses his discontent with him. Eliab may have been dealing with some jealousy and resentment towards David. After all, his little brother had been anointed as king; perhaps his position as a musician playing the harp for Saul also brought jealousy. David gracefully avoided conflict with Eliab.



Though negative comments were hurled at David, David could not be easily discouraged. He knew the importance of taking action. With God there to fight for him, there was no reason to wait.

People may try to discourage you with negative comments or mockery, but like David you must continue to do what you know is right. By doing what is right, you will be pleasing God, whose opinion matters most.

## Walking In David's Steps

Can you walk in obedience and do what God has asked you to do? This activity will help illustrate what it means to walk in someone else's footsteps.

For the younger children: Cut out 20-foot prints using construction paper (a template is provided). Make a path in your room using the footprints. You can tape the prints down using a loop made out of masking tape. Weave the footprints under tables, around toy boxes and between chairs. Be creative with your "obstacle course." Have the children each step on the footprints, but make sure that they stay on the steps.

For the older children: Choose a variety of colors of construction paper. Cut out one-foot print for each child. Using crayons or markers, have them print one big word on each foot (use the theme or the memory verse). Take a large paper bag and mix all of the feet. Have the children pick a "foot" and see if they can set them in the right order (according to memory verse or theme) in front of the classroom.

### 1 SAMUEL 17:31-40

Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.

Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

"Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

Moreover David 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." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.

David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

King Saul soon heard about David's desire to fight Goliath and summoned him. David came before him with words of encouragement. At first King Saul told David, "you are just a kid, what can you do?" Has anyone ever told you that? God can do some pretty amazing things through the lives of children. He can do some pretty amazing things through your life if you will let Him.

With boldness and faith, David assured King Saul that he could indeed slay this giant of a man. As a shepherd he slew a lion and a bear--it was the *Lord* who delivered him. "This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

To King Saul, his consent to send little David out to fight this giant was like sending a lamb to the slaughter. Unfortunately for King Saul, he had no other options; no one would stand up to this monster. Saul thought that maybe a soldier's armor would make the difference--at least David would look like a warrior.

King Saul tried to make a warrior out of a shepherd, but David knew armor would not help. God would use him as he was and in God's care, he would have all the protection he needed. **God fights our battles for us.** We do not have to rely on gadgets or schemes to accomplish a task that God wants us to do. We need simple faith in a great God who will enable us to carry out His will, no matter how great the challenge.

## 1 SAMUEL 17:41-52

So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.

And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

Then David said to the Philistine, "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.

"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

"Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."

So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.

When David went out to the valley to meet Goliath's challenge, Goliath is not impressed with David at all. He looked at the ruddy young boy and despised him with a great hatred. Goliath felt insulted that the great nation of Israel would send out a young boy to fight against him.

David went quickly out to him with only his shepherd's staff, his sling, and some stones. As the newly appointed shepherd of his people, David went to defend the Lord's threatened and frightened flock. God used David to protect his father's flock; now He would use David to protect *His* flock. Though David's weapons were no match for a warrior like Goliath, *God* would make the difference in David's battle. **God fights our battles for us.** David's strength was his reliance on the Lord (Psalm 9:10).

David had no doubt that he was not alone, because he knew that His God would be faithful. Often times, we as Christians, face impossible circumstances that seem like giants to us; and we feel overwhelmed. Facing the problem on our own would mean certain defeat. But, as Christians, like David, we can be confident that God is on our side; and because the Lord is on our side, our enemies will be defeated. God will see us through. **God fights our battles for us.**

David responded confidently to Goliath that Goliath was no match—though he came with a sword, spear, and javelin (David had only five small stones); for David came “in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel,” the one Goliath had defied.” David boldly announced that God would indeed give Israel victory so that “all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel” and “...the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.” **God fights our battles for us.**

With the challenge made, the giant arose and came down to meet David. David ran down quickly to meet Goliath in battle. There must have been quite a bit of tension in the air as all of Israel watched this match, praying and hoping for a miracle. David knew that this battle would be quickly over. Without any hesitation, David slung a stone; the stone embedded into the forehead of Goliath. Goliath fell to the ground, on his face.

When David used Goliath's sword to cut off his head, the Philistines fled in fear; for they knew they would suffer the same fate as their champion. The Philistine army was defeated. A young shepherd boy, with only five small stones and a sling, led the way to victory because *God was with him.*

Let us, as Christians, exhibit the same confidence as David when faced with seemingly insurmountable difficulties; for “the battle is the Lord's.” The enemy is certainly no match for us when God is on our side. **God fights our battles for us.**

## David’s Sling Shot

For this craft you will need small square pieces of leather or suede (approximately 3” x 3”), leather lace or string (4 pieces per child approximately 12” long), a hole punch, ping pong balls and markers. Using the square pieces of leather or suede, punch a hole in each of the 4 corners. Tie one end of each of the 4 leather cords to the ends of the piece of suede. Next give each child a ping pong ball and allow them to color it with markers gray, brown, or black to resemble a stone. They now have a sling and a stone that resembles David’s in our story.

On the piece of leather or suede, allow the children to write, “**God fights our battles for us,**” along with the scripture reference or memory verse.

## PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord that He fights all of our battles for us. We can trust in Him in every situation. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them the opportunity.

