

David and Goliath

**Bible verses:**

1 Samuel 17:4-16,32,38-40,48-50
David and Goliath

**Aim:**

To learn the story of David and Goliath

**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



In today's session we begin our adventure through a range of stories from the Old and New Testament.

Our journey starts with a young boy facing a huge giant. Surrounded by fearful Israelites, David trusted in God and watched the giants fall.

David had faith to trust that God would look after him when he faced Goliath.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Memory verse wristband
- A **plain exercise book** or homemade notebook (A4 paper folded in half and stapled) - see Action it
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To find some artist depictions of Goliath (optional)
- Memory verse poster
- Paper and pen for a list (optional) - see Pray it
- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness*



Start it

Give the children paper and pens/pencils and ask them to draw a Bible character based on your description. Slowly read through the following description, based on 1 Samuel 17:4-7, giving the children an opportunity to draw each part. Make sure the children know that bronze is a metal, often a dull gold/brown colour, and how tall roughly three metres is.

- Draw a man about 2m 85cm tall (nine feet four inches).
- He has a bronze helmet on his head.
- He is wearing a coat of armour made of lots of little pieces of bronze.
- On his legs are bronze protectors, protecting his shins.
- He had a small bronze spear tied on his back.
- Also on his back is a larger wooden spear with a large heavy blade.
- There is an officer soldier walking in front of him, carrying his shield.

Look at the pictures together and ask the children if they can guess the Bible character. You may want to show some other artists' ideas and compare them to their drawings. What is similar/different?

Say:

Today we will be discovering more about the story of David and Goliath.

Sing it

Say:

We're going to sing a song that gives us a sneak preview of the story of David and Goliath.

Song

'David and Goliath' Bible song with lyrics by Shawna Edwards (stop at 2:23)

Tell it

Say:

Our story for today is found in the Old Testament in the book of 1 Samuel. Let's watch the clip to discover what happened to David when he stood up to Goliath.



Video

David and Goliath slapstick theatre by Saddleback Kids (3:10)

Watch: 0:00-1:08 'The Israelites and King Saul were very afraid.'

Ask:

- What have we discovered about Goliath so far?
- How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw Goliath walking toward them?

Read:

'Goliath stood and shouted to the Israelite soldiers, "Why have you taken positions for battle? I am a Philistine, and you are Saul's servants! Choose a man and send him to fight me. If he can fight and kill me, we will become your servants. But if I defeat and kill him, you will become our servants." Then he said, "Today I stand and dare the army of Israel! Send one of your men to fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard the Philistine's words, they were very afraid.'

(1 Samuel 17:8-11 *ICB*)

Say:

Most of the time wars are fought with two groups of soldiers fighting each other. Sadly, this usually leads to many people losing their lives like in World War II or the wars we see in the world today.

Say:

King Saul often fought against the Philistines because they were constantly invading Israelite territory. The Philistines' champion Goliath did things differently. Instead of two armies fighting against each other, he wanted the Israelites to choose one man to fight him on behalf of their side.

Ask:

- What do you think of Goliath's way of fighting?
- Why do you think he felt confident he would win?

Say:

The Philistines' champion was nearly three metres tall (roughly nine foot), dressed top to toe in bronze armour ready to fight for them. It's not surprising that the Israelites were afraid. Each day they delayed sending someone to fight, their fear got worse.

Read:

'The Philistine Goliath came out every morning and evening. He stood before the Israelite army. This continued for 40 days.'

(1 Samuel 17:16 *ICB*)

Ask:

How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw Goliath and heard him shouting at them every morning?

Say:

Despite the fear running through the Israelite camp, there was one boy who was not afraid. In fact, he was the only one willing to take on the giant Goliath. David went to King Saul and offered to fight on behalf of the Israelites.

Ask:

How do you think King Saul reacted when David offered to fight Goliath?

Read:

'Saul answered, "You can't go out against this Philistine and fight him. You're only a boy"...

'Saul put his own clothes on David. He put a bronze helmet on David's head and armour on his body. David put on Saul's sword and tried to walk around. But he was not used to all the armour Saul had put on him.

'He said to Saul, "I can't go in this. I'm not used to it." Then David took it all off. He took his stick in his hand, and he chose five smooth stones from a stream. He put them in his pouch and held his sling in his hand. Then he went to meet Goliath.'

(1 Samuel 17:33,38-40 *ICB*)

Ask:

At first King Saul said David couldn't do it. But then he tried to help David by giving him a suit of armour. Why wasn't it helpful?

Say:

David knew his strengths and was confident God had prepared him for this moment. He was used to fighting lions to protect the sheep, and out in the fields he had no fancy armour. Now was the time for David to trust in God and step out in faith.

Watch: 1:09 to end.

Ask:

How did David defeat Goliath?

Say:

By trusting in God's power, David was able to defeat the giant and save his people.



Action it

Throughout the *Explore It* sessions this month the children are going to each create a storybook. This will enable them to look at different stories told in the Old and New Testament and give them an opportunity to discover new stories in the *Explore It Ideas* activities.

Each child will need a plain notebook or a homemade version. Ideally they will bring their storybook each week. But if they forget, they can complete each activity on a sheet of paper and stick it in their book when they get home.

Say:

Throughout our *Explore it* sessions this month we are going to hear lots of stories. The Bible is full of amazing stories like the one we've heard today. Over the next few weeks we will hear more stories told **by** Jesus and **about** Jesus. In Matthew 13 we find out that Jesus loved to tell stories to teach the people.

Read:

'Jesus used stories to tell all these things to the people. He always used stories to teach people. This is as the prophet said:

"I will speak using stories;

I will tell things that have been secret since the world was made."

(Matthew 13:34-35 *ICB*)

Say:

We are going to use part of verse 35 as our memory verse for this month.

Display the memory verse and read it together. Give each child a memory verse wristband.

Memory verse

'I will speak using stories;

I will tell things that have been secret since the world was made.'

(Matthew 13:35 *ICB*)

The children can create the front cover for their storybook by writing their name and using the memory verse in a decorative way. On the first page of the book, they can retell the story of David and Goliath however they would like. They will be able to complete their story as part of their *Explore It Ideas* activity at home.

Pray it

Say:

In our prayer time we're going to think about the 'giants' that we face in life. We could describe these 'giants' as people or situations that make us feel afraid or worried about what might happen in the future. Every morning the Israelites woke up to hear their giant shouting and taunting them. Sometimes it can feel like our 'giants' do the same thing. As soon as we open our eyes, we remember a person or situation that fills us with fear.

Ask:

What kinds of things can act as 'giants' in our lives?

If the children feel comfortable, they can share their own 'giants'; but if not, the conversation can be steered to general people or situations that may cause fear or anxiety. You may want to create a list for the children to refer to.

For example:

- Starting at a new school
- Having a new teacher
- Falling out with someone
- Preparing for a test
- Not keeping up with your schoolwork
- Dealing with children who are unkind to you

Say:

In our story today David showed us how to deal with the 'giants' in our lives. His story helps us to see that God is faithful and will always be there for us.

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

God's faithfulness doesn't always mean things will turn out exactly how we want. There were many times when the Philistines caused a lot of problems for the Israelites, and they certainly didn't win every time, but God was with them.

To bring the session to a close, give the children an opportunity to write or draw a prayer to ask God to be with them as they face the 'giants' in their life. They could complete this activity in their storybook or on a separate sheet of paper. As they write their prayer, play the song 'Giants Fall' by Francesca Battistelli.

Listen

'Giants Fall' lyric video by Francesca Battistelli (3:06)

Read the chorus from the song to bring the session to a close.

**'So don't you be afraid
Of giants in your way.
With God, you know that anything's possible.
So step into the fight,
He's right there by your side.
The stones inside your hand might be small
But watch the giants fall.'**

– Francesca Battistelli

Remind the children to take their storybooks home – and to bring them back next week.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



David and Goliath

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 17:4-16,32,38-40,48-50
David and Goliath



Aim:

To learn the story of David and Goliath



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Create

In today's session you started to create your own Bible storybook. Watch the clip to remind you what happened when David stood up to Goliath.

David and Goliath slapstick theatre by Saddleback Kids

Finish creating your version of the story and remember bring your storybook to next week's session to show everyone.



Pray

This week you took time to think about some of the 'giants' in your life. God is always with us, but he also gives us people in our lives who we can pray with and talk things through.

Think of someone you can trust to talk through your fears and worries. Ask them to spend time listening to you and praying with you.



Song for the week

'David and Goliath' Bible song with lyrics by Shawna Edwards



Memory verse

**'I will speak using stories;
I will tell things that have been secret
since the world was made.'**

(Matthew 13:35 /CB)

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38-40,48-50



Aim:

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Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Memory verse

**'I will speak using stories;
I will tell things that have been secret
since the world was made.'**

(Matthew 13:35 *ICB*)



Start it

Today we are going to hear about a really tall man, a giant called Goliath, and a young boy called David.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of 1 Samuel 17:4-16,32,38-40,48-50.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Do you know a person who is very tall?
- What is the tallest building you have ever seen?
- Can you think of a very strong person?
- What is the bravest thing you have ever done?
- Think of a person who wears armour and how it helps them.

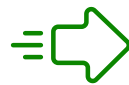


Sing It

'If I were a butterfly' (lyrics and music)

'The butterfly song' by Brian Howard,
uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

'Wonderful Lord' (official video) by Doug
Horley (3:13)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Pretend you are David walking into battle against Goliath.
- Act out the scene where Goliath is hit by the stone and falls to the ground.
- Try on an adult's coat to see what it felt like for David to be wearing Saul's armour.
- David gathered five stones - see if you can find five of the same item eg: socks, Lego pieces, pens ...