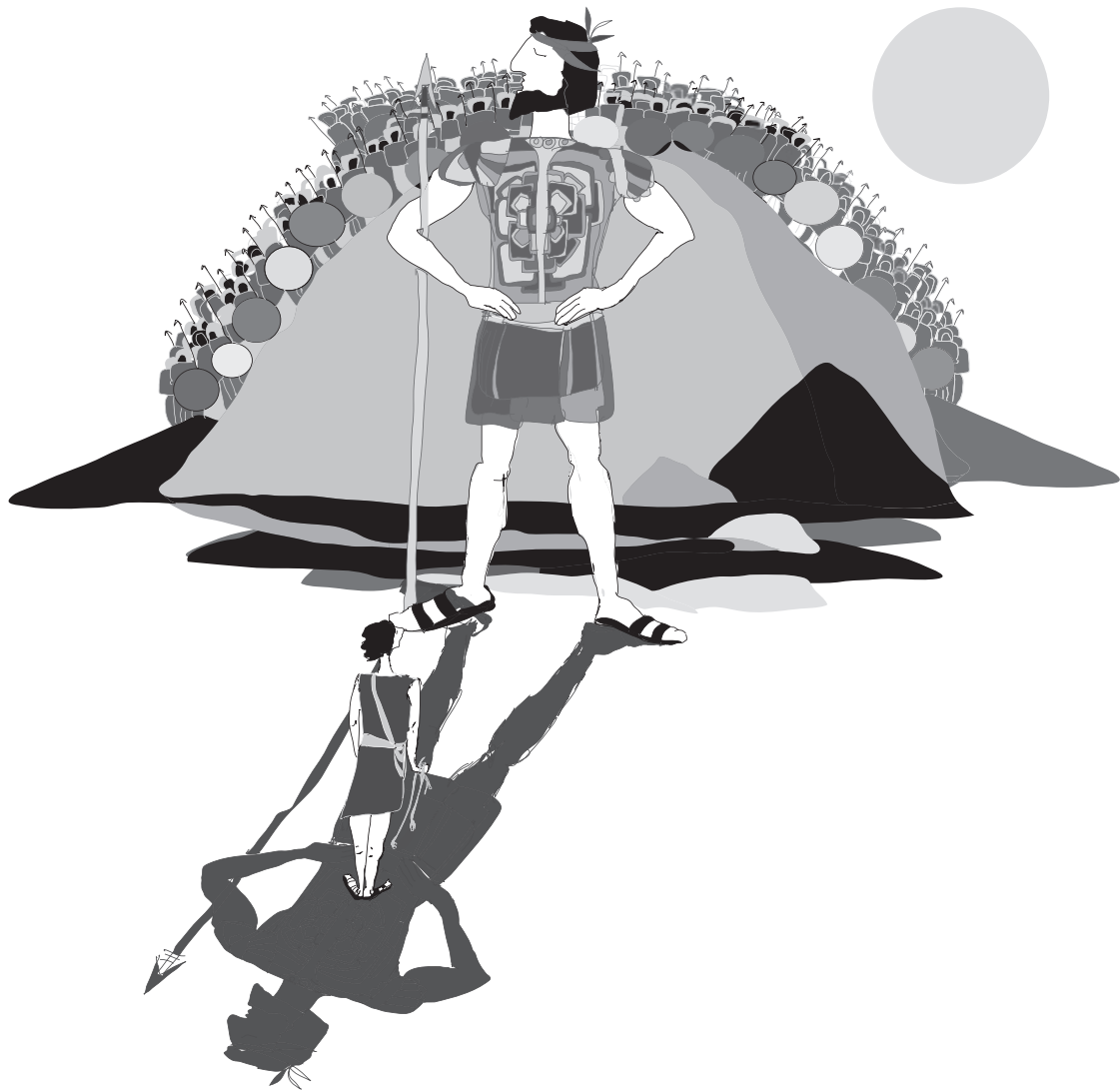


LESSON 57

David & Goliath

1 SAMUEL 16:14 – 17:58



BIBLE TRUTH

SALVATION BELONGS TO THE LORD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 1 Samuel 17 from the Scriptures or read story 57, “David and Goliath,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Knock Down the Cups
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ ten sixteen-ounce foam cups
 - ✓ three lightweight plastic, practice golf balls
 - ✓ candy-coated chocolate for prizes (be aware of possible allergies)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
What’s the Battle All About?
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 57—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Draw the Giant
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ tape measure
 - ✓ roll of freezer paper or other rolled drawing paper
 - ✓ tape
 - ✓ black markers
 - ✓ stepladder

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God transfers authority from Saul to David—Here we see God beginning to transfer authority from Saul to David. God removes his Spirit from Saul, brings David into the king's palace, and begins to give him favor. It is interesting that Saul was comforted by David's music for even today psalms that David wrote bring great comfort to God's people.

God's Spirit is the real source of courage—Now that God's Spirit has been removed from Saul, he is terrified and helpless against Goliath. But David is bold as the Spirit of God fills him with courage and faith. David is angry when he sees Goliath defying the armies of Israel.

David confronts and kills Goliath—To David, Goliath is not threatening the army of Saul, the human king; he is threatening the army of God, the divine King. David knows that it is God who rules over Israel regardless of who might be on a human throne, and he knows that salvation comes only from God. This is why David knows that Goliath can be defeated, and this is why David will become a greater king than Saul.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 1 Samuel 17:47.

Who are you most like in this story: Goliath, Saul and the men of Israel, or David? We all would like to think we are like David, but when trials come to us, we can struggle to trust God like the men of Israel did.

The truth is that we are more like the men of Israel than we realize. We all have a giant in our lives—sin. We can't conquer that giant by ourselves. Like Israel, we need a Savior who will fight and conquer our giant for us. David was the man God sent to save Israel from the enemy, Goliath; and Jesus is the man God sent to save us from our enemy, sin.

David offered to take up Goliath's challenge to come forward and represent Israel. If he won, Israel would win; if he lost, all of Israel would become servants of the Philistines. Like David, Jesus stood in our place. Now everyone who trusts in him shares in his victory over sin.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 Samuel 17 from the Scriptures or read story 57, "David and Goliath," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Knock Down the Cups

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten sixteen-ounce foam cups

- ✓ three lightweight plastic, practice golf balls
- ✓ candy-coated chocolate for prizes (be aware of possible allergies)

This exercise is to help the children understand how much David was motivated by God and not by personal gain.

On a table, set the cups up in a pyramid, stacking them four on the bottom, three on the second row, two on the third row, and one at the top. Practice hitting them down with the practice golf balls to determine an appropriate distance for the competition.

Tell the children that the cups represent the Philistines who are mocking God. Tell them you want to defeat the Philistines by knocking them down with the balls. For each Philistine (cup) a person knocks down they will get one piece of candy, and for each one knocked off the table they will get an additional candy. For a total score of 15 or above, a person will get a double prize.

Write down everyone's score. If they ask about their reward tell them they will get it when everyone is done. As the game progresses make comments like "Knock down those evil Philistines" and "Be a champion for God." Discreetly record each person's scores. Once everyone has had a chance to throw, thank them for their enthusiasm. They will likely demand their reward. Pretend you forgot about prizes and see how long you can go before they ask repeatedly when they can have their reward. You might say something like, "You're not hungry for them now, are you?" to get them riled up a bit. After a bit of teasing, hand out the rewards.

Then ask the class the following questions:

What was the reward for killing Goliath?

(1 Samuel 17:25 says the reward was great riches, making his father's house free from taxes, and receiving the king's daughter in marriage.)

When did David claim his reward?

(There is no record of David ever claiming his reward. It seems that the reward mattered little to David. He was motivated by his love and honor for God.)

How important was the reward for knocking down the cups?

(Very important: Explain to the class that doing things for the reward is normal. David was unusual. He truly was a man after God's own heart.)

Who are we most like in this story?

(We are like Saul and the army of Israel for we are often too afraid to do what honors the Lord. Sometimes we are like Goliath, sinning outright and mocking those who would honor and serve God. This happens with young people when they mock someone for lifting their hands in worship or always being obedient. We are not naturally full of faith like David, the man after God's heart, who we should compare to Jesus, the one who saves us from our sin.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

What's the Battle All About?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Read 1 Samuel 17 from the Scriptures or read story 57, "David and Goliath," from *The Gospel Story Bible*, and ask the children to tell you what this story is all about.

You are looking for them to pick up on the following themes:

- The battle is between God and Goliath.
- The story shows the rise of David in contrast with the rejection of Saul.
- The story contrasts Goliath's pride with David's humility.
- The story contrasts manmade weapons with the power of God.

When we hear the story of David and Goliath, we can miss the point of exalting God and either exalt Goliath's great size or David's skill with a sling.

Then ask the class the following questions:

Why do you think people identify with David when they read this story?

(People love a story about a hero and often imagine themselves as the hero. We all have difficulties that we need to overcome, and we like to think we can handle them apart from God. The truth is God is the hero of the story of David and Goliath. God used David to defeat Goliath.)

Why do you think people usually don't identify with Goliath or Saul?

(We like to think that we are pretty good. We can lose sight of the fact that we are sinners in need of a Savior and that our sin is rebellion against God. Apart from God's grace, we would be more like Goliath, Saul, and the unbelieving Israelites.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 57—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

How tall was Goliath?

(Goliath was over nine feet tall—his head would have touched the bottom of a basketball net when he walked under it.)

Who did Goliath trust in?

(Goliath trusted in his size and his own strength. He did not trust in the Lord.)

How can this story help us to trust in the Lord?

(If we remember that God helped young David do a great thing with just a few stones, it will encourage us that God can help us to do things that seem impossible.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Draw the Giant

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ tape measure
- ✓ roll of freezer paper or other rolled drawing paper
- ✓ tape
- ✓ black markers
- ✓ stepladder

Roll out two sheets of freezer paper ten-feet long and tape them side by side on the coated side of the paper. Then lay the paper coated/taped side down on the floor or on some other hard surface. Using your tape measure, measure and mark nine feet nine inches from one end of the paper. This is Goliath's height, which in the Bible is recorded as six cubits and a span.

Now draw the outline of a large man the same height as Goliath. Don't worry about the details; the important thing is for the children to see just how tall Goliath was. Roll the drawing up to use later in class.

When your students arrive, read the story of Goliath and his challenge to Israel. Then ask the class to tell you why no one in Israel wanted to fight Goliath. They will of course mention that he was a giant. That is when you can pull out your drawing and slowly unroll it.

A fun exercise is to get the shortest and the tallest person in your class. Have them lay on top of the Goliath drawing with the bottom of their feet even with Goliath's. Then, using your marker, trace out their outlines right on top of Goliath's. If you want, get a stepladder and tape up your Goliath (if your ceiling is high enough).

As a class project you can add detail to Goliath and color him in. Write the name GOLIATH near his head and David above the tallest of your children's outlines, and then tape up your drawing in the church lobby for everyone to see. Your students will enjoy taking their parents over to see what they did in class.

LESSON 57 - DAVID AND GOLIATH

