

DAVID AND GOLIATH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 SAMUEL 16:14-17:58



Salvation belongs to the Lord.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul marking an end to his reign – There is a striking contrast between 1 Samuel 16:14 and 16:18. The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul in verse 14. But the Lord was very much with the young man David, Saul called for the youth and was comforted by David's music. We, too, are comforted by David's psalms. In the providence of God, many of David's psalms have been preserved. Saul made David his armor bearer but there is no evidence that Saul was even using his armor at that time. In fact, by the end of 1 Samuel 17, Saul can't even remember who David's father was (1 Samuel 17:56).

Goliath challenged Israel and Saul failed to confront him – Saul was Israel's king, the one who was chosen to fight Israel's battles (1 Samuel 8:20). Saul was also the most qualified. He was described as being taller and stronger than all the other people (1 Samuel 10:23). Instead of rising in faith to meet Goliath, Saul stayed behind the lines, dismayed and terrified (1 Samuel 17:11). Here we see the effects of God abandoning Saul. Not only had he begun to go mad and was tormented by an evil spirit, but he was quite immobilized with fear. Without God's Spirit, Saul's "greatness" was useless to Israel.

David, speaking for God, confronted and killed Goliath – When David heard the threats and mocking of Goliath he heard it differently than others did. Rather than hearing only a threat to Saul's army, David heard Goliath's remarks as a threat to the armies of the living God. Unlike Saul, David was a man after God's own heart. God wanted to be the commander of the army and David desired the same. Filled with faith, David confronted Goliath with the truth and power of God. David refused Saul's armor saying,

The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. (1 Samuel 17:37)

Goliath mocked David and boasted in himself. David boasted in the Lord. Then he spoke a prophetic word to Goliath saying – "The battle is the Lord's and He saves not with sword and spear" (1 Samuel 17:47). David understood that salvation was the Lord's. Before the battle had even begun, the victory was prophesied and the credit for the victory was ascribed to the Lord in advance.

David killed Goliath with a stone from his sling and cut off Goliath's head with Goliath's own sword. Israel pursued the Philistines and routed them all the way to Gath, Goliath's home-town. The victory was won by Israel, and Saul was left to watch.

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WHERE IS JESUS?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The key to seeing Jesus in this passage is found in the words of David to the giant:

The Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand. (1 Samuel 17:47)

The Lord saves by His Spirit. King Saul did not understand that David could triumph over Goliath by God's power. Goliath trusted in his own power and mocked David. David understood that his battle would be won not by might, but by the Spirit of the Lord.

The battle for our salvation was won on the cross by God's power in Jesus. Though the crowds tried to force Him to become king, Jesus knew the battle was a spiritual battle that would only be won on the cross.

In 1 Corinthians 15:50-56 we read of the victory that Jesus won for us. David won a victory over the Philistines, saving the Israelite soldiers from death. Jesus won the final victory over death giving us the opportunity to live forever with Him in heaven.



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ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Psalm 95:4-8

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Christ is the maker of the heavens and the earth (see Colossians 1:16). Jesus is the shepherd and we are the sheep, see John 10:9.

Questions for reflection:

- How does Psalm 95:4-8 point forward to Jesus? (Jesus is the creator of all things and we are His sheep, His people.)
- What did the people do at Meribah that we want to avoid? (The people grumbled because they did not have water. They forgot the Lord and longed to go back to Egypt. We need to be sure to trust the Lord and not follow our cravings. God gives us everything we need. When we lack what we need to do His will, we should simply ask Him in faith for what we need.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.



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ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

KNOCK DOWN THE CUPS

Supplies

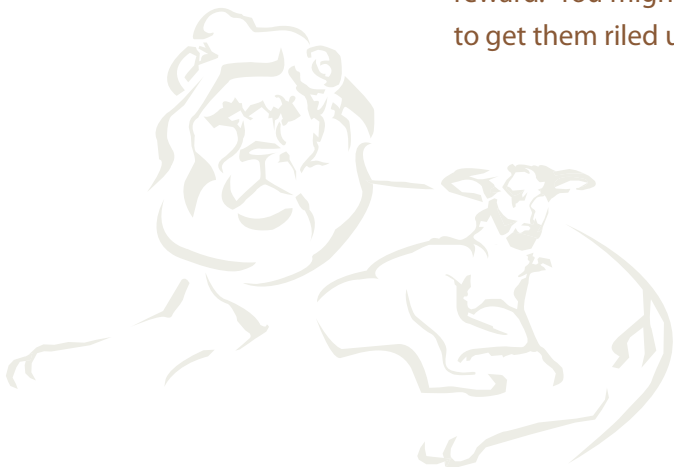
- 10 16-ounce foam cups
 - three practice golf balls
 - M&M™ candies for prizes
- (be aware of possible allergies), table

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 bowling pin formation, only stack 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 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 M&M™ and for each one knocked off the table they will get an additional M&M™. 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.



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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.)
- When we read this story who should we compare ourselves to? (We should compare ourselves to 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 youth when they mock someone for lifting their hands in worship or always being obedient. We are not naturally full of faith like David. Instead, we should compare David, the man after God's heart, to Jesus, the one who saves us from our sin.)



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WHAT'S THE BATTLE ALL ABOUT?

Supplies

white board and markers

Read 1 Samuel 17 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 compare themselves 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 compare themselves 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 and unbelief. Apart from God's grace, we would be more like Goliath, Saul and the unbelieving Israelites.)



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DAVID AND GOLIATH TRIVIA

Supplies

make trivia cards, a prize
for the winners

Read the story to the class and then divide the class into girls and boys. Have them take turns answering the following questions. The team with the most

points in the end is the winner. Only one person is allowed to answer a question. Each person can only answer one question. Each team must select a person to answer the question before it is read. If the question is answered incorrectly the opposing team may pick someone to answer it. If you get the question correct on the first try it is worth 5 points. Each subsequent try by the opposing team is worth one point less.

1. What city was Goliath from? (Gath.)
2. What was Goliath's helmet made of? (Bronze.)
3. What city was David from? (Bethlehem.)
4. What three items did David carry to the troops? (An ephah of parched grain, ten loaves, and ten cheeses.)
5. What items did David take to confront Goliath? (Five smooth stones, a shepherd's pouch, his sling, and his staff.)
6. What two animals did David defeat to protect his sheep? (Lion and bear.)
7. Whose sword did David use to cut off Goliath's head? (Goliath's own.)
8. What did Saul promise to the man who could defeat Goliath? (Marriage to his daughter, great riches, and freedom for his family.)
9. What did Goliath say to David when David approached him for battle? ("Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?")
10. Who went with Goliath to confront the Israelites? (His shield bearer.)
11. How many of Jesse's sons followed Saul into battle? (Three.)
12. Which one of David's brothers got angry at him for coming to the battle? (Eliab, his eldest brother.)
13. Who did David say the battle belonged to? (The Lord.)



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PRAYER

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

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of a sling and five stones and write somewhere on their picture, "The battle is the LORD'S."

FOR OLDER GRADES

Ask the class to find similarities between Jesus and David. Write them on the board.

Both came from Bethlehem.

Both were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Both saved their people from their enemies.

Both fought without sword or spear by the power of God.

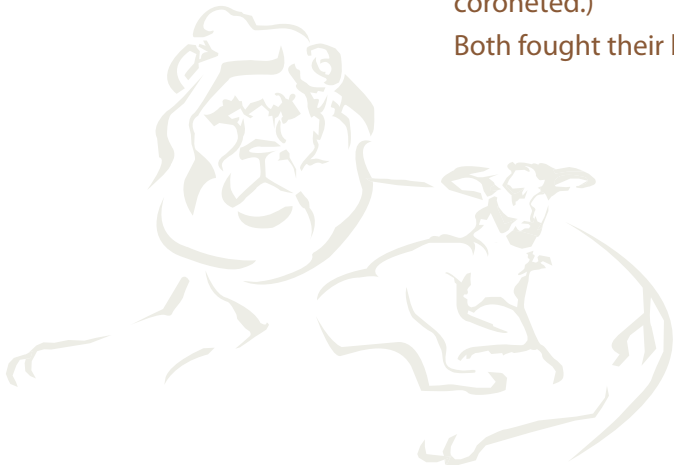
Both were prophets.

Both were shepherds. (Jesus is the great shepherd in His ministry.)

Both were descendants of Jesse.

Both were kings. (David had only been anointed at the time but not yet coroneted.)

Both fought their battles, not for their own glory, but for the glory of God.



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A LITTLE BIT MORE

Goliath – Goliath was a champion of the Philistines. He was a large man recorded as six cubits and a span which was nine feet nine inches. He was certainly a huge man and very strong but a normal man. His chain mail armor weighed 125 pounds and his spear head weighed 15 pounds. His armor was too heavy for a normal man but hardly the exaggerated armor of the giants in children's books.

