

Lesson 51 - David & Goliath

Aims

- * To learn that David could defeat Goliath because God was with him
- * To learn that small people can do big things with the help of God

Materials

- * The Beginner's Bible 1 Samuel: ch. 15-17
- * Visual aids - pictures from the story
- * David & Goliath game - 5 small and 1 big stones or marbles, masking tape
- * Measuring Goliath - large brown paper

Lesson Outline

1. Story
2. Questions about the story
3. Discussion
4. Activities - David & Goliath game, memory, Measuring Goliath, Finger Play, a picture to colour
5. Review the aims
6. Prayer

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1) Story

David is Chosen (1 Samuel 15:1-16:13)

The first king of Israel was King Saul. He was a good king at first but then he started to disobey God, so God asked the prophet Samuel to find a new king. God said to Samuel, "Go to Bethlehem and there is a man named Jesse with eight sons. One of them will be the next king." When Samuel met Jesse he said, "I would like to meet your sons."

When Samuel saw them he thought these are strong-looking men. But God told him, "I do not look at the outside of a person. I look at the inside of a person. I look at the heart."

Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Do you have another son?" Jesse said, "Yes, his name is David. He is out in the field with the sheep." Samuel asked to see him.

As soon as David arrived, God told Samuel, "He is the one I want to be the next king." Then Samuel **anointed** David. He poured oil on David's head, and he was filled with God's power.

David & Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-51)

The Philistines were enemies of God. Their army came to fight King Saul's army. A giant soldier called Goliath was over 9 ft (2.7 m) tall. He yelled, "Bring out your best soldier to fight me! If your strongest soldier defeats me, we will be your slaves!" he boomed. "If I defeat him, you will be our slaves!"

King Saul's soldiers were afraid. They did not want to fight the giant. Meanwhile, young David was taking food for his brothers. They were soldiers in King Saul's army. When David reached the camp, he saw Goliath. David heard the giant's challenge.

"I am not afraid to fight the giant," said David. King Saul called for David and told him, "You cannot fight the giant. You are too young." David replied, "God will be with me."

King Saul gave his **armour** to David, but it was big and heavy. David wasn't used to wearing armour. David went to a nearby stream and picked up five stones. He stood before Goliath. The giant laughed at him, but David didn't care. He said, "I come before you in the name of the Lord who rules over all."

David put a stone in his sling and ran towards the giant. Then he let the stone fly. It hit Goliath's forehead, and he fell to the ground! The Philistines saw that their hero was dead. They ran away.

2) Questions about the story

- * Why was God not happy with King Saul? - He started to disobey God
- * What kind of new king was God looking for? - a person who is good on the inside
- * How tall was Goliath? - 9 ft / 2.7 m.
- * What did Goliath have to fight with? - a sword, spear and shield
- * What did David have to fight with? - a sling and five stones
- * Why did Goliath laugh at David? - He thought he was too young to fight
- * What did David say? - God will be with me
- * Where did the stone hit Goliath? - on the forehead
- * How could David defeat Goliath? - with the power of God

3) Discussion

- * What does God look for in a person?
- * Does our size really matter to God? Does He care if we're short or tall, fat or skinny? Just because you are small doesn't mean you are weak. Goliath looked strong on the outside, but real strength is on the inside. David had God on his side and that is stronger than anything. God doesn't look at the outside of a person. He looks at the inside of a person. He looks at the heart
- * No matter how old you are, God thinks each person is important. With God's help we can do lots of important things and even great things
- * Could God use YOU to do something special for Him? If we ask God, He will always help us.

4) Activities

- * Picture cards - retell the story using the cards / play the memory game
- * David & Goliath game
- * Finger Play ~ David meets Goliath
- * Measuring Goliath
- * A picture to colour

5) Review the lesson aim

- * To learn that David could defeat Goliath because God was with him
- * To learn that small people can do big things with the help of God

6) Prayer





1. David and Goliath Game

This is a simple game to play to go with a David and Goliath theme -- it's basically just a variation of a game of marbles. Test the surface of the floor yourself to see how difficult it is to slide the rocks (some surfaces are easier than others) and adjust the size of the square accordingly (smaller squares for harder to slide surfaces).



Materials

- * 5 small stones or marbles, printed with the letters, D-a-v-i-d with a permanent marker
- * one large stone or marble with the letter G printed on it.
- * Glue a piece of felt to the bottom of each of your stones to prevent scratching
- * a smooth floor, masking tape

Directions for the game

1. Mark a play area with masking tape about 24 inches / 60 cm in diameter.
2. Mark a small X in the center. Place the Goliath stone or marble on the X.
3. Sit at the edge of the square and TAKE TURNS SLIDING the David rocks (or marbles) to knock Goliath out of the square. Don't let everyone slide their rocks at one time or someone will end up getting hurt. Make sure you show the children how to slide their rocks (not throw them) before you get started)

2. Finger Play ~ David meets Goliath

Have your child follow the actions in parentheses.

(Begin with your hands behind your back.)

Where is Goliath?

Here is Goliath. (Bring your left index finger from behind your back.)

Where is David?

Here is David. (Bring your right little finger from behind your back.)

Goliath is so tall. (Stretch your "Goliath" finger.)

David is so small. (Wiggle your "David" finger.)

Goliath said, "You cannot win. I am strongest, you will see." (Use a deep voice and move Goliath Finger while you are talking.)

David said, "I will win, for God will be with me." (Wiggle David while you are talking.)

David said a prayer. (Clasp your hands together.)

And threw his stone into the air. (Pretend to throw a stone.)

The stone flew well (shade your eyes to watch the stone.)

And the giant Goliath fell. (Topple Goliath into the palm of your right hand.)

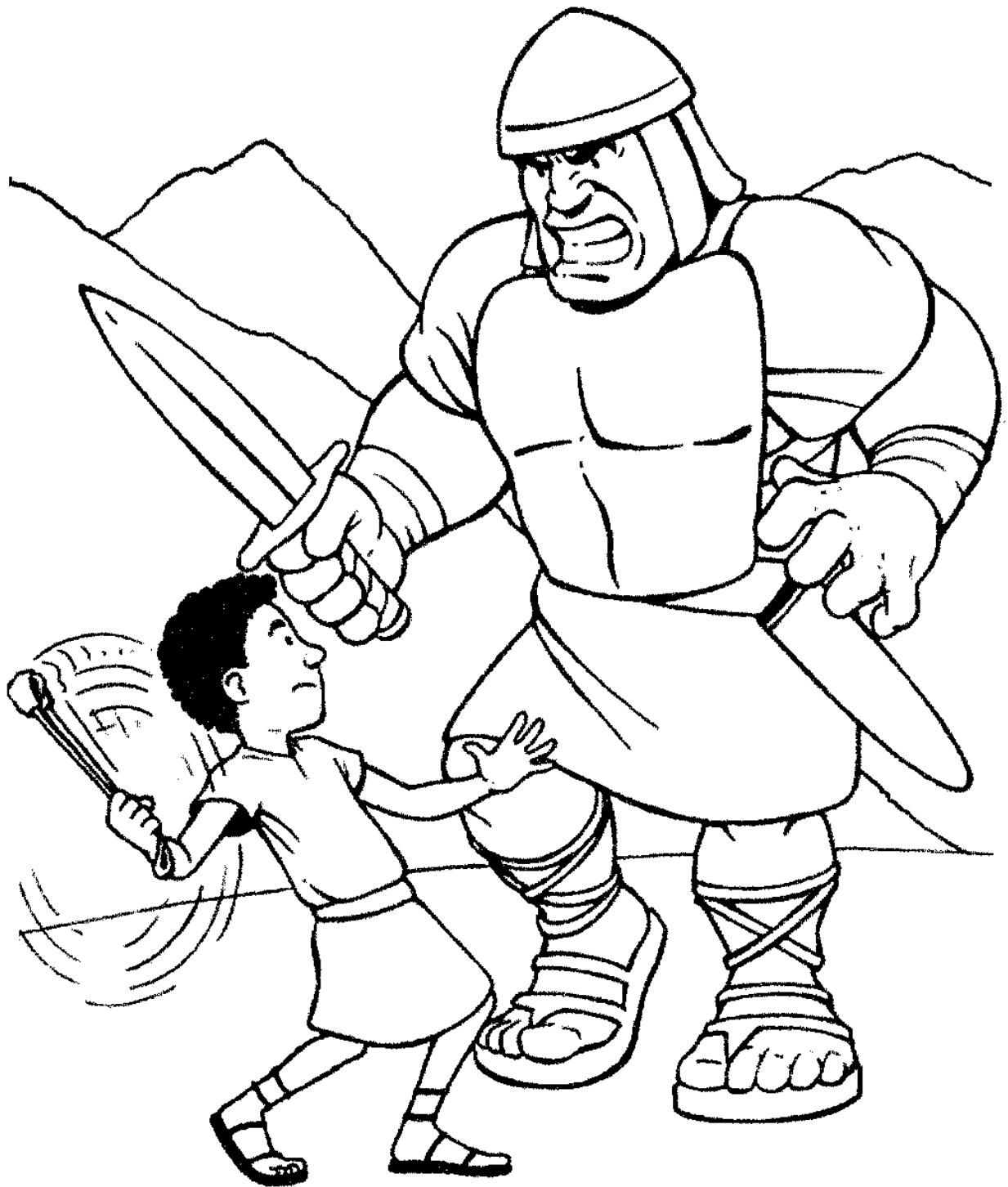
Little David won the fight (raise hands in victory),

For he believed in what is right (place hands in praying position).

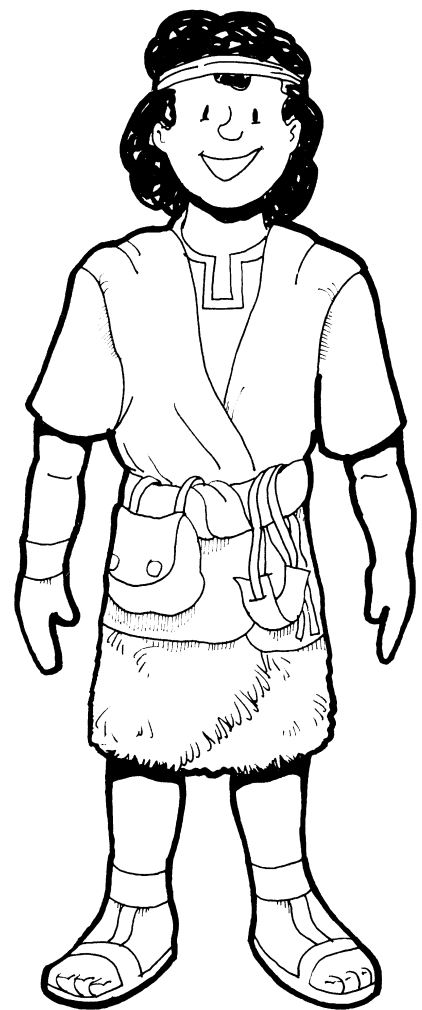
3. Measuring Goliath

Measure a piece of butcher paper to the height of 9 feet / 2.7m. Imagine what Goliath must have looked like. Have a boy stand next to the paper. Ask the kids who they think would win—Goliath or the boy. Teach the kids that God is bigger than a person. He can help us with anything!

David and Goliath



David and Goliath



David and Goliath - a more detailed story

Saul had been king, but he kept disobeying God so God asked Samuel to find a new king. God said to Samuel, "Go to Bethlehem and there is a man named Jesse with eight sons. One of them will be the next king."

When Samuel first met the sons he automatically thought that the oldest son named Eliab would be the king that God had chosen. But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at the way he looks or how big he is. Eliab is not the one I have chosen, the way he looks doesn't matter to me, I look at the heart."

Jesse brought more of his sons to meet Samuel but none of them God had chosen either. Samuel asked Jesse, "Have I met all your sons?" Jesse replied, "I have one son left named David, he's the youngest, and he's out looking after the sheep. I will bring him here to meet you."

As soon as Samuel saw him the Lord spoke to him and said, "He is the one." So Samuel anointed him with oil which was a special way of promising him that he would be the next king. And from that day on the power of the Lord was with David.

David continued to take care of his father's sheep in the fields. When he didn't have much to do in the field he played instruments, and wrote songs and poems that you can find in the book of Psalms in your Bible.

Meanwhile Saul was still king and he ruled people called Israelites. David and his family were Israelites too. The Israelites weren't getting along with people named the Philistines.

The problem with the Philistines was that they had many giants living in their land. One of the strongest and biggest giants was named Goliath. He was over nine feet tall, which is taller than any person recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records. He would've had to bend way down to get through a regular door.

Goliath was covered with armor to protect him and carried a big spear. Every morning and every evening for forty days he shouted to the Israelites in his big deep voice, "Hey, you guys! I dare you to find one man to fight me. If he can beat me we will become your servants, but if I win you will all become our servants."

When Saul and all his men heard this they were very afraid. Three of these men were David's three oldest brothers. They were the only ones in David's family that could go fight because they were old enough.

Now David's father Jesse heard about the giant and was worried for his sons. He called David out of the fields and asked him to take some food to his brothers and report back how they are doing.

So David set off to visit his brothers. As he approached them he heard Goliath shouting his challenge like he did every morning. "Isn't someone going to stand up to this man?" David asked the men in the army. "Then I will fight this giant Philistine."

One of the men overheard this and ran to Saul and told him what David said. Saul approached David and said, "You can't fight Goliath, you're only a boy and he has been fighting for many years." But David said to Saul, "I have had to fight lions and bears to protect my father's sheep. God helped keep me safe then and he will help keep me safe now."

It was too bad that Saul the king wasn't trusting in God to help him, he didn't know what to do to beat Goliath. Then this young boy named David came and he knew in one day exactly what to do, and trusted that God would help him. That's why God loved David's heart and wanted him to be king.

So Saul dressed David in heavy armor to protect him from Goliath but David took it off. It was so heavy he could hardly walk and he knew that God would keep him from harm. Instead David went to a stream nearby and found five smooth stones, put them in a pouch around his waist, and with his sling he went to Goliath.

As David approached Goliath, Goliath looked at David and thought it was a joke. Goliath thought that he could easily beat David and it was funny that Saul would send a small boy to fight him. But David said to him without fear, "You fight with a sword and I come with God on my side and today everyone will know that there is one true God in this land."

Goliath didn't care what David said and he moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly to meet him. Reaching into his pouch he pulled out a stone, put it into his slingshot and shot it at Goliath. The stone had hit him right between his eyes and suddenly Goliath started to lose his balance.

He fell with a loud thud right on his face. David had done it, he beat the giant Philistine! When the rest of the Philistines saw this they ran away and David became a hero to all the people in Israel.