

WO



GREAT RESCUE STORIES DAVID AND GOLIATH

Bible Passage | David Kills Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

120 MIN VERSION

Lesson Outcomes - After children participate in this lesson, they will:

- Know that David trusted God.
- Understand that God is all powerful and David had the courage to stand for God.
- Experience trust and courage.
- Attempt to practice trusting God with big challenges/worries/struggles that come up for children.
- Praise God for being trustworthy.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

1. CONNECT

Read and Meditate on 1 Samuel 17

The story of David and Goliath is such a great and unusual victory of the 'underdog', that the major elements of the story enter our ordinary language as a metaphor for 'doing the impossible'. There is so much more to this piece of Bible history than the matter of a youth defeating a giant in mortal combat that no seasoned soldier of his country would do.

Despite his age, David is God's agent in this story. When everyone is terrified by Goliath's boasts, David is disgusted that God is being insulted. David endured the taunts of his brothers, turning anger aside with his gentle answers... All the time his passion for God is burning in him and causing him to approach the whole matter very differently to Saul and his entire army.

Reflect on the Bible Passage

Read the story of David and Goliath.

- As you read the story what strikes you about David's relationship with God?

Read David's words to his brothers (v26), Saul (v32, v34-37) and Goliath (v45-47). This is delivered from someone that 1 Samuel describes as a healthy, good looking boy. A BOY!

- Saul dresses David in his own military clothing and armor. What happens? (v38-40)
- Why does David defeat Goliath?
- How is God's rescue plan revealed in this story?
- Who else in the Bible does David remind you of? Why?
- How are you challenged by David's words and actions?



Pray

Pray for your heart to be drawn towards God, knowing him and honoring above all other things, trusting him no matter what the circumstance so you can stand (even alone) for him and his purposes.

2. PREPARE

Things to Make and Prepare

- Learn the MemoryMAX you will be teaching the children.
- ENGAGE — One leader should prepare a personal story of courage and trust in God. Optional mousetraps.
- INSPIRE — A Speaking 'Stick' (any item that can be handed from one child to the next so that they know when they have a turn to talk). [Optional: Props to tell the story, 5 river stones, Goliath's head, sword, a weight (7 kg) equal to Goliath's spear tip, sheep, armor, supplies like cheese and grain.]
- COMMIT — A small stone for each child.

THE PROGRAM

3. ENGAGE

Welcoming Activity as the Children Arrive – Trust Me

Offer children a token or a treat, the token is for something better to come later/after the lesson. Children can choose the immediate treat, but may not have the token or the 'better' thing (whatever suits your group) later as that would spoil the point of the lesson.

Play a game that children can join in as they arrive.

Could be a mousetrap obstacle course (set the mousetraps backwards for safety).

Leader Welcome and Introduction *3-5 MIN*

Leader welcomes the children and asks:

- What are you afraid of?
- What is the most difficult thing you've ever done?

Review Previous Lesson *3-5 MIN*

- Use the review questions from CONTINUE in the previous lesson.

Songs *5-7 MIN*

- Choose songs that are about trusting God.



Body Tricks *5-7 MIN*

- What's the most amazing body trick you can do? (*Poke out your tongue and touch your nose, double jointed fingers, wiggle ears etc.*)

Invite children to come up and show what they can do.

Creative Challenge — Do You Trust Them? *10 MIN*

Purpose: To evaluate if *who* says something makes the listener more likely to believe the statement to be trustworthy.

Leader says a statement and asks the children if they think they would trust the statement if a certain person (provide children with a choice of different people) said it.

Suggested statements (that can be true or false) to use. Or write statements to suit your children's group:

- Your teacher would like to see you immediately.
- Etc. write...

Now ask them if they think they would trust it if they were told by;

- Their Country's leader (president, monarch, prime minister)?
- Their Sunday school leader or School Principal?
- Sports Coach?
- Movie/TV star?
- Another child?

Why would you trust one person more than another for this/other statements?

Physical Challenge — Driving a Car *10-12 MIN*

Purpose: For children to experience handing over control to another person to 'drive' them.

How to Play: Children are in pairs. One child becomes the Car the other, the Driver.

The child who is the Car, shuts their eyes and moves in the direction that their driver instructs through hand/touch signals.

The child who is the Driver is in control. They keep their eyes open and walk or run behind their Car. They signal to the Car where to go, to avoid other Cars and Drivers and to drive around the activity space.

The Activity Leader tells children to stop and swap at a couple of regular intervals.

The hand/touch signals are;

- Drive Forward – tap the Car on their back.
- Stop – tap the Car on the head or shoulder.
- Turn Left – tap the Car on left arm.
- Turn Right – tap the Car on the right arm.

Debrief Driving the Car *6 MIN*

Seat the children together and ask the following questions:

- Which role did you like best in the game?
- What was hardest about being the driver?



- What was hardest about being the car?

Scary Choice Game

Indicate two places in your activity space that children can elect to run to that are opposite to each other.

Call out two options and children need to run TO the choice that is the most scary for them. E.g. Spiders (point toward the spider side) or snakes (now point to the snake side)? Children who are more scared of spiders than snakes run to that “spiders” side.

Use the options below, or make up some to suit your group.

- Bears or Lions
- Bully or Grandma
- Dogs or Chocolate
- Ocean or Desert
- War or Slavery
- Crocodiles or Alligators
- Wolves or Vultures
- Bombs or Global Warming
- Fire or Electricity
- Volcano or Flood
- Hurricane or Tsunami
- Sharks or Ice Cream

Trust and Courage Life Story

Leader can share a personal story of trusting others (another person, or trusting God) that took courage.

4. INSPIRE

Equipment: A Speaking ‘Stick’ (any item that can be handed from one child to the next so that they know when they have a turn to talk).

The story of David and Goliath is very well known (even if not accurately). Use this as an opportunity for children to share what they know.

Ask the children:

- Who knows about the story of David and Goliath?

Explain to children what the Speaking Stick is for: the person who is holding the stick is the only one who can speak.

Inspire Leader chooses children, one at a time to tell a small part of the David and Goliath story, by handing a child the Speaking Stick and encouraging them to share a little of what they know.

After a few children have taken turns with the Speaking Stick, and the story of David and Goliath has been outlined. Split the children into drama groups who have been allocated part of the story to ‘tell’.



Drama Photography

Optional Equipment: Props to tell the story, 5 river stones, Goliath's head, sword, a weight (7 kg) equal to Goliath's spear tip, sheep, armor, supplies like cheese and grain.

For large groups, you can give one 'photograph' to each drama group. For smaller groups, give each group a series of story parts to provide one 'photograph' for.

Each group needs to read their part of the story and choose part of it to pose as a dramatic 'photo' for the rest of the group to see.

One member of the group will take the Speaking Stick and describe the 'action' to the rest of the group.

10 Story Divisions for 1 Samuel 17:1-54 (the first 9 are key to the story).

- 1-11 The Philistines get ready for war and a description of Goliath.
- 12-22 Jesse sends David to his older sons in the army with supplies and messages.
- 23-25 Goliath threatens and insults the living God and the army of Israel.
- 26-30 David talks with the soldiers and his brothers about Goliath.
- 31-38 Saul interviews David and gives him his armor.
- 39-44 David goes out to meet Goliath and is taunted by Goliath.
- 45-47 David answers Goliath.
- 48-51 David kills Goliath and cuts off his head.
- 52-54 The Israelites defeat the Philistines.
- (optional) 55-57 Saul finds out who David is.

5. EXPLORE

Talk it over — in Small Groups

Leader instructs their group of children: From what you've heard of the David and Goliath story, make up your own 'Israelite' army War Cry.

Compare heights with a 12-14 year old boy and Goliath's size.

- What do you know about...?
 - David
 - Goliath
 - Saul and the Israelites
 - God
- What did they do?
- How did they feel?
- Why did they feel that way?
- How was David different?
- What actions set David apart from the other characters in the story?
- Why do you think David chose to act this way?

Leader Statement: Goliath is important to think about because he was so big and scary that Saul and the rest of Israel forgot to trust God. God had told Saul that he would defeat the Philistines, but Saul didn't



want to fight them. [look up] Sometimes we face scary challenges in our lives that are so big we can forget to trust God too. David's trust in God, and his courage to stand for God against the odds, gives us an example to consider following.

- Which characters in this story do you feel like?
- How did David show that he trusted God?
- What is trust?
- How do we show that we trust other people?
- What do we do to show others that we trust (or stand for) God?

6. COMMIT

Prayer (Small Groups) 8 MIN

Ask the children;

- What is easy for you to trust God about?
- What is difficult for you to trust God about?

Pray together, thanking God for the peace and ability to trust God for the things the children have listed. Ask for God's help to trust him in the more difficult challenges.

MemoryMAX Proverbs 3:5

Object: To learn the MemoryMAX, "With all your heart you must trust the LORD and not your own judgment." Proverbs 3:5 (CEV)

Split the children into their small groups to make up a War Cry from the Proverbs passage. Invite the children to imagine that they are cheering David on, as he goes to face Goliath.

7Day Challenge

Give each of the children a small stone to take home. Explain that this stone is a way of reminding them that they can trust God to be with them, and be powerful in the difficult things that they have prayed in their small groups about.

Encourage the children to keep praying, and asking for God to help them to trust him in the difficult things. Then leave the stone behind you; in the garden, by a river, throw it in a bin etc.

Farewell 2 MIN

Farewell the children and thank them for coming. Encourage the children to invite their friends to the next BibleMAX lesson and to try out the 7Day Challenge.



7. CONTINUE

Contact and Support the Children

Contact a couple of the children in your group this week to encourage them and remind them that they are special to you by asking:

- How are you going talking with God about your worry/challenge/thing that is difficult to trust God with?
- Did you leave the stone behind you? How/what did you do?
- How are you going trusting God?
- What would you like me to pray for? For you? For others you know?
- Let's pray together.

Review Questions for the Following Lesson

- What did Saul say to David when David offered to fight Goliath?
- How did David answer Saul?
- Why was David able to trust God?
- How did David rescue the Israelite army (and therefore all the people)?

