

LESSON 2 DAVID AND GOLIATH

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

LEADER: Today we're going to hear a story from the Bible that is quite active, so I think we should do some stretching before we get going. Instruct kids to try to touch the sky and then bend down and try to touch their toes. **Good work! Listen carefully as our friends on stage share today's part of God's big story. You might be called upon to complete some unusual challenges!**

NARRATOR: David lived during the part of God's big story after the time when judges like Deborah, Gideon, and Samson led God's people. Now there was a king in Israel, King Saul. In those days, strength was measured by towering height, impressive armor, and heavy swords. Saul himself stood a head taller than anyone else in Israel. But God doesn't care about those things. God cares about a person's heart. God rejected Saul as king because Saul didn't do what God said. Then God chose David, a young shepherd from Bethlehem, as the next king. God's Spirit helped David instead of helping Saul.

But David wasn't king yet. Saul was still king, and Saul had a big problem: the Philistines. The Philistines were the enemies of the Israelites, and they gathered to fight against Israel on a hill in the Valley of Elah. So Saul and the Israelites gathered on a nearby hill to prepare for battle. That's when a man even taller than Saul—much taller—stepped out from the Philistine camp. His name was Goliath. He was over nine feet tall. He wore impressive armor and carried threatening weapons.

GOLIATH: Who will fight me? Choose a man. If he defeats me, we will serve you. But if I win, you will serve us!

NARRATOR: The Israelites all shook with fear, even Saul.

LEADER: I have a challenge for us! Let's pretend that we are the Israelites, and we are choosing who will fight Goliath. Invite kids to find a partner near them, stand up, and spread out. Then challenge them to complete three assigned activities along with their partners as quickly as they can, such as doing 10 jumping jacks, five squats, and three hops on each foot. (Demonstrate each activity for the kids, or invite another leader to demonstrate.)

On the count of three, you and your partner can begin your challenge! One, two, three! Give kids time to complete the three activities. Then ask them to return to their seats. **Wow! Our group is full of strong people who could challenge Goliath! Let's keep listening to see what else we need to face Goliath.**

NARRATOR: David's three oldest brothers had followed Saul to war, but David was in Bethlehem taking care of his father Jesse's sheep. Jesse told David to take supplies to his brothers and check on them. As David arrived, Goliath was taunting the Israelites again.

GOLIATH: I dare you to fight me!

NARRATOR: Israel's army cowered at the sight of Goliath, who had been bullying them for 40 long days. Oh, wow. These soldiers may have been strong, but they weren't brave enough to fight Goliath. After all, Goliath was really tall and scary!

LEADER: I bet we have some super-brave people here. Are you ready for another challenge? Pause for kids to respond. **For this challenge, you are going to stare at your partner while making the meanest, most intimidating face you can make. You can't laugh, and you can't blink. If you do, you'll sit down, and your partner will win. Let's practice.** Invite kids to stand and face you, and on the count of three, give kids a chance to make a mean face, while you make one as well. **Wow! You guys are scary! OK, remember: whoever blinks or laughs first loses this challenge. Let's see who's our bravest Israelite!** Invite kids to face their partners; then count to three. If a kid laughs or blinks, she should sit down. Once one partner in each pair is sitting down, invite everyone to return to their seats.

Wow! We have strong and brave Israelites in this room! Let's find out if any of the original Israelites were strong and brave enough to face Goliath!

NARRATOR: David asked nearby soldiers what was happening and what the king would do for the man who defeated Goliath. Saul heard of this and sent for David.

DAVID: (To King Saul) **Don't lose hope, King Saul. I will fight Goliath!**

KING SAUL: (To David) **But you're so young! Goliath has been fighting since he was a boy.**

DAVID: (To King Saul) **"The Lord saved me from the paw of the lion. He saved me from the paw of the bear. And he'll save me from the powerful hand of this Philistine too"** (1 Samuel 17:37).

NARRATOR: Saul dressed David in his own armor—the armor of the king—and gave David his sword. But David couldn't move well in Saul's armor. He took it off and picked up his staff, shepherd's bag, and sling. Then he went to a stream and found five smooth stones.

David walked out to meet Goliath. Goliath hated the young shepherd. He teased David and made fun of his shepherd's tools.

GOLIATH: *(To David)* I'll feed you to the birds and beasts!

DAVID: *(To Goliath)* "You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He's the one you have dared to fight against" (1 Samuel 17:45).

LEADER: Did you catch what David said? Who did David say Goliath is really fighting against? Pause for kids to respond. Yes! David said Goliath's battle is with God. For our final challenge, let's practice boldly speaking truth. Invite kids to face their partners one more time. This time, you are going to practice saying, "I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord!" Instruct kids to take turns saying this line with confidence and power. For younger kids, kids with special needs, or large groups, consider reciting David's words together, saying, "I'm coming against you" first while kids repeat and then finishing with "in the name of the Lord!" After kids practice with their partners for about a minute, ask for volunteers who would like to deliver the line with expression for the whole group. When everyone who would like to contribute has had a turn, consider having the group vote for the person who said David's line with the most confidence and power. Or simply affirm everyone who tried!

I can tell that you believe just as David did that God is a mighty God! Let's see how this part of God's big story ends.

NARRATOR: David ran toward Goliath, took a stone, put it in his sling, and flung it at Goliath. Thunk! It struck Goliath in the forehead. The towering warrior teetered and tottered, and then fell down dead. David defeated Goliath! He didn't even need a sword. But David knew the battle—and the victory—belonged to the Lord! Goliath's size, armor, and weapons didn't matter. Nor was David's skill what made all the difference. It was God's strength and the fact that David was on God's side that mattered most. God will always be victorious.

WONDER TRUTH: God Will Always Be Victorious; 1 Samuel 17

GOD'S BIG STORY: King Saul and the nation of Israel overcome a giant challenge when they face the mighty Philistines and their powerful champion, Goliath. But God brings a miraculous victory through a young shepherd boy named David.

WORD OF WONDER: Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go. —Joshua 1:9



VICTORY

Name _____

Date: _____

My Favorite Song Today:



Today's Bible Story:



Today's Wonder Truth:



Word of Wonder:



Small Group Notes:

Questions I have:

Parents!
Continue the conversation at home!
Visit rockbridge.cc/rbkidsathome



Here is what **I** am
commanding you to do.
Be **strong** and **brave**.
Do not be **afraid**. **Do**
not lose **hope**. I am the
LORD your **God**. **I** will be
with **you everywhere**
you go.

—Joshua 1:9