

### LESSON 2

## DAVID AND GOLIATH

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Will Always Be Victorious

**SCRIPTURE:** 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

### CURIOSITY

### BELIEF

### FAITH

- **\*\*Pre-Service Interactive Game: Express Line**
- Welcome Question: What is the biggest victory (or win) you've ever had?
- SMALL GROUP
- Prayer of Invitation
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Worship: Praise, Unstoppable God
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: Reckless Love
  - Baptism Video
- Prayer and Blessing



### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Joshua 1:9

Is there any story that is more well-known in Scripture than David and Goliath?

A Google search of those terms offers more than 24 million results. The story is a staple of kids ministry curricula, the subject of many Hollywood movies, and the phrase “David vs. Goliath” is a longtime fixture in our sports lexicon for describing a contest between a significant underdog and an overwhelming favorite.

Yet do we know the true meaning of the story? If we stop at the remarkable courage of a plucky young shepherd boy, we’ve missed the mark.

As you read 1 Samuel 17 this week, consider the real hero of the story. Even David knew the victory over Goliath wasn’t ultimately his own. Before slinging that famous stone, he declared, “This day the LORD will give me the victory over you. ... The battle belongs to the LORD. He will hand all of you over to us” (1 Samuel 17:46–47).

God will always be victorious, and all the glory is His. Christ has already conquered our greatest enemies—sin, Satan, and death—through His death and resurrection. And if “God did not spare his own Son. ... Then won’t he also freely give us everything else?” (Romans 8:32). Indeed, He will.

This week, in whatever challenges you might face, rejoice in the God who fights for His people: He is always victorious!

—**Josh Cooley**

Children’s Minister and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

David, a lowly shepherd, was described as a man after God's own heart. He was anointed the second king of Israel by Samuel the prophet after God rejected King Saul for disobedience. Goliath was a Philistine warrior from Gath who stood over nine feet tall.

**WHAT?**

Goliath challenged any willing Israelite to single combat to decide a battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. While visiting his brothers to bring supplies, David accepted the challenge, trusting God's power to win any battle. David killed Goliath with a sling and a stone.

**WHERE?**

Philistine territory lay along the Mediterranean coast, west of the Dead Sea. The battle took place between two cities on the eastern side of the Valley of Elah, which lay between Philistine territory and the Judean hill country. Bethlehem was 15 miles east of Elah.

**WHEN?**

First Samuel recounts the beginning of the monarchy after the time of the judges. David had recently been anointed the second king of Israel when he faced Goliath, though King Saul was still on the throne. David served as one of Saul's armor-bearers.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

David triumphed despite seemingly impossible odds because of God's power. Such victories point to the even greater victory of the cross, where a power greater than death itself arrived on the scene through Jesus, a descendant of David. Now death is swallowed up in victory!

### Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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### As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

**SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP**

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN** (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

### Pre-Service Interactive Game: Express Line

**\*\*10 mins prior to service time**

**SUPPLIES:** stopwatch (optional)

**SLIDE: EXPRES LINE**

Gather kids together.

"David was the youngest and smallest of eight brothers in his family. Yet, as we are going to learn in God's big story today, God gave Israel a mighty victory through David! God wants to do big things in our lives too! It doesn't matter how old or tall we are. What matters is that God loves us and is all-powerful! In this activity, you're going to race to organize yourselves by ages, heights, and even names!"



Lead the kids in one or more of the following races, depending on the size of your group and your space. You may opt to use a stopwatch to time kids or just see who wins each race first:

1. Kids will race to see how quickly they can line up youngest to oldest.
2. Kids will race to see how quickly they can line up shortest to tallest.
3. Kids will race to see how quickly they can line up in alphabetical order by first name.

**Leader Tip:** Leaders in larger ministries can divide kids into smaller groups to compete against each other. Leaders in smaller ministries can have all the kids work together in one group and race against the clock.

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. Challenge them to complete each of the races without talking!

### **Make It Inclusive!**

Some kids may not be able to compete in the races easily. Invite a couple of volunteers to race with the kids. This way you or other leaders will be in the mix and available to assist kids who need a little extra help.

**"Great job in your races! It's fun to compete, isn't it? If you've ever played sports or participated in any competitions, you know that sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. But with God it is different. God always wins! Today, we're going to learn about an amazing victory that God gave to His people.**

#### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS.**"



## Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, poster board (optional), whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

#### **SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION**

**At service start time,** draw kids attention to the Welcome Question: "What is the biggest victory (or win) you've ever had?" Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.



**"It's fun to experience victories and wins in life. Today in God's big story, we're going to learn about a young shepherd boy who experienced a miraculous victory: with God's help he saved the nation of Israel! Everyone turn and face your small group leader. I'll see you in a few!"**

## Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

## Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

### VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering intoworship, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own wordsHere is an example: **God, thank You for each kid here today. Your strength is great, and Your love is real. We know You are always victorious, and we praise You because You have given us victory over fear, sin, and death through Jesus. Help us to be strong and brave in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

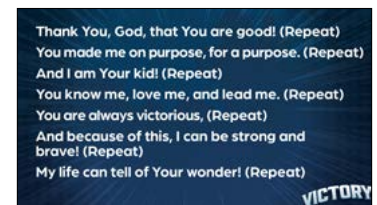
**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You are always victorious,** (Kids repeat.)

**And because of this, I can be strong and brave!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



## Worship

Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

**"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"**

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: Praise, Unstoppable God**

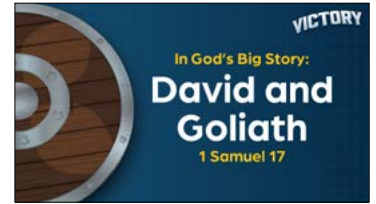
## God's Big Story

### SLIDE: TITLE

Gather everyone together and hand out a Bible to each kid. Let them know today's portion of God's big story comes from the book of 1 Samuel, which is in the first half of the Bible. Help kids find 1 Samuel 17.

**"Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!"**

**VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY**



## LESSON 2 DAVID AND GOLIATH

### EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** highlighter (prep only)

**RESOURCES:** Experience It! Script (5 copies)

Ahead of time, print five copies of the Experience It! Script and highlight a different character's part on each copy (the five parts are Leader, Narrator, Goliath, David, and King Saul). Invite two adult or youth volunteers to play the roles of Goliath and the Narrator in this reader's theater-style presentation, and invite two older elementary kids to play David and King Saul. You can read the role of the Leader. Give each actor his script ahead of time to prepare. Encourage each to read loudly and with great expression!

**Leader Tip:** If needed, you can read the Narrator's part as well. Just stand on the stage area when presenting the Narrator's lines and step toward the kids when leading them in the mid-story activities.

Invite your reader's theater actors to the stage area with their scripts in hand.

**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!**

#### **Make It Inclusive!**

Any of the following activities can be modified or kids with special needs. If a child can't stand, consider modifying the activities so they can be completed in a chair. For kids where any physical activity could be challenging, consider making them an assistant or coach helping the Leader call out each challenge.

**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.)

**Leader Tip:** If physical space is limited, you may modify the activity by having kids describe any special skills they have. For example, one kid may be able to ride his bicycle for many miles and another might know a lot of facts about nature or history.

**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, I want'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.**

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS**.**

**Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**To the people watching, it might have looked like David's battle against Goliath was doomed! But David triumphed because of God's power. Victories like this one point to an even greater victory—the victory of Jesus on the cross. Jesus, a descendant of David, defeated sin—all the wrong things people do—and death when He died and rose again. God will always be victorious!"**



## Responding in Worship

### SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

**\*\*\*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.**



### VIDEO: BAPTISM

**WORSHIP VIDEO: I Exalt Thee / I Speak Jesus**

## Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**May the God who is always victorious give you His strength and power. He loves you and is with you everywhere you go. May you find our hope and courage in Him today and every day.**

0:05.96  
1 victory\_theme\_loop.mp4




2:03.87  
2 Victory\_2-minute\_countdown (108...

01:58

0:38.12  
3 Victory\_30-second\_countdown (10...

00:28

4  
Express Line



5  
Today's Wonder Truth:  
God Will Always Be Victorious



6 David Welcome Question Slide.png

What is the biggest victory (or win) you've ever had?

5:08.89  
7 Victory\_5-minute\_countdown (108...

04:58

8 David Declaration Slide V2.png

Thank You, God, that You are good! You made me on purpose, for a purpose. And I am Your child. You know me, love me, and lead me. You are always victorious. And because of this, I can be strong and brave! My life can tell of Your wonder!



3:58.64  
9 Praise\_-\_motions\_2024 (10880).m...



3:44.27  
10 Unstoppable God - Motions.mp4

Morship with Motions



11  
Victory FA 1920x1080.jpg



12 David Title Slide.png

In God's Big Story:  
David and Goliath  
1 Samuel 17



5:00.30  
13 Victory Elem Gods Big Story (2.m...



14  
Victory FA 1920x1080.jpg



15  
Today's Wonder Truth:  
God Will Always Be Victorious



16  
Responding in Worship



1:44.24  
17 BAPTISM Kelele Parker.mp4



5:32.10  
18 Reckless Love - Lyric.mp4



0:05.96  
19 victory\_theme\_loop.mp4

