

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.

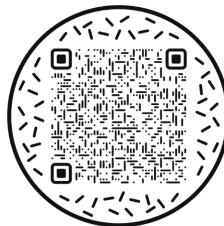
WORD OF WONDER: Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go. —Joshua 1:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Pre-Service Game: Express Line
- Welcome Question: What is the biggest victory (or win) you've ever had?
- Curiosity Questions
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Joshua 1:9
- Word of Wonder Activity
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Victory Song



[Victory Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

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

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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!

Small Group

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

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Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#), whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils
Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

“Has someone ever asked you to do something you were afraid you wouldn’t be able to do? Tell about it.” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **What do you think it means to be victorious?**
- **What do people often do when they experience a victory in school, sports, or somewhere else in life? What do you do?**

****NEW!!** Large Group leaders will now lead an opening game or activity 10 minutes before service begins. It is very important that you are with your groups and ready to participate with them!

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Laugh and Grow Bible (optional), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find Samuel 17. Have volunteers help kids locate the book in the Table of Contents, then chapter and verse numbers.

Read 1 Samuel 17:32–45 in an NIV Bible OR pages 130–135 in the Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids.

- Who was the king of Israel in today's story?
- Who was Israel fighting against?
- How did David defeat Goliath?
- Goliath teased Israel for 40 days! Why didn't any Israelites fight him before David arrived?
- Are there things that frighten you? If so, what are they?
- How can God help you be strong and brave?
- What does this story show you about God?

"God gave David the victory over Goliath many, many years ago, and God is still victorious today in every battle. Let's take some time to thank God for giving us strength, bravery, and victory in Him!"

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to share one way they can be strong and brave with God's help. For example, they could pray to God when they feel scared of the dark, or they could trust God (and their parents!) to help them as they learn to ride their bikes. Take turns praying for each other, and end with a prayer of praise, thanking God that He is always victorious!

Make It Inclusive!

For kids who are neurodivergent or who struggle to think of ideas, provide a list of ways they can be strong and brave with God's help. Kids often feel less anxiety and are more willing to participate when they have options to choose from.

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **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.**

God's Big Story

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: David Title Slide, [David and Goliath God's Big Story Video](#)

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. Display the David Title Slide.

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

Ahead of time, consider inviting three kids to help you by reading (with expression!) the words in today's passage that are spoken by David, Saul, and Goliath. Give your readers time to read 1 Samuel 17:32–45 ahead of time. Then read the passage as all the kids follow along, and do one or both of the following:

- View [David and Goliath God's Big Story Video](#)
- Use the following David and Goliath Experience It! Script

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Modify this activity by pairing up younger kids with older kids who can help them follow the story as it is read.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), Bible Story Picture(optional)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find 1 Samuel 17. Ahead of time, consider inviting three kids to help you by reading (with expression!) the words in today's passage that are spoken by David, Saul, and Goliath. Give your readers time to read 1 Samuel 17:32–45 ahead of time.

Read the story summary found on the following page aloud, then discuss the questions below:

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

- Who was Israel's enemy in today's story?
- What stood out to you about the battle between David and Goliath in God's big story today?
- How did God show His strength and protect David when David was just a shepherd?
- What were David's weapons against Goliath?
- In our Word of Wonder, God tells us not to lose hope. When we are scared or discouraged, what are some things about God that we can remember to give us hope?
- What are some things you are afraid of or concerned about? How can God help you be strong and brave in these situations?
- What does this story show you about God?
- When have you experienced God's victory in your life?

Leader Tip: Consider sharing an age-appropriate example about a time in your life when you experienced God's victory, such as your story of salvation.

"God gave David and Israel an amazing victory over a powerful enemy. God will always be victorious! Let's take some time to ask God to give us victory in our lives and in the challenges we face."

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to share any big challenges they are facing or have faced recently. Then take turns praying for each person, asking God to give each His strength, courage, and victory.

Older Kids – Notes Page

**Complete the Notes Page with kids. Helping them to fill out all of the spaces. This is an important way for parents to see what their kids are learning each way and have meaningful conversations at home! Encourage them to keep them out while listening to the God's Big Story video and Experience It Script in Large Group.

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 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

"Today, we heard an amazing true story about how God helped a shepherd boy defeat a big, powerful giant in battle! No matter how big the problem or how great the challenge, God will always be victorious! Let's read Joshua 1:9, our series Word of Wonder, to understand how God still helps His people be victorious today."

Encourage kids to open their Bibles to Joshua 1:9. Read the verse once together. Encourage kids to read it again with their bravest voice. Then encourage them to stand and read it one more time with a loud, brave voice while making a superhero pose.

Talk about these questions:

- What words in this verse stand out to you most?
- What do those words show us about God? What do those words show us about us?

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Consider using the Preschool Word of Wonder for kindergartners instead if your group struggles with longer verses!

Word of Wonder Activity

RESOURCES: Highlighted Word of Wonder Sheet NirV (1 per small group)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Highlighted Word of Wonder Sheet NirV for each small group.

Distribute the Highlighted Word of Wonder Sheets. Invite two or three kids in each group to read the verse while the rest of the kids in their group act out the highlighted words. The reading group should loudly emphasize the highlighted words for the acting group to act out. If some kids are sensitive to loud noises, allow them to wear noise-canceling headphones or move to the other side of the room, or consider simply having kids speak at a regular volume. Play several rounds, letting all kids have a turn reading and acting.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

—Joshua 1:9

Wonder Ink LESSON 2: GOD WALKS THROUGH THE BATTLE AND DEFEATS GOLIATH

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Modify this activity for the younger kids in your group by inviting them to perform the actions while an older kid or a leader reads the verse.

Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Victory Song

SUPPLIES: half sheet of cardstock(1 per OLDER kid), writing utensils, drawing utensils (optional)

RESOURCES: [VictoryElementary Spotify playlist](#)

Gather kids together.

"David praised and showed his love for God through singing, dancing, playing instruments, and writing poems and songs that we call psalms. Throughout his lifetime, David praised and worshiped God for being a God who is always victorious. David thanked God for giving him victory in difficult situation. So we're going to worship like David did!"

Encourage kids to quietly think of a time when God helped them overcome and be victorious in a hard situation. Or they can think about how God has given them victory over sin—the wrong things they do—through Jesus, which is the greatest victory of all! From this contemplative place, kids can then enter into a time of celebrating God's victory in their lives through various acts of worship. Choose a worship song that kids can sing and dance to, such as "Victory Chant" or "Undignified" which are both on the [Victory Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Encourage the kids to clap, sing, and dance along!

For Younger Kids:

Have them come up with a "Victory Dance" motions to one of the songs that you picked. Play the song and allow them to dance for the Lord!

For Older Kids:

Explain that we are going to write or draw our own Psalms, just like David! Encourage the kids to start thinking about their own songs about how God will always be victorious. Kids may also draw a picture of something they think of when they think of how victorious God is.

Consider this template for kids that might be struggling:

Lord, you are _____.

You made the _____.

You helped me _____.

I know You love me because _____.