

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: Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. God will be with you wherever you go.
—from Joshua 1:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My Help, Praise
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Will Always Be Victorious

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 17

WORD OF WONDER: From Joshua 1:9

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

A Google search of those names 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!



LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Will Always Be Victorious

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 17

WORD OF WONDER: From Joshua 1:9

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi kids! Do you remember our friend Tac, the curious cat? He's always asking questions. Let's see if he has a question for us today.

Tac the Cat: Hi there! I'm Tac, the curious cat. They call me that because I am very curious! That means I ask a lot of questions. Today, I'm curious about what it takes to win.

Leader: What do you mean, Tac?

Tac the Cat: I'm thinking about winning—or about being victorious. Have you ever won anything?

Leader: Yes! I have won something. I won best smile. (Give your best, big smile. You can also use a real example of something you've won.)

Tac the Cat: Wow! You do have a great smile!

Leader: Thank you, Tac. What about you? Have you ever won anything?

Tac the Cat: Well, I'm hoping that this week I'll win the tree climbing contest. I am the smallest cat on the whole climbing team, and the tree we're going to climb is very big and tall.

Leader: That's great! What do you think it takes to win that contest?

Tac the Cat: Well ... I don't know if I'll win, since I'm such a small cat! Maybe practicing a lot will help me win and beat all the other cats in the tree climbing contest?

Leader: Practicing can definitely help! It may not matter how small you are or how big and tall the tree is. Winning is always possible when God is helping you. It reminds me of a story from the Bible about a small boy who was in a battle against a very big and tall warrior.

Tac the Cat: Did the small boy win?! What happened?

Leader: We'll find out when we hear our part of God's big story today!

Tac the Cat: That sounds great! I know that will be a cool story. Now I've gotta go practice climbing trees and getting ready for the contest!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: have you ever won anything?" Allow the kids to respond. **What are some things that can help us win something?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all see and hear things that make us curious. Have you ever been curious about whether God always wins and what makes Him victorious?**

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS**. Victorious means to win! God will always be the One who wins. He will always be the winner!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

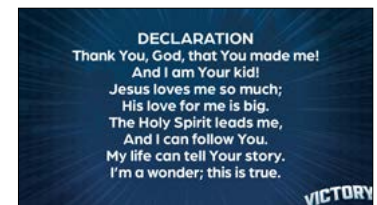
March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You that You're victorious! We can't wait to hear Your Word today and learn about Your power. We invite Your Holy Spirit to help us hear from You and show us that, with You, we can have victory. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about something amazing God did! Let's sing about God and His victory together!"

WORSHIP SONGS: My Help, Praise

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where to find the story.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS' BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, small stones (5), medium boxes (3–4), small boxes (3–4)

Before you begin, stack up few cardboard boxes to make a tall tower. You will knock these down during the story. (While you can use boxes of the same size, having a few larger boxes stacked on the bottom and a few smaller boxes stacked on the top may maximize the stability of your tower.) Set five stones on the ground.

"Today we're going to hear a part of God's story, but I'm going to need some help as we go along! You'll help me act out some of our story. Are you ready?"

There was a king in Israel, King Saul, who didn't obey God. God chose David, a small, young shepherd from Bethlehem, as the next king.

But David wasn't king yet. Saul was still king, and Saul had a big problem: the Philistines. The Philistines were the enemies of God's special people, the Israelites, and they wanted to fight Saul and his people. That's when a very, very big and tall warrior stepped out from the Philistine camp. His name was Goliath. He was over nine feet tall! He wore armor and carried weapons. "Who will fight me?" he yelled. The Israelites were afraid. Let's all make our best scared faces. Pause for kids to make scared expressions.

Now, David's three oldest brothers had followed Saul, 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. When David got there, Goliath was yelling at the Israelites again. Now they were very, very scared. Let's all make our best very, very scared faces! Pause for kids to make their expressions. **We can pretend this stack of boxes is the warrior Goliath.**

David told King Saul that he would fight Goliath! Saul was surprised! Let me see your best surprised faces. Pause for kids to make their expressions. **King Saul said, "But you're so young and Goliath has been fighting since he was just a boy."**

David told Saul he had overpowered fierce animals when protecting his father's sheep. David said, "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).

Saul dressed David in his own armor—the armor of the king—and gave David his sword. But David was so small that he 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. Let's count five stones. Pause and count aloud as you pick up each stone. **One, two, three, four, five.**

David walked out to meet Goliath. Goliath teased David and made fun of his shepherd's tools. David said to Goliath, "You are coming to fight against me with weapons. 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).

Then David ran toward Goliath and took a stone, put it in his sling, and flung it at Goliath. Thunk! It struck Goliath in the forehead. The big man teetered and tottered, and then he fell down dead.

Now I'm going to knock down Goliath. Pause and knock down the cardboard boxes (or let the kids help knock them down).

David beat 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. It wasn't David's great fighting skills that made all the difference. It was God's strength working through David that mattered most. God will always be victorious. Let's celebrate God's victory!" Pause and allow kids to give high fives, dance, and jump up and down to celebrate that God is victorious.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD WILL ALWAYS BE VICTORIOUS. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

To the people watching, it might have looked like David's battle against Goliath was not going to have a good ending! But David won because of God's power. Victories like this one point to an even greater victory—the victory of Jesus on the cross. Jesus, a relative of David, defeated sin—all the wrong things people do—and death when He died and rose again. God will always be victorious!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for being victorious and for making us strong and brave.

God, thank You for being with us when we face problems or fears. Thank You for making us strong and brave and for giving us victory. Help us to trust You when we're afraid and to remember that You're victorious over everything. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

May the God who is victorious give you His strength and power. He is with you wherever you go. May you be strong and brave with His help today and every day.