



DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17

Memory Verse

“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10

Context/Background

The Israelites were engaged in a longstanding conflict with the Philistines, an ancient people who inhabited the coastal regions of what is now modern-day Israel and the Gaza Strip. The two groups were often in a state of hostilities, particularly over territory and resources. The Philistines had positioned their army on one hill, and the Israelites were on an opposing hill with the valley of Elah between them. Goliath, a champion warrior from the Philistine camp, emerged from their ranks and challenged the Israelites to send out a champion for a single combat, which was a common way to resolve disputes in ancient times.

Summary

The Israelites were in conflict with the Philistines, and the towering Philistine champion Goliath challenged the Israelites to send out a warrior for a one-on-one battle. Despite their fear, young shepherd David stepped forward, armed with only a sling and stones. With unwavering faith in God, he skilfully aimed a stone at Goliath's forehead, defeating the giant. This astonishing victory transformed David into a hero, symbolising that faith and determination can conquer seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Relevance/Application **Themes: Courage, Hope**

Younger students:

- With God, all things are possible.
- God works through all types of people.
- God calls us to trust in his plan.
- God gives us strength and courage.
- God empowers us to face 'the giants' in our life.
- Obstacles can be overcome with faith in God.

Older students:

- When David confronted Goliath, he acknowledged that the battle belonged to the Lord. He refused to rely on his own strength or conventional weaponry. Instead, David trusted in God's power. We can also trust in God's strength in our spiritual battles.
- Goliath seemed like an insurmountable obstacle for the Israelites. David's victory over him demonstrated that God is greater than any giant we face. Similarly, Jesus has conquered sin, death, and all the giants of this world. Through faith in Him, we can overcome the giants of doubt, fear, and despair.
- God used an ordinary shepherd boy to accomplish an extraordinary feat, highlighting His ability to work through the weak and the unlikely. The gospel

reminds us that God's faithfulness extends to us, as He calls and equips us to fulfil His purposes.

Christian Studies Framework

Christian Beliefs: Key Idea 1: Christians believe God is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Christian Living: Key Idea 1 Christians believe that God creates people to live in relationship with him and with each other

Christianity in the world: Key Idea 1 Religious beliefs and ideas shape people's thinking and actions

Catechism Connections

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

Discussion/Wondering Questions:

Early Years

- How did David defeat Goliath? Did he use a sword or something else?
- How did God help David in the story? How can he help us?
- What are some big challenges you've faced, like David faced Goliath?

Primary

- Why were the Israelites afraid of Goliath? How did David's response show his faith in God?
- What made David different from the other soldiers?
- Can you think of a time when you faced a big challenge? How did you handle it? Did you ask God for help?
- What did David believe that helped him fight Goliath?
- How did David's trust in God give him the courage to face Goliath? Discuss the "giants" or challenges in your own life. How can the story of David and Goliath inspire you to confront and overcome your challenges?

Secondary

- How did David's faith in God influence his actions? How can faith and trust be applied to modern challenges?
 - David eventually becomes a great leader. What leadership qualities do you see in him? How does his humility contribute to his leadership style?
 - God didn't use an obvious 'hero' type to save his people. Why do you think he chose David? What does that tell us about God sees us compared to how the world does?
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Images or objects to spark discussion

- Giant Footprints: Create giant footprints on the floor to represent Goliath's steps and let students walk in them.
- Stone Collection: Display a collection of smooth stones to represent the five stones that David collected from the stream.
- Giant Cut-out: Create a giant cardboard cut-out of Goliath to emphasize his imposing size and presence. (Goliath was almost 3 metres tall!)

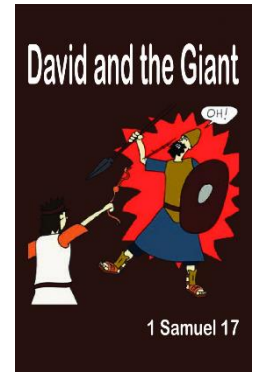


Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible
Jesus Story Book Bible 'The Young Hero and the Terrible Giant'

Lutheran Tract Mission [David and The Giant](#) Story Tract, Activity Book, Text Card

GROW Ministries [Woven Together](#) Devotions focusing on key people pointing to Jesus. Our Bible stories per month. David and Goliath features in May.



Audio Bible/Podcasts

Kids Corner – Bible Stories [David and Goliath](#)

[Bible.is](#) - Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. Searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Videos

Early Years/Junior Primary

[Saddleback Kids](#)

[David and Goliath – Told by the Veggie Tales](#)

Middle-Upper Primary

[Lego re-enactment of David and Goliath](#)

[Jesus Storybook Bible - Zondervan](#)

Secondary/Staff:

[Everfound God of the Impossible - David and Goliath](#) - Movie clips from David and Goliath – to the backing of 'God of the Impossible'.

[Listen Youth & Adult \(David and Goliath\) | Bible Engagement Project](#)

Invocation

Welcome to our school worship service today. As we gather here in God's presence, we are reminded of a timeless story from the Bible, a story of courage, faith, and triumph—David and Goliath.

We begin, knowing that God is with us in this place.

In the name of the Father, who gives us strength beyond measure,
In the name of the Son, who walks with us in times of challenge,
And in the name of the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with bravery and hope.

Amen

Prayers

Thank you, dear God, that you protect us and make us strong with your mighty power. Help us to trust in you when we fight against the devil, and when we face big problems. Amen.

OR

Dear God,

As we reflect on the story of David and Goliath, we thank you for the lessons it teaches us. Just like David faced a giant with faith and courage, help us to face the challenges in our lives with trust in you.

Give us the strength to stand up for what is right, even when it's difficult, just as David did. May we remember that you are our source of strength and that we can rely on you in all situations.

Lord, guide us to be kind, compassionate, and courageous, and to be a light to those around us. Let the story of David and Goliath inspire us to have unwavering faith in you and to trust in your plans for our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for this food. Let it nourish our bodies to make us strong in your service. Amen.

Blessing

As we conclude our time of worship,
May David's faith and courage inspire us,
To face our own giants with unwavering trust in God.
Go forth with faith, knowing that nothing is impossible with Him. Amen.

OR

Ask the participants to bless each other:

[name], Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Amen

Music

Jesus Loves Me This I Know

[Only A Boy Named David](#)

['My God is so big' by City Kids](#)

[God's Power by Chris Jaensch](#)

['You say' by Lauren Daigle](#)

['God of the Impossible' by Everfound](#)

['Greater' by Mercy Me](#)

["Giants Fall" by Francesca Battistelli](#)

Activities

Early Years

- Make a tape mark on the wall to show how tall Goliath was, and then make tape/chalk marks for each student's height on the wall underneath. Point out that even though David was much smaller than Goliath, he won because he trusted in God, and we can too.

Primary

- Create a cardboard cutout of Goliath or stack empty cardboard boxes to Goliath's height. Students could write the things that they are worried about or afraid of on the outline/boxes. Have students take turns to throw bean bags or balls at the tower as they shout, "I come against you in the name of the Lord!" and celebrate as they knock down their fears.
- Paint smooth garden rocks with the words of the memory verse or symbols of God's love

Secondary

- Play a game of dodgeball, with teams taking turns to be Israelites and Philistines.
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