

David and Goliath

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God is bigger than any giant, so I can trust Him.

Bible passage: 1 Samuel 17. Read 1 Samuel 17:1–52 yourself before class.

Memory verse: "the battle is the LORD'S" *1 Samuel 17:47 (KJV)*. Say: the battle belongs to God.

You need: a Bible, 10 to 15 cotton balls (or paper sheep), a box, a paper lunch bag and 5 crumpled gray paper "stones" for each child, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 17. Hide the cotton-ball "sheep" around the room. Crumple the gray paper into stones.

1. Opening game: Find the Sheep (5 minutes)

Kids find the hidden "sheep" and bring them to the box, the sheepfold (a safe place for sheep). Count them together. Say: "Good shepherds! Today we will hear a true story about a shepherd named David who loved God."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 17. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God's people had a big problem. A giant named Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4)! *(Tiptoe, reach high.)*

Goliath shouted at God's people (17:8–10). *(Put your hands around your mouth.)*

Everyone was afraid (17:11). *(Shake and cover your eyes.)*

David took care of his father's sheep (17:15). *(Say "baa!")*

A lion and a bear took a lamb. God helped David save it (17:34–37). *(Roar! Growl!)*

Say it with me: "God helps me!"

David said, "I will go and fight the giant" (17:32). *(Stand up tall and brave.)*

King Saul gave David his armor. David was not used to it, so he took it off (17:38–39). *(Drop a heavy coat.)*

David picked five smooth stones from the brook (17:40). *(Count five fingers.)*

David said, "I come in the name of the LORD" (17:45). *(Point up to God.)*

Say it with me: "The battle is the LORD's!"

David put one stone in his sling (17:49). *(Swing your arm in a circle.)*

The stone hit Goliath, and the giant fell down (17:49)! *(Clap once: boom!)*

God won the battle for His people (17:47). *(Cheer with your hands up.)*

Say it with me: "God is bigger than any giant!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who was the giant? (*Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:4*)
2. How many stones did David pick up? (*Five, 17:40*)
3. Who helped David? (*God did, 17:37, 17:47*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "David said, 'the battle is the LORD'S.' That means the fight belongs to God, and God is strong." Teach the motion: point up to God on "the LORD'S." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a big brave voice. Then say "1 Samuel 17:47" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Five Stones in the Bag (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a paper lunch bag. That is their shepherd's bag. Help them count five paper stones into it, one at a time: "One, two, three, four, five smooth stones!" Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, they draw five stones, or David with his sling. While they color, ask: "Who helped David? Is God bigger than any giant?" Kids who finish early can play Find the Sheep again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, that You are bigger than any giant.

Help me trust You when I am afraid. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let them do every motion. If they get wiggly, stand up and be tall like Goliath, then small like David. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is scared of the giant: say, "God was bigger than Goliath, and God took care of David. God takes care of you too." Keep the focus on God's help, not on the fight.

