

David and Goliath

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: The battle is the LORD's, so we can trust God with big problems.

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

Memory verse: "And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands." *1 Samuel 17:47 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible, string cut to 9 feet 9 inches, masking tape, 5 sheets of gray paper, a marker, a bucket or basket, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have one: a small bag for a "shepherd's bag."

Before class: crumple the gray paper into 5 "stones" and write the memory verse on them (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at 1 Samuel 17:45.

1. Opening game: How Big Was Goliath? (5–10 minutes)

Tape one end of the string to the floor and stretch it out. Say: "This is how tall Goliath was." Have kids guess how many of them, lying head to toe, would match it. Then try it! Ask: *How would you feel if a soldier that tall shouted at you?* Say: "Today we will meet a young shepherd who faced a giant. He was not afraid, because he trusted God."

2. Bible story: David Faces the Giant (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 1 Samuel 17, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

The Philistine army came to fight God's people, Israel. The Philistines stood on one mountain, King Saul and Israel stood on another, and there was a valley between them (1 Samuel 17:1–3). Out came a champion named **Goliath**. He was six cubits and a span tall. That is about 9 feet 9 inches! He wore a brass helmet and a heavy coat of armor that weighed about 125 pounds (17:4–5).

Goliath shouted, "Choose a man to come and fight me!" (17:8–10). When Saul and all Israel heard him, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. **Dismayed** means they lost their courage (17:11). Every morning and every evening for forty days, Goliath came out again (17:16).

Back home in Bethlehem, a young man named **David**, the youngest of Jesse's eight sons, took care of his father's sheep. His three oldest brothers were in Saul's army (17:12–15). One day Jesse sent David to the camp with food for his brothers (17:17–18). There David heard Goliath shouting and saw the soldiers run away, very scared (17:23–24). David said, "Who is this Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (17:26). **Defy** means to dare and make fun of.



The story continues: David told King Saul, "I will go and fight with this Philistine" (17:32). Saul said, "You are only a youth," which means a young man (17:33). But David had taken care of his father's sheep, and when a lion and a bear took a lamb, David went after it and saved the lamb (17:34–35). David said, "The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." **Delivered** means saved (17:37). Saul said, "Go, and the LORD be with thee" (17:37).

Saul put his own armor on David, but David took it off, because he was not used to it (17:38–39). He took his staff, chose **five smooth stones** out of the brook, put them in his shepherd's bag and held his **sling** (17:40).

Goliath looked at David and made fun of him because he was so young (17:42–44). **Read 1 Samuel 17:45 from your Bible:** "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied." Say: "That means David was trusting God, not a sword." Then David ran toward Goliath, put his hand in his bag, took out one stone and slung it. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead, and **the giant fell on his face** to the ground (17:48–49)! The Philistines ran away, and Israel's army shouted and chased them (17:51–52).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who was the giant? (*Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:4*)
2. What was David's job at home? (*Taking care of his father's sheep, 17:15*)
3. What animals did God help David save a lamb from? (*A lion and a bear, 17:34–37*)
4. How many stones did David pick up? (*Five smooth stones, 17:40*)
5. Whose battle was it? (*The LORD's, 17:47*)

4. Memory verse: Stone Toss (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the five paper "stones," one part on each: *And all this assembly shall know / that the LORD saveth not / with sword and spear: / for the battle is the LORD'S, / and he will give you into our hands. 1 Samuel 17:47.* Kids toss each stone into the bucket, then read its part. Explain the old words: **assembly** means everyone gathered there, and **saveth** means saves. Read the verse together. Then take one stone out of the bucket and read it again. Keep taking stones out, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "David knew he could not win by his own strength. We can't beat sin by our own strength either. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: when you feel afraid, say "The battle is the LORD's!" and pray.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **David and Goliath word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/david-and-goliath-word-search), the David and Goliath worksheet, coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/david-and-goliath), or **Giant, Giant, Shepherd**: play it like Duck, Duck, Goose. Kids sit in a circle. The tapper walks around saying "Giant, giant..." and taps each head, then says "Shepherd!" The shepherd chases the tapper around the circle. Whoever is left without a spot is the next tapper.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You are bigger than any giant. When we feel afraid, help us remember that the battle is Yours. Help us trust You like David did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks "Is it okay to fight someone who is mean to me?": answer simply. Goliath was an enemy soldier in a real war, and he defied God (1 Samuel 17:10, 17:26). David wasn't picking a fight; he trusted God to protect His people (17:45–47). When someone is mean to us, we tell a grown-up and pray, and we trust God with our battles.

If a child asks what happened to Goliath: the stone hit him and he fell down, and God gave Israel the victory (17:49–50). You don't need to say more for this age.