

A shepherd anointed


Bible verses:

1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:4-16,32,38-40,48-51
David and Goliath


Aim:

To explore the story of David and Goliath and see how God anointed David when he was a child


Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



In today's session we see a young boy facing a huge giant.

Our Bible story has two distinct, yet important, parts. It is about Samuel following God's direction to find and anoint a child who would one day be a great king. It is also about the victory of young David over a towering giant. Samuel and David teach us about the importance of putting our trust in God and his faithfulness.

David showed faithfulness by trusting that God would look after him when he faced Goliath.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- A clean pebble and permanent markers or paint
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To find some artist depictions of Goliath (optional)
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Faithfulness* – download from **Salvationist**
- Paper and pen for a list (optional) – see Pray it



Start it

Give the children paper and pens/pencils and ask them to draw a Bible character based on your description. Slowly read through the following description, based on 1 Samuel 17:4-7, giving the children an opportunity to draw each part. Make sure the children know that bronze is a metal, often a dull gold/brown colour, and how tall roughly three metres is.

- Draw a man about 2m 85cm tall (nine feet four inches).
- He has a bronze helmet on his head.
- He is wearing a coat of armour made of lots of little pieces of bronze.
- On his legs are bronze protectors, protecting his shins.
- He has a small bronze spear tied on his back.
- Also on his back is a larger wooden spear with a large heavy blade.
- There is an officer soldier walking in front of him, carrying his shield.

Look at the pictures together and ask the children if they can guess the Bible character. You may want to show some other artists' ideas and compare them to their drawings. What is similar/different?



Sing it

Say:

We're going to sing a song that gives us a sneak preview of the story of David and Goliath.

Song

'David and Goliath' (Bible song with lyrics) by Shawna Edwards (stop at 2:23)



Share it

Say:

In last week's session we met Samuel.

Ask:

What happened when Samuel kept hearing a voice in the night?

Say:

As he grew, Samuel continued to follow God's path for his life and played an important part in the story of King David. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened.

Video

David Chosen to be King (Stories of the Bible) by Saddleback Kids (3:00)

Say:

King Saul had stopped listening to God, so God sent Samuel to find the next king.

Ask:

Why was Samuel surprised when God chose David to be the next king?

Say:

Samuel was surprised when God sent him to find a young shepherd boy, but God knew he was the one! God wasn't concerned how old David was, because he was looking at his heart. It was what was on the inside that mattered to God.

Ask:

How would you feel if you were told you would rule a country when you grew up?

Say:

David had to wait a long time to become king, but God had many adventures in store for him while he waited. Let's watch the clip to discover what happened to David when he stood up to Goliath.

Video

David and Goliath (Slapstick Theatre) by Saddleback Kids (3:10)

Watch: 0:00–1:08 'The Israelites and King Saul were very afraid.'

Ask:

- What have we discovered about Goliath so far?
- How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw Goliath walking toward them?

Read:

'Goliath stood and shouted to the Israelite soldiers, "Why have you taken positions for battle? I am a Philistine, and you are Saul's servants! Choose a man and send him to fight me. If he can fight and kill me, we will become your servants. But if I defeat and kill him, you will become our servants." Then he said, "Today I stand and dare the army of Israel! Send one of your men to fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard the Philistine's words, they were very afraid.'

(1 Samuel 17:8–11 *ICB*)

Say:

Most of the time, wars are fought with two groups of soldiers fighting each other. Sadly this usually leads to many people losing their lives like in World War II or the wars we see in the world today. King Saul often fought against the Philistines because they were constantly invading Israelite territory. The Philistine's champion, Goliath, did things differently. Instead of two armies fighting against each other, he wanted the Israelites to choose one man to fight on their behalf.

Ask:

- What do you think of Goliath's way of fighting?
- Why do you think he felt confident he would win?

Say:

The Philistines' champion was nearly three metres tall (roughly nine feet), dressed top to toe in bronze armour, ready to fight for them. It's not surprising that the Israelites were afraid. Each day they delayed sending someone to fight, their fear got worse.

Read:

'The Philistine Goliath came out every morning and evening. He stood before the Israelite army. This continued for 40 days.'

(1 Samuel 17:16 *ICB*)

Ask:

How do you think the Israelites felt when they saw Goliath and heard him shouting at them every morning?

Say:

Despite the fear running through the Israelite camp, there was one boy who was not afraid. In fact, he was the only one willing to take on the giant Goliath. David went to King Saul and offered to fight on behalf of the Israelites.

Ask:

How do you think King Saul reacted when David offered to fight Goliath?

Read:

'Saul answered, "You can't go out against this Philistine and fight him. You're only a boy."

(1 Samuel 17:33 *ICB*)

'Saul put his own clothes on David. He put a bronze helmet on David's head and armour on his body. David put on Saul's sword and tried to walk around. But he was not used to all the armour Saul had put on him.'

'He said to Saul, "I can't go in this. I'm not used to it." Then David took it all off. He took his stick in his hand, and he chose five smooth stones from a stream. He put them in his pouch and held his sling in his hand. Then he went to meet Goliath.'

(1 Samuel 38-40 *ICB*)

Ask:

At first, King Saul said David couldn't defeat Goliath – but then he tried to help David by giving him a suit of armour. Why wasn't it helpful?

Say:

David knew his strengths and was confident God had prepared him for this moment. He was used to fighting lions to protect the sheep, and out in the fields he had no fancy armour. Now was the time for David to trust in God and step out in faith.

Watch: 1:09 to end.

Ask:

How did David defeat Goliath?

Say:

By trusting in God's power, David was able to defeat the giant and save his people. Our Memory Verse for this month reminds us of the importance of placing our trust in God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

**'Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.'**

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)



Action it

Say:

David faced a huge challenge that could only be overcome if he put his faith and trust in God.

Explain to the children that they will be decorating a pebble to take home and to remind them to place their trust in God. Ask them to write the Bible reference 'Proverbs 3:5-6' in permanent marker or paint on a pebble and then decorate it.



Pray it

Say:

In our prayer time we're going to think about the 'giants' that we face in life. We could describe these 'giants' as people or situations that make us feel afraid or worried about what might happen in the future. Every morning the Israelites woke up to hear their giant shouting and taunting them. Sometimes it can feel like our 'giants' do the same thing. As soon as we open our eyes, we remember a person or situation that fills us with fear.

Ask:

What kinds of things can act as 'giants' in our lives?

If the children feel comfortable, they can share their own 'giants'; but if not, the conversation can be steered to general people or situations that may cause fear or anxiety. You may want to create a list for the children to refer to.

For example:

- Starting at a new school
- Having a new teacher
- Falling out with someone
- Preparing for a test
- Not keeping up with your schoolwork
- Dealing with children who are unkind to you

Say:

In our story today, David showed us how to deal with the 'giants' in our lives. His story helps us to see that God is faithful and will always be there for us.

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

God's faithfulness doesn't always mean things will turn out exactly how we want. There were many times when the Philistines caused a lot of problems for the Israelites, and they certainly didn't win every time, but God was with them.

To bring the session to a close, give the children an opportunity to write or draw a prayer to ask God to be with them as they face the 'giants' in their life. As they write their prayer, play the song 'Giants Fall' by Francesca Battistelli.

Listen

'Giants Fall' lyric video by Francesca Battistelli (3:06)

Read the chorus from the song to bring the session to a close.

'So don't you be afraid

Of giants in your way.

With God, you know that anything's possible.

So step into the fight,

He's right there by your side.

The stones inside your hand might be small

But watch the giants fall.'

- Francesca Battistelli



Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.

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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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17:4-16, 32, 38-40,
48-51



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Today's fruit:

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Remember

This week you decorated a pebble with our memory verse reference for this month. Each day, hold the pebble and say the memory verse out loud. This will give you a daily reminder that God can be trusted.



Pray

This week you took time to think about some of the 'giants' in your life. God is always with us, but he also gives us people in our lives who we can pray with and talk things through.

Think of someone you can trust to talk through your fears and worries. Ask them to spend time listening to you and praying with you.



Song for the week

'David and Goliath' (Bible song with lyrics) by Shawna Edwards



Memory verse

**'Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own
understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.'**

(Psalm 3:5-6 NIV)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**