God Helps David Defeat Goliath • Lesson 9

Bible Verse

It is the Lord’s battle, not ours (adapted from 1 Samuel 17:47b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ name things that make them afraid,
■ hear how God helped David be brave, and
■ ask God to help them be brave when they’re afraid.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God helps David defeat Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:23–51

It seems strange that two armies would have occupied hills across from each other and waited for 40 days without attacking. However, if either side rushed down across the valley between them and tried to rush up the other side to attack, that side would likely suffer tremendous casualties. So they each waited for the other to attack first.

In ancient times when a “champion” like Goliath was designated to fight as a representative of his army, the outcome of the entire battle depended on that one fight. However, the results of that fight were thought to be controlled more by the gods of the warrior than by the strength or cunning of the warrior himself.

One might wonder how David killed a giant the size and strength of Goliath with a sling and a stone. We tend to think of the “five smooth stones” David selected as pebbles, but each was probably bigger than a baseball. When slung at a speed of around 100 miles an hour, that size of a stone would definitely be able to kill a man.

The mighty Saul, who stood a head above all the other Israelites, was afraid to fight Goliath. But David, probably only 17 or 18 years old, knew that God was with the Israelites and that God would defeat Goliath. Anyone who trusts fully in God can do great things for him!

Prayer

• Read Psalm 27:1.
• What is it you fear?
• Pray: Lord, I am afraid of… Please help me to… Help the children in my class to…

Before the Lesson

■ Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
■ Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
■ Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.
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<td>Welcome!—Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.</td>
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<td><strong>Let’s Get Started</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
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<td>Trusting Prayers—Tell God their fears and ask him to help.</td>
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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** “Shirt Name Tags” (p. 24), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape
- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson or take-home page. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about how David followed directions?” and “What new rules did your family make up?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God helps us be brave.**
- Hand out the shirt name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have some extra shirt name tags on hand for children who weren’t in class last week or to replace damaged name tags.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the activities to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “How would you feel if you had to fight against a giant?” or “Tell me about a time you were brave.”

**Option 1: Rock Tables**

**SUPPLIES:** rocks, towels, pan, water
- Set out towels and an assortment of rocks in a shallow pan of water. Tell children that the Bible says David chose five smooth stones from the river, and then used the stones to fight Goliath. Help children count the rocks and sort them into piles of five. Help the children arrange the rocks in each pile, smallest to biggest. Talk about how David had many brothers. Even though David was smaller than his brothers, God helped him be brave. Remind children that God helps us be brave, too.

**Option 2: Towering Giants**

**SUPPLIES:** blocks
- Set out blocks, and have children work together to build a tall tower. Then have children take turns tossing the comet ball like a slingshot to knock down the block “giant.” As they knock down the tower, have them say, “It is the Lord’s battle!” Let each child build a tower, and repeat the activity as often as time allows. Then return the comet ball to the Learning Lab. Talk with children about how David might have felt as he faced Goliath. Remind them that God helps us be brave, just as he helped David.

*It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives.*
Option 3: Are You a Giant?

SUPPLIES: newsprint, scissors, tape, marker

Tape several sheets of newsprint together to create a single, 9-foot sheet. Tape the 9-foot sheet to a wall to show children how tall Goliath was. As children are working at the other Let’s Get Started activities, call them over to the newsprint one at a time. Have each child stand against the newsprint so you can mark his or her height. Write each child’s name next to the mark. As you’re marking, ask children how tall they think Goliath was, and then point out that the giant was even taller than the newsprint (9 feet 4 inches tall). When you’ve finished marking all the children’s heights, mark Whiskers’ height, too. Leave the newsprint on the wall. You’ll refer to it during “Hear and Tell the Bible Story.”

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player

Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: CD player

Tell the children you’ll play a fun marching song to get their attention. Explain that when you play the song, the children are to stop what they’re doing and march toward you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Gather children in a circle.

Ask: • What did you make or do when you came to our class today?
(Knocked down a tower; played with rocks; you measured me.)
Say: Some of you knocked down Goliath towers and some of you counted rocks. Everyone got measured. You all were learning important things about our Bible story. Today we’re going to learn that God helps us be brave, just as he helped David be brave. But first let’s talk about some things that might make it hard for us to be brave.

Ask: • What are some things that scare you? (Monsters; the dark; big dogs.)

Say: There are lots of scary things in the world. I’m going to give you some modeling dough. I’d like you to make the scariest monster you can, and then tell a partner about it.

Have children form pairs, and give each child a piece of modeling clay. If your room is carpeted, you might want to lay a plastic tablecloth on the floor or do this activity at a table.

As children are working on their monsters, circulate between pairs, and offer help as needed. When children have finished, play “Marching Music” (track 10) on the CD. Wait for them to respond, and then call on several pairs to describe their monsters to the class.

After pairs have described their monsters, say: Those were some really scary monsters. I’m glad there’s really no such thing as monsters, aren’t you? But sometimes we feel afraid in a storm or after a bad dream. Let’s try to remember that God helps us be brave when we’re afraid. Let’s smash our pretend monsters now to show that we’ll trust God to take our fears away.

Have children smash their monsters. Collect the modeling clay and put it away; you’ll use it again in Lesson 13.

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

Say: Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” (track 4) with the CD to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.

I’m so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
I’m so glad for God’s book today.
I’m so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’—
Keep me learnin’ all about his way.

Let me hear ‘bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
Let me hear ‘bout God’s love for me.
Let me hear ‘bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
Let’s shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)
When the music stops, invite the child who’s holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child’s hand with the *sheep stamp* and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children’s hands. Return the *sheep stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: *I’m thankful for* [name of child who brought you the Bible]. Tell each child that you are thankful for him or her. Let’s thank God together for all our friends in this class.

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad We’re Together” (track 5) with the *CD* to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.”

**SING**

I’m so glad we’re together.
Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’.
I’m so glad we’re all here today.
I’m so glad we’re together:
Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’—
Prayin’ for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who’s here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.

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**Hear and Tell the Bible Story**

**SUPPLIES:** *Bible, CD player, paper, newsprint from Option 3*

Bring out the *Bible Big Book: David and Goliath*. Have each child crumple up one piece of paper into a tight wad, and set the paper wad “rocks” aside. Have children gather around you. Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 17. Say: Our Bible story comes from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible. Our *Bible Big Book* shows us pictures of our Bible story. We’ve been learning about David for a few weeks. Do you think you know that story pretty well?

Let children respond. Then continue: Let’s see if we can tell the story of David to our friend Whiskers the Mouse today.

Bring out Whiskers, and say to him: Whiskers, your friends would like to tell you about the Bible story they’ve been learning.

Have Whiskers respond enthusiastically, and then help children tell him the story of David. As you hold up the *Bible Big Book* and turn the pages, let children take turns telling parts of the story to Whiskers. Be sure to fill in any parts they leave out.

After you finish the story, have Whiskers say: I’m a little confused. David was so small and Goliath was so…giant! How could a boy beat a scary guy like that? Why didn’t David run away?
Respond by answering Whiskers: **Whiskers doesn’t understand that David trusted God and God helped David be brave. Maybe Whiskers will understand our story better if we show it to him. Will you children help me act out our Bible story for Whiskers?**

Set Whiskers on a table. Gather the children around the measured newsprint made in Option 3. Have the children all huddle together, like the fearful Israelites. Play the parts of the characters as you read the following drama rhyme.

Say: **Goliath was a big...mean...angry giant.**
Goliath shouted, “I’ve been waiting all night for someone to fight. Now that there’s light, let’s get it right Or I’ll squash you with all of my might!”
The Israelites bent down to hide. Crouch down and huddle with the children.
Men, women, and children—they all cried. “There’s no one here,” they lied.
Return to Goliath characterization.
““I’ll squash you like a bug And sweep you under a rug. Just show me your scared little mug!”
Huddle back down with the children.
But the Israelites hid in fear And pretended they didn’t hear. Didn’t they know that God was near?
Stand up and place your hands on your hips.
When young David heard the fuss, He said, “Don’t let that giant cuss— For the mighty God of Israel is with us! I may be small, But I’ll stand tall. And God will make that giant fall...after all.”
Have all the children kneel and fold their hands in prayer.
“Dear God, I look to you For I know your promises are true. I believe that you’ll come through.”
Have all the children pick up a paper wad “rock.”
David swung his sling round and round. The rock hit Goliath with a little sound.
Have all the children throw their rocks at the newsprint Goliath.
And the giant fell to the ground. Pull the newsprint off the wall, and lay it on the floor.
That’s the end of this fiddle-faddle.
God won the battle.
He’s the strongest from Israel to Seattle!
Have all the children cheer and shout.
Have Whiskers say: I get it now. Even though Goliath was meaner and tougher, David trusted God. God helped David be brave. I’m going to go tell my brother, Sammy, all about this great story. Thanks, kids!

Put Whiskers and the Bible Big Book away and out of sight.

Ask: • What do you think David was afraid of? (The bear; the lion; Goliath.)

Say: David had a lot of scary things in his life. But even though he was scared, God helped him be brave. God helps us be brave, too.

Our Bible verse tells us that God is the Lord’s battle, not ours. It was the Lord’s battle when David fought against Goliath, and it’s the Lord’s battle when we need to be brave. Let’s sing our Bible verse song to help us remember that God will help us be brave in all our battles.

Lead the children in singing “The Battle Is the Lord’s” (track 13) with the CD to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

**SING**

The battle is the Lord’s.
The battle is the Lord’s.
When there’s something hard to do,
The battle is the Lord’s.
(Repeat.)

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**Do the Bible Story**

**SUPPLIES:** paper plate, plastic garbage bag

Before class, remove the colored sand from the Bible Discovery Pak.

Gather the children in a circle, and have them sit down. Place the paper plate in the center of the circle, and pour the colored sand onto the plate. (You may want to put the plastic garbage bag under the plate for easier cleanup afterward.)

Say: In today’s story we heard how God helped little David defeat the giant Goliath. God helped David be brave, and God can help you be brave, too.

Sometimes we can get very scared of things. Let’s play a game now to show how God can help us be brave even when we’re scared.

One by one have children come up and use their finger to draw in the sand. Encourage each child to draw something he or she is scared of, such as a mean dog, a bigger kid, lightning, or being alone in their bedroom at night. Then once the child has drawn what he or she is scared of, lead the children in a prayer for that child.

Pray: Dear God, please help [name of child] be brave when [name what the child fears]. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Once you’ve prayed, encourage the child to “wipe” away the fear by raking his or her hand through the sand. Give the child a hug and then encourage the next child to come up.

Ask: • What else are you afraid of? (Big dogs; swimming; riding in the car.)

• How can you trust God to help you be brave? (I can pray when I’m scared; I can ask God to help me; I can remember how God helped David.)
(Whiskers peeks over your lap, and then runs away.)

Teacher: Whiskers, what’s wrong?
Whiskers: (Peeks head out again.) I’m scared.
Teacher: What are you afraid of?
Whiskers: Do you remember last week when I ate too many cookies? Well, I’m still feeling a little sick. My mom says I have to go to the doctor, and I’m afraid. (Cries.)

Teacher: Children, why do you think Whiskers is afraid to go to the doctor? (Let children respond. They might say: He might get a shot; it’s a new place.) Whiskers, if you’re feeling sick, the doctor can help you get better. Why are you afraid?

Whiskers: I’ve never been to the doctor before, and I don’t know what it’s like. My brother told me he had to get a shot the last time he went to the doctor. I’m scared of shots.

Teacher: Whiskers, maybe your friends could tell you what it’s like at the doctor. Children, what happens when you go to the doctor? (Help children think of replies, such as getting a shot; having your temperature taken; opening wide and saying “aah,” and sometimes getting a treat.) You see, Whiskers, going to the doctor isn’t so scary. Doctors and nurses are nice people who want to help you. Sometimes they do give you shots, but the shot will help you feel better.

Whiskers: (Shaking head) I do want to feel better, but I’m afraid of shots.
Teacher: We’ve been learning today that God helps us be brave. Do you remember the story we told you about David? God helped David be brave when he was scared. Maybe we could pray for you and ask God to help you be brave when you go to the doctor.

Whiskers: (Nodding) I’d like that.

Teacher: (Lead children in praying for Whiskers.) Thanks, friends. Could you say the Bible Point again with me so I’ll remember it when I go to the doctor? God helps us...

Whiskers: (Lead children in repeating the Bible Point with Whiskers: God helps us be brave.)

Teacher: I hope you feel better soon, Whiskers.

Whiskers: Me, too. I’m still a little scared about getting a shot, but I’ll try to be brave as David was. I know God will help me. Goodbye. I’ll see you next week.

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**Trust Prayers**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Say: Whiskers was afraid of going to the doctor. We talked earlier about some things we’re afraid of. When we’re afraid, we can ask God to help us. God helps us be brave. Let’s sing our song about talking to God now. Then we’ll pray together and ask God to help us be brave this week. You can sing this song any time you feel scared or lonely.

Lead children in singing “I Can Talk to God” (track 14) with the CD to the tune of “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep.”

**SING**

When I’m afraid,
I can talk to God.
Yes, sir, yes, sir: Every day.
When I am alone,
When I am sad,
I will tell him everything that’s in my heart.
(Repeat.)

Stop the CD player. Hold up a pinwheel, and say: Just as this pinwheel needs a breath of air to get it moving, we need God to help us move past our fears. Let’s pass the pinwheel around and thank God for helping us.

Pass the pinwheel around the circle, have each child blow on it and complete the sentence, “God, thank you for helping me when I’m scared of...”

When each child has prayed, close by praying: Please help us be brave. Thank you for always helping us. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.
Lively Learning: Ring Around Goliath

Play this variation of Ring Around a Rosy. Have children form a circle and hold hands. Pick one child to be Goliath, and have that child stand in the middle of the circle. Have the other children circle around Goliath singing, “Ring around Goliath, pocketful of stones, swing around my slingshot, Goliath falls down!” On the words, “Goliath falls down,” have Goliath fall to the ground. Let Goliath pick another child to stand in the center and then join the circle. Repeat the game until everyone has had a turn in the center. If children don’t want to be Goliath, have them just imagine him. On the words, “Goliath falls down,” have everyone fall down.

Make to Take: David and Goliath Puppets

Give each child a paper lunch bag. Have children draw frowning faces on their bags. Then have them open their bags and stuff them with newspaper. Be sure each child leaves about four inches between the stuffed newspaper and the top of the bag. Then help each child fold the open end of the bag over and tape it to the stuffed part of the bag. This bag represents Goliath. To make “David,” have each child draw a happy face on a colored dot sticker and stick it on an index finger. Then have each child walk the finger puppet up to Goliath, knock him over, and say, “It is the Lord’s battle!” Remind children that God helps us be brave, just as he helped David.

Let children take their Goliath puppets home.

Treat to Eat: Slings and Stones

Set out a bowl of round cereal such as Cheerios or Kix, a bowl of M&M’s candy, and a bowl of licorice rope pieces. Also provide small paper cups. Have children form three groups, and give each group one bowl of snack ingredients. Set a large bowl in the center of the table, and have children from each group take turns adding a cupful of ingredients from their bowls to the center bowl. When children have added all their ingredients, let each child scoop out a cup of “slings and stones.” As they enjoy the snack, remind them that God helped David defeat Goliath with a sling and a stone.

Story Picture: David Defeats Goliath

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson). Set out crayons or markers, aluminum foil, glue sticks, and pebbles. Help children tear pieces of aluminum foil and glue them onto Goliath’s armor. Then let them pick out pebbles and decide where they’d like to glue them to help David defeat Goliath. They could put a stone in David’s slingshot, one flying through the air, or one on Goliath’s forehead. As children work, review the story of David and remind them that God helps us be brave.
Today I learned...
God helps us be brave.

Help me learn this:
It is the Lord’s battle, not ours (adapted from 1 Samuel 17:47b).

Ask me:
■ What do you think David was afraid of?
■ What things are you afraid of?
■ How can our family trust God to help us be brave this week?

Family Fun
■ Before you tuck your child into bed, sing “I Can Talk to God” together to the tune of “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep.”

When I’m afraid,
I can talk to God.
Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Every day.
When I am alone,
When I am sad,
I will tell him everything that’s in my heart.

■ When David felt afraid, he talked to God. Choose a psalm that deals with fear from a children’s Bible, such as Psalm 91, and read it to your child when he or she is feeling scared.