3RD – 4TH GRADE · TEACHING PAGES · 1 SAMUEL 17:1-51; 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

David and Goliath

God fights for His people, so we don't have to be ruled by fear.

PRINCIPLE: TRUST · We can trust God with battles that are too big for us, because the battle belongs to Him.

Creation God made it	Fall We broke it	**Redemption Jesus fixes it**	Restoration Jesus makes it new

MEMORY VERSE

“It is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle belongs to the LORD.”

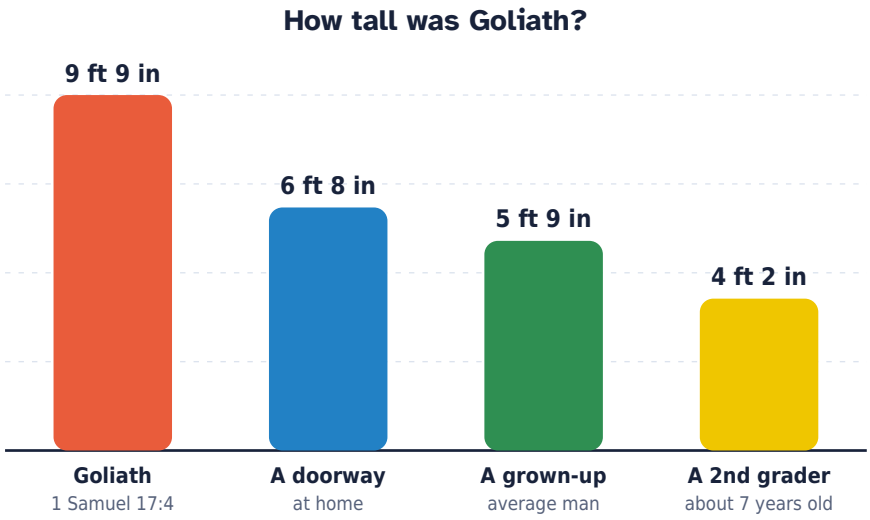
1 Samuel 17:47 BSB

START HERE

Ask, "Has anyone ever dared you to do something?" Let a few kids share (keep it light). Then say, "Today's story has the biggest dare in the Bible. It went on for forty days, and nobody would take it."

Bible story 8 min

For forty days, morning and evening, Goliath marched into the valley and dared Israel to send a man to fight him. He was more than nine feet tall. His armor alone weighed about 125 pounds. King Saul and his whole army were terrified.



The deal was simple: one champion from each side would fight. Whoever won, his whole army won. But no one in Israel would go.

BIBLE TIMES

One champion for everyone

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Sometimes, instead of two whole armies fighting, each side sent out one champion. Whoever won, his whole side won (1 Samuel 17:8-9). That's why Israel needed someone to face Goliath.

Then a young shepherd arrived with food for his brothers. His name was David, the youngest son of Jesse. When David heard Goliath mocking "the armies of the living God," he couldn't believe no one would answer.



DASCH DIGS UP…

David was the **youngest of eight brothers**. His three oldest brothers were in Saul's army. 1 Samuel 17:12-14

ELIAB

Why did you come down here? You should be watching the sheep!

DAVID

What have I done now? Can't I even ask a question?

Soon King Saul sent for him. "You're only a boy," Saul said.

DAVID

When a lion or a bear took a lamb from my flock, I went after it. The LORD who rescued me from the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine.

BIBLE TIMES

Shepherds kept sheep safe

Shepherds stayed with their sheep day and night, leading them to grass and water. In David's time, lions and bears still lived in the land, and a shepherd had to protect the flock (1 Samuel 17:34-35). It was often the youngest son's job.

Saul put his own armor on David, but David could hardly walk in it. So he took it off. Instead he chose five smooth stones from the stream and took his shepherd's sling.

BIBLE TIMES

A sling, not a slingshot

A sling was two long cords with a little pouch in the middle. A shepherd put a stone in the pouch, swung it around, and let one cord go. The stone flew fast and far. Shepherds used slings to protect their sheep, and armies had trained slingers.



DASCH DIGS UP…

Some soldiers in Israel were so good with slings they could "sling a stone at a hair and not miss." Judges 20:16

Goliath sneered when he saw him. But David called out:

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DAVID
You come against me with a sword and a spear, but I come against you in the name of the LORD. Today everyone will know that there is a God in Israel. The battle belongs to the LORD!

David ran toward Goliath, slung one stone, and it struck the giant in the forehead. Goliath fell facedown. The Philistine army ran, and Israel chased them away. God had won the battle for His people.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT
Who are you in this story? Most people say David. Look closer: you're more like the scared soldiers on the hill. They didn't beat Goliath. They just watched, and when their champion won, the win was theirs too. That's exactly what Jesus did for us. He fought sin and death, and His win becomes ours.

CHRIST CONNECTION · BETTER THAN
Israel needed a champion to fight the enemy they could not beat. Jesus is the better champion: He defeated sin and death for us, and His victory becomes ours.

Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15

Talk about it

1. How long had Goliath been challenging Israel?
   Answer help: Forty days (17:16).
2. What did David remember that gave him confidence?
   Answer help: How God rescued him from the lion and the bear (17:37).
3. David said, 'The battle belongs to the LORD.' What did he mean?
   Answer help: God was the one who would win, not David's strength.
4. A friend dares you to do something you know is wrong. How could remembering who God is help you?



Ellie Asks: Think It Through

1. Goliath trusted his size and weapons. What do people today trust to make them feel safe? What does this story say about who is really in charge?

Activities

Look it up 15 min

You'll need: Bibles, Pencils, Printed handouts

1. In pairs, look up 1 Samuel 17:37, 17:45 and 17:47.
2. For each verse, write who David says will win the fight.
3. Talk about it - why did David keep talking about God instead of himself?

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Giant-size 5 min

You'll need: Masking tape, Tape measure

1. Stand along the 9 ft 9 in tape line. How many of you does it take to be one Goliath?



Theo's Workshop Build challenge

Giant-sized challenge 15 min

You'll need: Craft sticks, Rubber bands, Plastic spoons, Cotton balls or pom-poms, Paper cups, A tape measure, Masking tape

1. Run a strip of masking tape up a wall to 9 feet 9 inches high. Say, "This is how tall Goliath was!" (1 Samuel 17:4). Have kids stand next to it.
2. Teams build a launcher. Stack and band craft sticks together, add a plastic spoon on top with a rubber band, and test it.
3. Stack paper cups into a "Goliath" tower. Each team gets three launches from behind a line to knock it down.
4. Measure how far each team's best launch flew, and cheer for the winner.
5. Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47. Ask, "Did David win because he had the best sling?"

How it works: A launcher works like a lever. When you push down on one end, the other end moves faster and farther. A sling works in a similar way, making a stone move much faster than a hand could throw it. Shepherds practiced for hours, and some slingers in Bible times could hit a target the width of a hair (Judges 20:16).

The point: David was skilled, but he knew the battle belonged to the LORD (1 Samuel 17:47). He went out in God's name, not in his own strength. Jesus is the greater champion who fought our biggest enemies, sin and death, and won for us.

Safety: Launch only cotton balls or pom-poms, and never aim at people. Grown-ups handle the rubber bands for young kids.



Real life today with Theo

At school	Someone dares you to cheat, sneak, or say something mean. Goliath's dare was loud, but God is bigger than pressure. You can say no.
In sports and games	Nervous before a big game? God doesn't promise you'll always win, but He promises to be with you, win or lose.
With brothers and sisters	When you and your brother or sister fight, you don't have to win every argument. Trust God, and let Him help you make peace.

Sing and move

♪ **Only a Boy Named David** Traditional

♪ **Our God** Modern worship song

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OUR CHANT: CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: Whose battle is it?

Kids: The battle belongs to the LORD!

Leader: Who fights for us?

Kids: The LORD fights for us!

Live It
When you're afraid this week, say the memory verse and ask God to help you do what's right.

Pray together
Lord, You fight for Your people. When we're afraid, help us trust You and do what's right. Thank You that Jesus won the biggest battle for us. Amen.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17:1-51

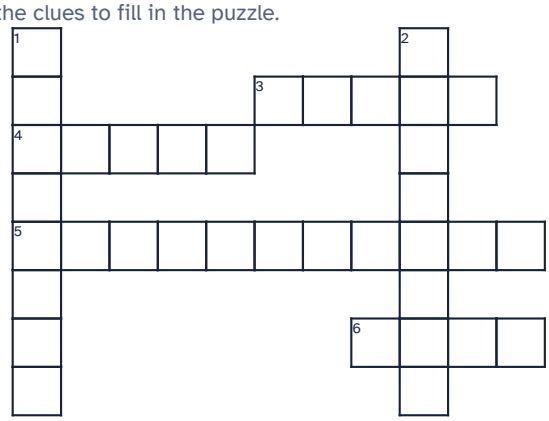
God fights for His people, so we don't have to be ruled by fear.

MEMORY VERSE

It is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle belongs to the LORD.
1 Samuel 17:47

1 CROSSWORD

Use the clues to fill in the puzzle.



2 CLUES

Across
3. Two cords and a pouch used to throw a stone fast and far (5)
4. Heavy metal clothes that protect a soldier in battle (5)
5. A people near the sea who were enemies of Israel (11)
6. To stand against someone and insult them (4)

Down
1. One person who fights for a whole group (8)
2. Chosen by God, shown by pouring oil on someone's head (8)

3 FILL IN THE VERSE

Use the words in the box.

sword	belongs	spear	battle

It is not by _____ or _____ that the LORD saves; for the _____ _____ to the LORD. (1 Samuel 17:47)

4 DASCH DIGS UP...

Did you know?

★ Goliath was "six cubits and a span" tall. That's about **9 feet 9 inches**, taller than any doorway in your house! 1 Samuel 17:4

★ Goliath's bronze armor weighed 5,000 shekels, about **125 pounds**. That's like wearing a big grown-up on your back! 1 Samuel 17:5



5 MY PRAYER

Finish the prayer, then pray it (think about trust).

Dear God, You are _____. Thank You for _____.

Please help me _____ this week. Amen.

6 LOOK IT UP!

Find these in your Bible.

1 Samuel 16:7: What does it say about God?

_____

Psalm 20:7: What does it say about God?

_____

GOD IS FAITHFUL, SO WE CAN DEPEND ON HIM.

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TAKE-HOME PAGE · DAVID AND GOLIATH

Keep the story going at home

For grown-ups
Today we learned that **the battle belongs to the LORD**. Israel's soldiers were too afraid to face Goliath, but God saved His people through David, a young shepherd who trusted Him.

Ask at dinner: *What is something that feels too big for you right now? What does this story tell us about God?*

Memory verse: "It is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle belongs to the LORD." (1 Samuel 17:47)

Ask your child

1. David said, 'The battle belongs to the LORD.' What did he mean?
2. Goliath trusted his size and weapons. What do people today trust to make them feel safe? What does this story say about who is really in charge?
3. A friend dares you to do something you know is wrong. How could remembering who God is help you?

Words to know

Champion: One person who fights for a whole group.
Philistines: A people near the sea who were enemies of Israel.
Sling: Two cords and a pouch used to throw a stone fast and far.
Armor: Heavy metal clothes that protect a soldier in battle.

This week
When you're afraid this week, say the memory verse and ask God to help you do what's right.
Write the memory verse on a card and put it where you'll see it every day.

✂ Cut out the verse card and put it where you'll see it every day.

MEMORY VERSE

“It is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle belongs to the LORD.”

1 Samuel 17:47

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Name: _____ Activity page

Look it up

Look up 1 Samuel 17:37, 17:45 and 17:47. For each verse, write who David says will win the fight.

Verse	Who does David say will win?	What does David call God?
1 Samuel 17:37		
1 Samuel 17:45		
1 Samuel 17:47		

1. Why do you think David kept talking about God instead of himself?

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