5TH – 6TH GRADE · TEACHING PAGES · 1 SAMUEL 17:1-51; 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

David and Goliath

Jesus is the better David. He defeated the enemy we never could.

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, "If your whole class's grade depended on one person taking one test, who would you pick?" Let them argue a little. Then explain that ancient armies sometimes did exactly that: one champion fought, and his whole side won or lost.

Bible story 10 min

Israel's army stood frozen on one hillside. The Philistines stood on the other. The Valley of Elah lay between them. Goliath's challenge was simple: one champion for each side, and the loser's people would serve the winner's. Israel needed a champion. They didn't have one.

Where it happened



BIBLE TIMES

Who were the Philistines?

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The Philistines lived near the sea in five big cities: Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron. Goliath came from Gath. They knew how to make iron weapons, and Israel did not (1 Samuel 13:19-22).

Goliath was more than nine feet tall. He wore bronze armor, and his spear was as thick as a weaver's beam. For forty days he shouted his dare. King Saul was the tallest man in Israel, the one who should have gone. He stayed in his tent.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Here's what most people miss. When Israel asked for a king, they said they wanted one to "go out before us and fight our battles" (1 Samuel 8:20). God gave them Saul, a head taller than anyone (9:2). Now the battle they wanted a king for has finally come, and their tall king won't go. God's chosen king, the youngest son of Jesse, goes instead. The king God chooses is the one who fights for his people. Who does that sound like?



DASCH DIGS UP…

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



DASCH DIGS UP…

The iron tip of Goliath's spear alone weighed about **15 pounds**, as much as a bowling ball. 1 Samuel 17:7

God had already chosen someone else. Not long before, the prophet Samuel had anointed Jesse's youngest son, David, as Israel's future king (1 Samuel 16). David was still a shepherd. He came to the battle lines only to bring food to his brothers.

David wasn't upset by Goliath's size. He was upset by his insults.

DAVID

Who is this Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

His brother Eliab said he was showing off. But David cared about God's honor, not his own.

When Saul doubted him, David pointed to what God had already done:

DAVID

The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of 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.

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He turned down Saul's armor. He took only his staff, his sling and five smooth stones.



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

Listen to the two speeches.

GOLIATH

Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks? I will give your flesh to the birds!

DAVID

I come in the name of the LORD of Hosts. All the earth will know that there is a God in Israel. The battle belongs to the LORD!

David ran toward the battle line. One stone sank into Goliath's forehead, and he fell facedown. The Philistines' champion was dead, and their army ran. One champion's win became the whole nation's win.

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. What did Goliath trust in? What did David trust in?
   Answer help: Goliath trusted his size, armor and gods (17:43-44). David trusted the LORD (17:45-47).
2. Why do you think David refused Saul's armor?
   Answer help: It didn't fit, and the victory would clearly be God's.
3. What fear would you like to hand over to God this week?



Ellie Asks: Think It Through

1. Who is God? Who am I? What went wrong? Answer these from this story.
   Answer help: God saves and keeps His promises; we are weak and need rescue; sin and enemies are bigger than us; God provides a champion.
2. In one champion fight, one person's win counts for everyone. How is that like what Jesus did?
   Answer help: Jesus fought sin and death in our place, and His victory is ours (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15).

Activities

Two speeches 15 min

You'll need: Bibles, Pencils, Printed handouts

1. Read Goliath's words (17:43-44) and David's words (17:45-47).

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2. In two columns, list what each one trusts in and what each one wants people to know.
3. Finish this sentence on your handout - "This story is really about God because..."

Fear journal 5 min

You'll need: Pencils, Printed handouts

1. Write one thing that feels like a giant to you.
2. Write the memory verse underneath it and one way you'll trust God this week.



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 mocks your faith in class, the way Goliath mocked God. You don't need to win the argument. Answer with courage and kindness, and trust God with the rest.
Online and on screens	Online, loud voices can make you afraid or tell you who to be. Goliath was loud too. Remember who is really in charge.
With friends	A friend is being picked on. Standing up for them can feel like walking into the Valley of Elah. God goes with you.

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Sing and move

♪ **Our God** Modern worship song

♪ **Mighty to Save** Modern worship song

Live It
Each morning this week, pray the memory verse over the "giant" you wrote down.

Pray together
Lord Jesus, thank You for fighting the battle we could never win. When we're afraid, remind us that the victory is Yours and that You share it with us. Amen.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17:1-51

Jesus is the better David. He defeated the enemy we never could.

MEMORY VERSE

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

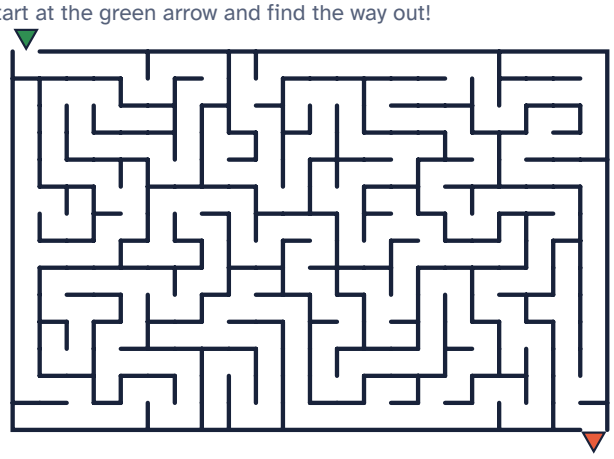
1 WORD SEARCH

Find and circle these words. Some go backward!
ANOINTED ARMOR CHAMPION DEFY PHILISTINES SLING

K L G D Y F E D S G B B T
D A B K O A N O I N T E D
T C H A M P I O N L C K G
A L O I E J A I E D C Y J
R K O S D S S F L Y I A D
I A W W T W D N N L C A B
E R S B M J A I T Y S E N
K J D L U H T S U E G A H
L P P K I K P M T K D M U
C L P A D N I C U M H U G
R N E M S L G E I E F W W

2 MAZE

Start at the green arrow and find the way out!



3 FILL IN THE VERSE

Use the words in the box.

sword	battle	lord	spear	saves	belongs

It is not by _____ or _____ that the _____ _____; 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 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?

_____

6 GOD'S BIG STORY

Circle where today's story fits in God's Big Story.

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

How does today's story point to Jesus?

_____

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. What did Goliath trust in? What did David trust in?
2. Why do you think David refused Saul's armor?
3. Who is God? Who am I? What went wrong? Answer these from this story.

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
Each morning this week, pray the memory verse over the "giant" you wrote down.
Read Psalm 20:7 and talk with your family about what people trust in.

✂ 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: _____

Two speeches

Read 1 Samuel 17:43-47. Write what Goliath trusts in and what David trusts in. Then finish this sentence - "This story is really about God because..."

	Goliath (17:43-44)	David (17:45-47)
What he trusts in		
What he wants people to know		
Who he says will win		

Finish the sentence: “This story is really about God because...”

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Name: _____

Fear journal

Write one thing that feels like a giant to you. Under it, write the memory verse and one way you'll trust God this week.

1. Something that feels like a giant to me:

2. The memory verse:

3. One way I'll trust God with my giant this week:

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