

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 79: DAVID AND GOLIATH
1 SAMUEL 17:1-52

The Philistines gathered their armies together for war. They met at Socoh in Judah. Their camp was between Socoh and Azekah, at a town called Ephes Dammim. Saul and the Israelite soldiers also gathered together. Their camp was in the Valley of Elah. Saul's soldiers were lined up and ready to fight the Philistines. The Philistines were on one hill. The Israelites were on the other hill. The valley was between them. The Philistines had a champion fighter named Goliath, who was from Gath. He was over 9 feet tall. Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He had a bronze helmet on his head. He wore a coat of armor that was made like the scales on a fish. This armor was made of bronze and weighed about 125 pounds. Goliath wore bronze protectors on his legs. He had a bronze javelin tied on his back. The wooden part of his spear was as big as a weaver's rod. The spear's blade weighed 15 pounds. Goliath's helper walked in front of him, carrying Goliath's shield. Each day Goliath would come out and shout a challenge to the Israelite soldiers. He would say, "Why are all of your soldiers lined up ready for battle? You are Saul's servants. I am a Philistine. So choose one man and send him to fight me. If that man kills me, he wins and we Philistines will become your slaves. But if I kill your man, then I win, and you will become our slaves. You will have to serve us." The Philistine also said, "Today I stand and make fun of the army of Israel. I dare you to send me one of your men and let us fight." Saul and the Israelite soldiers heard what Goliath said, and they were very afraid. David was the son of Jesse. Jesse was from the Ephrathah family in Bethlehem, Judah. Jesse had eight sons. In Saul's time Jesse was an old man. Jesse's three oldest sons went with Saul to the war. The first son was Eliab, the second was Abinadab, and the third was Shammah. David was the youngest son. The three oldest sons were in Saul's army, but David left Saul from time to time to take care of his father's sheep at Bethlehem. The Philistine came out every morning and evening and stood before the Israelite army. Goliath insulted Israel like this for 40 days. One day Jesse said to his son David, "Take this basket of cooked grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers in the camp. Also take these ten pieces of cheese for the officer who commands your brothers' group

of 1000 soldiers. See how your brothers are doing. Bring back something to show me your brothers are all right. Your brothers are with Saul and all the Israelite soldiers in the Valley of Elah. They are there to fight against the Philistines." Early in the morning, David had another shepherd take care of the sheep while he took the food and left as Jesse had told him to. David drove their wagon to the camp. The soldiers were going out to their battle positions just as David arrived. The soldiers began shouting their war cry. The Israelites and Philistines were lined up and ready for battle. David left the food with the man who kept supplies. Then he ran to the place where the Israelite soldiers were and asked about his brothers. While David was talking with his brothers, the Philistine champion fighter came out from the Philistine army. This was Goliath, the Philistine from Gath. Goliath shouted things against Israel as usual. David heard what he said. The Israelite soldiers saw Goliath and ran away. They were all afraid of him. One of the Israelite men said, "Did you see that man? Look at him! He comes out each day and makes fun of Israel. Whoever kills him will get rich. King Saul will give him a lot of money. Saul will also let his daughter marry the man who kills Goliath. He will also make that man's family free from taxes in Israel." David asked the men standing near him, "What did he say? What is the reward for killing this Philistine and taking away this shame from Israel? Who is this Goliath anyway? He is only some foreigner, nothing but a Philistine. Why does he think he can speak against the army of the living God?" So the Israelite told David about the reward for killing Goliath. David's oldest brother Eliab heard David talking with the soldiers and became angry. Eliab asked David, "Why did you come here? Who did you leave those few sheep with in the desert? I know why you came down here. You didn't want to do what you were told to do. You just wanted to come down here to watch the battle." David said, "What did I do now? I didn't do anything wrong! I was only talking." He turned to some other people and asked them the same questions. They gave him the same answers as before. Some men heard David talking. They took David to Saul and told him what David had said. David said to Saul, "People shouldn't let Goliath discourage them. I am your servant. I will go fight this Philistine." Saul answered, "You can't go out and fight against this Philistine. You're not even a soldier! Goliath has been fighting in wars since he was a boy." But David said to Saul, "There were times when I was taking care of my

father's sheep that wild animals came to take some sheep from the flock. Once there was a lion and another time, a bear. I chased that wild animal, attacked it, and took the sheep from its mouth. The wild animal jumped on me, but I caught it by the fur under its mouth. And I hit it and killed it. I killed both a lion and a bear like that! And I will kill that foreigner, Goliath, just like them. Goliath will die because he made fun of the army of the living God. The LORD saved me from the lion and the bear. He will also save me from this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go and may the LORD be with you." Saul put his own clothes on David. He put a bronze helmet on David's head and armor on his body. David put on the sword and tried to walk around. He tried to wear Saul's uniform, but David was not used to all those heavy things. David said to Saul, "I can't fight in these things. I'm not used to them." So David took them all off. He took his walking stick in his hand and went to find five smooth stones from the stream. He put the five stones in his shepherd's bag and held his sling in his hand. Then he went out to meet the Philistine. The Philistine slowly walked closer and closer to David. Goliath's helper walked in front of him, carrying a large shield. Goliath looked at David with disgust. He saw that David was only a handsome, healthy boy. Goliath said to David, "What is that stick for? Did you come to chase me away like a dog?" Then Goliath used the names of his gods to say curses against David. He said to David, "Come here, and I'll feed your body to the birds and wild animals." David said to the Philistine, "You come to me using sword, spear, and javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD All-Powerful, the God of the armies of Israel. You have said bad things about him. Today the LORD will let me defeat you. I will kill you. I will cut off your head and feed your body to the birds and wild animals. And we will do the same thing to all the other Philistines too. Then all the world will know there is a God in Israel. All the people gathered here will know that the LORD doesn't need swords or spears to save people. The battle belongs to the LORD, and he will help us defeat all of you." Goliath the Philistine started to attack David. He slowly walked closer and closer toward David, but David ran out to meet Goliath. David took out a stone from his bag. He put it in his sling and swung the sling. The stone flew from the sling and hit Goliath right between the eyes. The stone sank deep into his head, and Goliath fell to the ground--face down. So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and one stone! He hit the

79. DAVID AND GOLIATH

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MEMORY VERSE:

"The LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands." **1 SAMUEL 17:47**

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The Israelites had a camp on a hill on one side of a valley, and the Philistines had a camp on a hill on the other side of the valley. TRUE or FALSE
2. The Philistines had their hero named Goliath, who was only three feet tall. TRUE or FALSE
3. Goliath's chest armor alone weighed about a hundred and twenty five pounds. TRUE or FALSE
4. Goliath told the Israelites to send out one man to fight him. TRUE or FALSE
5. When Saul and the Israelites heard Goliath yelling these things, they were happy and very excited. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What did David say when he heard Goliath bragging? Was he scared?
2. What did king Saul promise to the man who beat Goliath? Was it a big reward, and that the man would be able to marry his daughter?
3. Did King Saul give David his own armor to wear to go fight Goliath? Did it fit him perfectly?
4. What did David take with him to fight Goliath? Was it his staff and how many smooth stones? Was it five?
5. Did Goliath think David could beat him?
6. Did David kill Goliath? What did he do?

Just for fun
Lesson 79

Just for fun you can give each child 5 smooth river rocks (available in bags at the Dollar Tree stores) to keep.

Optional craft:

Cut scrap cloth in the shape of the pattern below. Cut tiny holes in each end and tie yarn through the holes so each child can have their own sling!

