

# David and Goliath

## Bible Verse

I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live. Psalm 23:6

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## Bible Story

1 Samuel 17:1-51a

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## Leap of Faith

God's love is with me all the days of my life.

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## Before You Begin

**W**hen Samuel learned that God had rejected Saul as king, he was disappointed. But he recovered fairly quickly when God encouraged him to get over it and move on. Then he met David, and anointed him as Saul's successor. Yet many events would happen, and many years would pass, before David was formally acknowledged as king.

One of the most important achievements of David's life before becoming king was his encounter with the Philistine giant Goliath. Acting boldly upon his faith, and probably aided by the knowledge that he was destined to be king, David wanted to do something about the huge bully who was insulting the Israelite army. Even though three of his brothers in the army criticized his zeal, David went to Saul and declared himself ready for battle.

Then David experienced something that most all of us have been through: he was discouraged from trying something new by someone who assumed he was too young for the job. Fortunately, David was a charming boy, and he had a ready answer for the king. "Your servant has kept his father's sheep," David replied to Saul, "and if ever a lion or a bear came and carried off one of the flock, I would go after it, strike it, and rescue the animal from its mouth. If it turned on me, I would grab it at its jaw, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has fought both lions and bears" (1 Samuel 17:34-36).

So Saul was willing to support David's plan, and he tried to dress him up in the royal armor. But David saw that it was no use trying to wear such heavy equipment. He would trust in a simple sling, five smooth stones, and his powerful faith in the living God.

The result is as famous as it is simple. "David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone. He slung it, and it hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground" (17:49). The child who was doubted by both his family and the king had become a conquering hero!

**Session 7**  
**October 13**



Requires  
preparation.



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# Grow Together

Choose from among the following activities to lead the children into the Bible story.

## Measure Out Goliath

Supplies: Bibles, Attendance Chart, CD-ROM, CD player, measuring tape at least 9', rulers, masking tape, pens, pencils, paper, mural paper

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⊕ Hang a sheet of mural paper on the wall, at least ten feet long. If possible, hang the paper vertically so that the children can visualize Goliath's nine-foot height.

- Play "Let the Music Play" from the CD-ROM as the children arrive.
- Let the children record their attendance on the Attendance Chart.
- Give each child a Bible, a ruler, a pencil, and paper.

**SAY:** Last week we began to learn about a young boy named David who was chosen to become the new king of Israel. Today we'll hear the story of how David fought against a giant enemy named Goliath! David was a child, so he may only have been about four feet tall. But the Bible tells us that Goliath was nine feet tall! Let's see how many Bibles tall Goliath would have been.

- Let them measure the width of the Bible's spine. It will probably be about 1.5 inches.
- Have everyone use pencil and paper to try to estimate how many Bibles high Goliath was. If the Bible is 1.5 inches thick, it would take a stack of about eight Bibles to measure one foot. To measure nine feet, it would take about 72 Bibles.
- Let them continue working until everyone has come up with an estimate. Help any children who are having trouble with the calculation.
- Stretch the tape measure to 9 feet. Trace a 9-foot line onto the mural paper. You'll need a chair to reach the top if you've hung the paper vertically.

**SAY:** So we would need to make a stack of about seventy of these Bibles to reach the top of Goliath's head. That's a lot of Bibles!

**OPTION:** Let the children measure their own heights to get a sense of just how tall Goliath was.

## David's Words

Supplies: Bibles, Bible Brain Pak—p. 16, pens or pencils

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- Pass out Bibles, "David's Words," and pens or pencils.
- Give everyone a few minutes to fill out the message using the number/letter code.
- When every blank is filled, they'll be able to read the Bible verse for October: "I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live." (Psalm 23:6)

# Proclaim the Word

## Visit Leaper's Pointe

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

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- The DVD is an optional resource. It can be used in place of “Oversized Clothes Relay” in this session, or to supplement the telling of the Bible story.

**SAY:** Furleen tells how her little dog, Dimples, stood up to a big bully of a dog named Goliath. The story reminds Handyman of David and Goliath from the Bible, so Furleen, Ernie, and Handyman act out the familiar story.

- Play today's episode of Leaper's Pointe (DVD).

**ASK:** Who was fighting against the army of Israel? (*Goliath and the Philistine army*) Who was Goliath? (*a 9-foot giant*) What was David doing in the army camp? (*delivering food to his brothers*) What did David think when he realized that none of the Israelites were standing up to Goliath? (*He was shocked and he thought they were being cowards.*) What did David do? (*He decided to face Goliath himself.*) Why didn't David wear armor for the battle? (*It was too large for him to wear because he was only a child.*) What did David bring with him to face the giant? (*a sling and five smooth stones*) How did Goliath react to seeing David? (*He mocked David.*) What was the outcome of their meeting? (*David hurled a stone at Goliath and killed him.*) What happened next? (*The whole Philistine army scattered.*)

## Oversized Clothes Relay

Supplies: Bible; two laundry baskets; masking tape; clothing too large for nine- and ten-year olds such as bath robes, shoes, hats, pants, shirts, dresses

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You will need enough oversized articles of clothing for each child to wear at least one item.

- Read 1 Samuel 17:38-39 aloud.

**SAY:** After David got to the battlefield and realized that the whole Israelite army was too afraid to challenge the giant Goliath, he decided to do something about it. So he went to speak with the head of the army, King Saul. Saul wanted to lend David his own armor, but it was far too large for a kid like David to wear.

- Tape down a starting line.
- Place the laundry baskets on the other side of the room across from the starting line.
- Put an equal number of articles of big clothes in each basket, making sure that there is at least enough for each child to wear one article.
- If your group is smaller, children can run and dress twice until all of the articles are being worn.
- Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up behind the starting line.

**SAY:** To get a sense of what David might have felt when trying on Saul's enormous armor to fight the giant, we're going to have a race. When I say "Go!" the first child on each team will run to your team basket and put on one item of huge clothing, then run to the back of the line. Then the next child will run and do the same, continuing down the line. The first team to put on all of its big clothing will win. On your marks, get set, go!

- Let the children race. If time allows, play another round of the relay.

## David's Target Practice

Supplies: Bible, Reproducibles 7a & 7b, paper, masking tape

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- ➊ Make a few copies of both pages of "David's Target Practice."
- ➋ You might want to make your own paper football before the session to ensure that you know how to do so, and to aid you in assisting the children in making their own. Then place a table or two against a wall with enough chairs to accommodate the children.

**SAY:** David had awesome faith in God, so he never doubted who would be the victor in his fight with Goliath. He relied completely on God. And his success that day was a miracle, because no one could have expected a small boy to defeat a nine-foot giant so easily.

**ASK:** But do you think David had any experience fighting for his life against strong enemies? (*Allow them to think about this, and to brainstorm out loud about the possibilities.*)

- Have someone read aloud from 1 Samuel 17:34-36.

**SAY:** That's from a conversation that David had with King Saul when he was getting ready to face Goliath. So he had already faced some pretty tough enemies as a shepherd even before he met the giant. Let's get in some target practice of our own.

- Divide the children into several groups.
- Give each group its own copies of the paper football instructions and the Goliath face target.
- Help them to follow the folding directions to make a paper football, showing them your own version as a visual aid.
- Each group will set up a target just above the surface of the table. Let them tape their targets to the wall and take seats around it.
- The children can take turns launching their footballs at Goliath's face by holding the football upright against the table with one hand, and flicking it with the other.

## David's Gigantic Courage

Supplies: Faith Guide—pp. 27-30, pens or pencils

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- Pass out "David's Gigantic Courage" and pens or pencils.
- Invite the children to take a few minutes and read about David's miraculous victory over the giant Goliath.

- Let the children have some time to think about and answer the reflections questions on page 30. They will be used again during the closing worship activity.

## From Bethlehem to Elah

Supplies: Bible Brain Pak—p. 15, pens or pencils

- Pass out “From Bethlehem to Elah” and pens or pencils.
- The children will help David to travel from his home in Bethlehem, to the Israelite army camp, and ultimately to victory in battle against Goliath.

# Serve With Love

## God’s Love Is With Me

Supplies: large, thick, sturdy paper napkins; smooth river stones; shoelaces; paint; paintbrushes; smocks; protective covering; permanent markers (optional)

- ⊕ Cover the work surface with a protective covering if you plan to use paint. Or if your stones are light-colored, simply use permanent markers.

**SAY:** As he walked onto the battlefield, David was armed with nothing but a simple sling, and a bag with five smooth stones. But his faith in God was strong and he was confident of victory. He knew that God’s love was with him. That was more than enough to defeat Goliath. Let’s say our October Bible verse together, a verse that was actually written by David himself, Psalm 23:6: “I will live in the LORD’s house as long as I live.”

- Let the children wear smocks.
- Pass out napkins, stones, shoelaces, paint, and paintbrushes.
- Have the children paint or write one word of the following phrase on each of their stones: “God’s Love Is With Me.”
- Show them how to tie the stones into a pouch using the napkin and shoelace.
- They can take their “God’s Love Is With Me” stones home to decorate their rooms, or to give someone as a gift.

## Building Churches Mission Project

Supplies: Reproducible 6d, camera, gluesticks

- ⊕ If there are any children with you today who were not present last week, make extra copies of the “Fold-over Church Envelope” for them, as well as the mission letter explaining the project for their families.
- ⊕ If your group did not assemble the two-dimensional church building with class photo last week, consider doing so now. The instructions appear on pp. 55 & 56. If you already made the church, but have new children today, you can add their pictures to the poster with a camera and a gluestick.
- Cut out the figures for the church building on **Resource Pak—pp. 7 & 18** if you didn’t already do so previously.



In case you have visitors or additional children in attendance during the rest of the month, consider bringing your camera each week and adding their pictures to the church building display too.

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**SAY:** All this month, we're gathering donations for a ministry that helps people in Russia build new churches. Last week we made our own miniature version of a church building that includes a picture of the children in our group.

- If there are any new children this week, have them get together in one spot for a group picture. Then add the picture to the church poster.
- Show any new children the Church Fold-over Envelopes for the collection.

**SAY:** If any of you brought in a donation for the church building mission project, I can take that now. Please remind your families about our project and encourage them to give as they are able. We'll collect your donations throughout the month of October.

## Worship

### Challenging Giants

Supplies: Faith Guide—p. 30

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**ASK:** Who has an example of a time when a good candidate for a job was doubted because of youth or size? Have you ever doubted others, or yourself, for being too young to succeed, or too small to do something? (*Let them share any examples they have.*) How does it feel to be unfairly excluded like this, even if you know that you could do a good job?

**SAY:** "I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live." Those words from the Psalms were written by David. God's love was with David as he got ready to challenge the giant. Despite his young age, David realized something we should always remember. He knew that when we follow God with all of our hearts, we will always succeed. Sometimes the results are dramatic, as they were in the fight against Goliath. And other times the results of obeying God are delayed. Either way, we know that God's love is with us all the days of our lives.

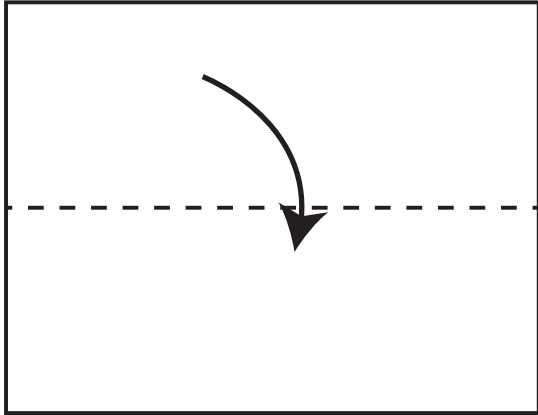
**PRAY:** Dear God. Thank you for loving us at all times, and for giving us the gifts that we need to succeed like David. Help us to know what to say, and how to act, even when some may be doubting us, the way that people doubted David. Amen.

## Plan for Next Week

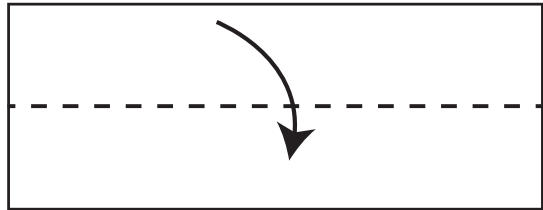
David is now the king of Israel, and his first big act as king is to bring the covenant chest into the capital city of Jerusalem. This calls for celebration with song, dancing, and food. Children will make pan pipes, create an interpretive dance, and make raisin cakes just like David did for the people.

# Reproducible 7a: David's Target Practice

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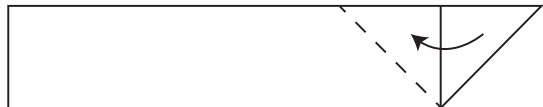
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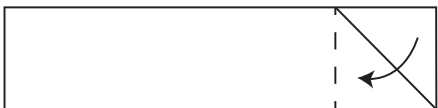
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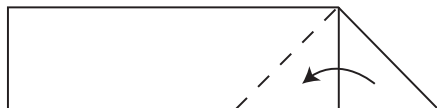
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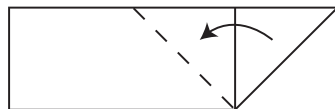
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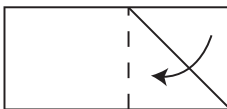
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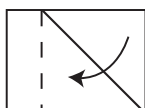
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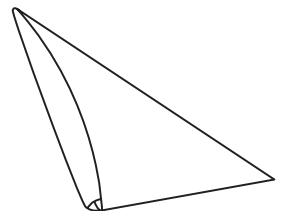
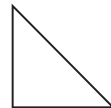
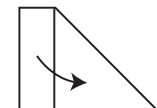
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## Reproducible 7b: David's Target Practice (continued)



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