

David and Goliath

October

Bible Verse

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

Bible Story

1 Samuel 17:1-50

Leap of Faith

God loves me all my life.

Before You Begin

Goliath was a giant, a symbol of the threat of the Philistines. David, on the other hand, was young—too young even to fight in the army. David was not frightened at the prospect of facing Goliath. David relied on God to be with him in battle. David knew that God was his real self-defense.

David's victory did more than simply defeat Goliath and the Philistines. David's victory gave glory to God. The victory showed the Israelites and the Philistines that God is so powerful that even a young boy with five smooth stones and the power and strength of God in his heart can defeat a larger enemy.

The Bible story of David and Goliath is one of the most familiar in the Bible. Even people with no real knowledge of the Bible know at least the broad outline of the Bible story—a young boy with nothing but a slingshot defeats a mighty giant. The heart of the Bible story is that the whole army of Israel, the army of the living God, is frightened of Goliath and refuses to answer his challenge. David knows that it is not up to him. It is in God's hands. This is a Bible story about David's faith and God's faithfulness.

As leaders of young children, we desire for our youngest of children to use words so that we can understand their distress and conflicts. However, since their vocabulary is limited, they may not have all the words they need to properly handle a difficult situation. Children this age frequently need to be shown how to handle a conflict in a peaceful way. If a two-year-old takes a toy away from another child and says, "Mine!" a leader might need to intervene to show the children how to handle the conflict peacefully. The leader should say, "Sally, you cannot take the toy away from Mark while he is playing with it. You need to find another toy to play with until Mark is finished playing." Then you, as the leader, need to keep an eye on Mark; and when Mark is finished playing with the car, go and encourage Mark to give the toy to Sally. This helps the children understand how to solve a problem peacefully. It also helps the children learn to be accountable for their actions. Sally may not be happy with the solution, and it might be difficult to distract her with another toy, but this is part of learning to live peacefully with others; and it is a lesson we all need to learn.

You, as the leader, will have many opportunities to work with the children to show them how to solve conflicts peacefully. Pray that God will give you the wisdom to do so.



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Requires preparation.



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Bible Story Center

October 6

Supplies: Bible storytelling figures of the two armies, Goliath, David, the slingshot, the five stones (Poster Pak—p. 9); wooden blocks or paper towel tubes; scissors; tape

🕒 Cut out the Bible storytelling figures of the two armies, David, Goliath, the slingshot, and the five stones. Attach the pictures to wooden blocks or paper towel tubes to make them stand.

SAY: There were two armies. One army was made up of God’s people. They worked for King Saul. The other army was the enemy. The other army sent out their best fighter. His name was Goliath. Goliath was very big. Goliath was so big that many people were afraid of him. Goliath said to God’s people, “Send out your best fighter. If he wins, we will work for you; but if we win, you have to work for us.”

King Saul and his army did not want to fight Goliath. Goliath was nine feet tall, and that is very, very BIG. Goliath was also very strong. No one wanted to fight Goliath.

David was not old enough to fight in the army, but his brothers were. David went to see his brothers and to take them some food from home. David saw the giant Goliath. David heard what Goliath said. David said, “I will fight him.” King Saul said, “But you are just a boy. How can you fight that giant?” David said, “God will help me.”

King Saul gave David some special clothes to wear to keep him safe. He had a helmet, a sword, and a shield. The special clothes were too big and too heavy for David to carry. David gave the special clothes back to King Saul. Then David picked up five stones from the water. David said to Goliath, “You come with a sword and a spear. I come in the name of God.”

Goliath came closer. David put one of those stones in his slingshot. Around and around went David’s slingshot. David sent one stone right toward Goliath. The stone hit Goliath in the head—right between the eyes! Goliath fell down to the ground.

Hooray for David! David was brave. David knew that God would help him. God helped David win.

- Do it again. Show the children the pictures one at a time. Let the children tell you what they remember about the people in the pictures. Make a brief comment about each one:
 - Armies:** There were two armies. They were like two teams fighting each other.
 - Goliath:** Goliath was the best fighter in one army. No one wanted to fight Goliath because he was so big.
 - David:** David was the boy who said, “I will fight Goliath.” David knew that God would help him.
 - Slingshot and five stones:** David used one stone to fight the giant. Goliath fell to the ground.



The Bible story of David and Goliath might frighten some sensitive children. Tell the Bible story in a quiet, calm, and safe voice.

October 13

Supplies: Bible storytelling figures of David, Goliath, the slingshot, the five stones
(Poster Pak—p. 9)

- Place the Bible storytelling figures where the children can see them. Remind the children that Goliath was a very big man and David was just a boy. Recite the first verse of the rhyme for the children, and have them move their hands like you. Encourage the children to copy you each time you repeat that part.

SAY: David and Goliath—what a pair!

One was here, (*hand at chest level to show the short man*)

And one was there! (*hand over your head to show a very tall man*)

Goliath stood nine feet high.

He was a giant in everyone's eyes.

He carried a sword and spear in his arms.

He wore his armor so he wouldn't be harmed.

Now David was not very tall,

But he was braver than them all.

He did not like what Goliath had to say.

He was being mean to David's friends that day.

David and Goliath—what a pair!

One was here, (*hand at chest level to show the short man*)

And one was there! (*hand over your head to show a very tall man*)

Goliath said, "Come on and fight.

We'll work for you if you win tonight.

But if we win, you have to stay

And work for us every day."

"I'll fight him!" David told the king.

Then David found five rocks to fit in his sling.

"Goliath, I know that God is with me.

God will help me win this, you will see."

David and Goliath—what a pair!

One was here, (*hand at chest level to show the short man*)

And one was there! (*hand over your head to show a very tall man*)

David put a rock in his sling.

Over his head, he made it swing.

'Round and 'round the sling did go,

And the rock hit Goliath right above his nose.

Goliath came down, down, down (*Say it slowly.*)

Until his face hit the ground.

"Hooray!" they said. "This was a good day!"

God helped David all the way.

- Do it again. Invite the children to stand up. Repeat the first verse of the rhyme ("David and Goliath—what a pair!..."). Encourage the children to say what you say and do what you do. You might want to say one line at a time and have the children repeat it after you.

October 20

Supplies: five stones

- Tell the story to the children, and encourage them to count with you.

SAY: King Saul and his army did not want to fight Goliath. Goliath was nine feet tall, and that is very, very BIG. Goliath was also very strong. No one wanted to fight Goliath.

David was not old enough to fight in the army, but his brothers were. David went to see his brothers and to take them some food from home. David saw the giant Goliath. David heard what Goliath said. David said, “I will fight him.” King Saul said, “But you are just a boy. How can you fight that giant?” David said, “God will help me.”

King Saul gave David some special clothes to wear to keep him safe. The special clothes were too big and too heavy for David. David gave the special clothes back to King Saul. David picked up five stones from the water.

- Show the children the stones you have on the floor, and count them together.

SAY: David said to Goliath, “You have a sword to fight with, but God will help me.” David put one of those stones in his sling.

- Show the children the one stone in your hand. Leave the other stones on the floor. Let the children count this one stone.

SAY: Around and around went David’s slingshot. David sent one stone right toward Goliath. The stone hit Goliath in the head—right between the eyes! Goliath fell down to the ground.


Hooray for David! David was brave. David knew that God would help him. God helped David win.

- Read it again. Have the children stand and make the motions you make. When Goliath goes down, tell the children to all fall down!

SAY: Five little stones (*Hold up 5 fingers.*)
David found in the brook. (*Ripple fingers as if moving water.*)
David held them in his hand, (*Cup hand as if holding stones.*)
But one was all it took! (*Hold up 1 finger.*)
David hit Goliath
Right between the eyes, (*Point to spot between your eyes.*)
And Goliath fell down, down, down (*All fall down.*)
To everyone’s surprise!

October 27

Supplies: interactive poster and pictures (Poster Pak—pp. 20 & 5, 8), scissors, tape

-  Gather the poster of David and Goliath, and cut out the pictures to use with the poster.
- Remind the children that Goliath was a giant, so he was very big. David was just a boy, so he was pretty small.
- Ask the following questions about the Bible story so the children can tell what they remember.

ASK: Who was the giant? (*Goliath*)

Who was the boy? (*David*)

Why were the people afraid of Goliath? (*He was so big.*)

What did David use in his sling? (*one little stone*)

What happened to Goliath? (*He fell down.*)

Who helped David? (*God*)

- Give each child a picture. Encourage the children to think if the item in their picture is a big thing or a small thing. (If it is big, the children will put their picture beside Goliath. If it is a small thing, the children will put their picture beside David.)
- Have the children stand and make the motions you make. At the end, invite the children to all fall down!

SAY: Five little stones (*Hold up 5 fingers.*)

David found in the brook. (*Ripple fingers as if moving water.*)

David held them in his hand, (*Cup hand as if holding stones.*)

But one was all it took! (*Hold up 1 finger.*)

David hit Goliath

Right between the eyes, (*Point to spot between your eyes.*)

And Goliath fell down, down, down (*All fall down.*)

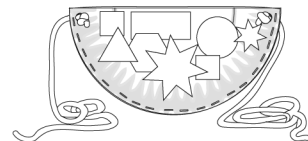
To everyone's surprise!

Learning Activities

The Art Cart

David's Pouch

Supplies: paper plates, marker, brown crayons, adult scissors, stapler, construction paper (including gray or tan), paper punch, yarn, glue sticks



- Draw a line across the middle of a paper plate for each child. Cut varied shapes from construction paper scraps. Cut five stone shapes from tan or gray construction paper for each child.
- Give each child a paper plate, and have her or him color the bottom of the plate brown.
- Cut the paper plate in half along the line drawn earlier.
- Help the child put the two halves together so that the brown sides face out.
- Staple the curved sides together for the child.
- Punch a hole on the right side and the left side near the straight edge for the child.
- Tie one end of a length of yarn to each hole for the child. These two pieces will tie around the child's waist, so leave the other ends loose.
- Encourage the child to decorate one side of the pouch with the various shapes and colors of paper you prepared.
- As the child glues the pieces to the plate, write "David's Pouch" on the same side.


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- Give each child five paper stones to glue inside the pouch.
- Tie the pouch around the child's waist, with the decorated side facing out.

SAY: King Saul gave David special clothing to wear to keep him safe in the fight against the giant, Goliath. The clothing was too big and too heavy for David. David gave it all back to King Saul. Then David picked five stones from the water and carried them with him. Can you count the five stones in your pouch?

Paper Plate Puppets


Supplies: 6-inch paper plates; 9-inch paper plates; construction paper; scissors; crayons or markers; large craft sticks; wide, clear tape; gift bag crinkle paper in hair colors; glue sticks

-  Cut eyes, noses, and mouths for puppets from construction paper (two sets for each child), or let the children draw them on their own.
- Give each child a 6-inch plate, and invite the child to make a face on it by adding two eyes, a nose, and a mouth.
- Let the child add hair by gluing gift bag crinkle paper around the top rim.
- Help the child tape a large craft stick to the back of the puppet face, being sure to leave enough at the bottom to hold.
- Give each child a 9-inch paper plate, and help him or her make another puppet the same way.
- Help the child add hair to the top rim as before.
- Assist the child in adding a large craft stick to the back of this puppet.
- Invite the children to compare their two puppets. Which one is big? Which one is small?

SAY: Goliath was nine feet tall, and that is very big. Everyone was afraid of Goliath because he was so big. David was just a boy, and he was much smaller than Goliath. David knew that God would help him. Little David knocked big Goliath down with just one little stone right between the eyes.

God Loves Me All My Life

Supplies: clear contact paper, scissors, permanent marker, paint in fall colors, cups for paint, plastic spoons, paint smocks, narrow ribbon, paper punch, ruler

-  Cut two 8-inch squares of clear contact paper for each child. Draw a large heart using a permanent marker on one of the squares for each child. Draw it on the clear side so that it is visible when the backing comes off. Pour two or three fall colors of paint into cups. Put a plastic spoon with each color.
- Put a paint smock on each child.
- Assist the child in peeling the backing off the contact paper with the heart.
- Help the child place the contact paper on the table, with the sticky side up.
- Invite the child to use the spoon to drizzle some paint of each color inside the heart. (It will be cut later; so if paint goes outside the heart, it does not matter.)
- Help the child peel the back off the other square of contact paper.

- Carefully place the contact paper sticky side down on top of the paint. (Make sure you help the child with this step.)
- Help the child gently rub his or her hand across the paper. Then let it dry.
- When the paint is dry, cut out the heart for the child.
- Punch a hole near the top of the heart for the child.
- Thread a ribbon through the hole and knot the ends together for the child.
- Tell the child to hang her or his heart on a doorknob at home.

SAY: God loves us all our lives. God will love you as long as you live. When you see this heart, remember that God loves you.

Game Time

Pebble, Pebble, Who Has the Pebble?

Supplies: average-size pebble

- 🕒 Find an average-size pebble to use with this game.
 - Gather the children into a circle sitting on the floor. Show the children the pebble. Tell them that it is a small rock.
 - Choose one child to be IT. Have IT close his or her eyes.
 - Give the pebble to another child, and have him or her sit on the pebble.
 - Ask IT to uncover his or her eyes.
 - Encourage the children to repeat: **Pebble, pebble, who has the pebble?**
 - Have IT guess which child is sitting on the pebble. Allow IT to have a few guesses.
 - Choose another child to be IT and another child to sit on the pebble.
 - Continue until most or all of the children have had a chance to participate.

SAY: David picked up five stones. David used only one little stone to knock down great big Goliath. God helped David.

Can You Get Goliath?

Supplies: paper or posterboard, scissors, marker, beanbags

- 🕒 Cut a small circle and a large circle from paper or posterboard. Draw a face on each one. Gather beanbags to use in the game.
 - Have a child stand on the small face.
 - Put the large face a short distance away.
 - Invite the child to toss the beanbag onto the large face.

SAY: We are like David. We put our feet on the small face. We tried to get our stones onto the big face. Who had the bigger face? Goliath did. What happened when the stone hit Goliath? Goliath fell down.



Watch the children with the pebble! Young children might be tempted to put the pebble in their mouths!



If you have older children, put a large dot between the eyes on the larger face. See if the children can land the beanbag on the dot.

David and Goliath Tag

Supplies: none

- Choose a child to be IT. Have IT chase the other children. If the children get tagged, they have to fall down like Goliath.
- Continue until several children have been tagged.
- Choose a new child to be IT.
- Invite the children to all stand back up and play again.

SAY: Everyone was afraid of Goliath because he was so big. David knew that God would help him. David put a stone in his slingshot. The stone hit Goliath right between the eyes! Then Goliath fell down, down, down.

Music and Movements

Sing and Dance

Supplies: October Song Poster (Poster Pak—p. 22)

🎧 Familiarize yourself with the song “Sing and Dance” (below), which is sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

- Teach the song “Sing and Dance” to the children, inviting them to repeat each line after you sing it to them. When the children have learned the song, encourage them to sing the song while holding hands and moving in a circle.
- Invite them to look at the two girls on the poster (Poster Pak—p. 22).

SAY: These two little girls are singing and are happy in God’s beautiful world in the fall.

SING: God loves me all my life!
God loves me all my life!
That makes me want to sing and dance.
God loves me all my life!

Short or Tall, It’s Your Call

Supplies: Growth Chart (Poster Pak—p. 17)

- Remind the children that Goliath was very tall. David was just a boy, so he was small.
- Recite the chant below. On the last line, either squat to be David, or stretch up high to be Goliath. The children will be able to tell who you are.

CHANT: One was here, (*hand at chest level to show a short man*)
And one was there! (*hand over your head to show a very tall man*)
I may be short,
Or I may be tall.
Who am I? It’s your call. (*Squat to be David or stretch high to be Goliath.*)

- Let the children tell you if you are David or Goliath.
- Repeat the chant several times, and let the children respond each time.



Tell the children that Goliath was very tall, and David was very small. Show the Growth Chart (Poster Pak—p. 17). Ask the children what the little boy is doing in the picture. Measure the children against the Growth Chart.

When I Pray

Supplies: *Toddlers and Twos CD*, CD player

- 🕒 Listen to the song “When I Pray” on the CD.
- Play the song “When I Pray” for the children.
- Demonstrate the motions for the children as the song plays. Encourage the children to copy you.

SING: When I pray, when I pray, (*hands in prayer position*)
God will listen. God will hear me (*cup hands around ear*)
When I pray. (*hands in prayer position*)
(*Listen to the music and spin around*)

The Discovery Table

Rock and Roll

Supplies: rocks of various sizes and shapes, magnifying glass, tub, water, towel, scrub brushes

- 🕒 Fill the tub about one third full of water. Place a towel under the tub to catch any splashes. Place a magnifying glass and rocks of various sizes and shapes on the table.
- Invite the children to look at the rocks.
- Talk about their shapes and sizes.
- Ask the children if the rocks are the same or different.
- Invite the children to look at the rocks through the magnifying glass.
- Ask the children if any of the rocks roll.
- Invite the children to add some rocks to the water.
- Ask the children if the rocks sink or float.
- Show the children how to scrub the rocks clean.

SAY: King Saul gave David some special clothes to wear to keep him safe from the giant. The clothes were too big and too heavy for David. David gave the special clothes back to King Saul. Then David found some stones to use in his slingshot. David hit Goliath right between the eyes, and Goliath fell down to the ground.

Counting Stones

Supplies: small bag or pouch that opens and closes, five stones

- 🕒 Gather a small bag and five stones, and place them on the table.
- Encourage the children to count the stones as they put them in the bag.
- Open the bag and dump them out again.
- Ask the child to give you two stones, four stones, and so on.

ASK: How many stones did David have in his sack? (*five*) How many stones did it take to knock Goliath down? (*one*) Who helped David? (*God did.*)

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Watch the children with the stones! Young children might be tempted to put the stones in their mouths!

It's Fall

Supplies: seasonal items such as leaves and small pumpkins, magnifying glass, paper, crayons

🕒 Place the seasonal items on the table with a magnifying glass. Add paper and crayons to the table.

- Encourage the children to explore the items on the table.
- Invite the children to draw a picture of one of the items they like on the table.

SAY: This is a beautiful time of year. We see leaves of many colors. We see pumpkins. God makes all of these things grow. We can thank God for all these beautiful things when we pray. Our song says that God will listen and will hear us when we pray.

Food Fun

David's Snack

Supplies: paper plates, pita pockets, marshmallow creme, bananas, plastic knives or wooden craft sticks

🕒 Gather any needed ingredients and utensils.

- Put a pita pocket on a paper plate for each child.
- Scoop some marshmallow creme into the pocket for each child, and let the child spread it around with a plastic knife or wooden craft stick.
- Give each child five slices of banana.
- Have the child count them as you cut them.
- Let the child put the banana slices inside the pita pocket.

SAY: David found five stones to put in his slingshot, but he used only one. Five little stones in David's sack—one came out and never came back!

Doughnut Holes

Supplies: doughnut holes, napkins or paper plates

🕒 Purchase doughnut holes for a snack.

- Give each child a plate or napkin and a few doughnut holes for a snack.

SAY: These doughnut holes remind me of the stones that David had in his sack. David found five little stones, but he used only one.

Five little stones
In David's sack—

One came out
And never came back.

The giant came a-tumbling down
Until his face did hit the ground.



Always check for food allergies before serving any food to the children.



Remember to begin each food time by having the children wash and dry their hands. A thank-you prayer should be said before the snack is eaten.

Closing Circle

Supplies: October Bible Verse Poster (Poster Pak—p. 3), October Song Poster (Poster Pak—p. 22), Bible Story Picture Cards

⊕ Remove the Bible Story Picture Cards for today. Display the October Song Poster (Poster Pak—p. 22) and the October Bible Verse Poster (Poster Pak—p. 3) where everyone can easily see the words.

- Welcome the parents as they return.
- Invite the parents and children to sit in a circle.
- Sing one of the Music and Movements songs (pp. 25-26). If you choose “Sing and Dance,” show the parents the poster that has the words for the song.
- Retell the Bible story (pp. 19-22). Encourage the parents and children to participate.

SAY: I will live in the LORD’s house as long as I live (Psalm 23:6, CEB).

SAY: Children love to show their parents what they can do. We are going to show you some of the things we are learning while you are away. (See side column for suggestions.)

- Give each child a Bible Story Picture Card to take home.

PRAY: Dear God, it is good to be in your house today. We love the Bible story about David and Goliath. It does not matter if we are little like David, or if we are all grown up like our moms and dads. You love us as long as we live. Thank you, God. Amen.



Choose a new activity each week to demonstrate to the parents some of the fun things their children are learning while they are away. If you choose an activity the children did the same day, they will be better able to do it again for their parents at the Closing Circle.

SUGGESTIONS:

Game: “Pebble, Pebble, Who Has the Pebble?” (p. 24)

Rhyme: “Five Little Stones” (p. 21)

Song: “Sing and Dance” to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell” (p. 25)

Chant: “Short or Tall, It’s Your Call” (p. 25)