

MinistryPlace.net

Samson: Strength Wasted, Then Redeemed

Scripture: Judges 13:1-16:31

Theme: God's gifts are for His glory, not ours

1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: "David and Goliath , Trusting God Against Giants" (1 Samuel 17:1-54) This lesson introduces young children to a story of courage, faith, and God's power working in surprising ways. David, a young shepherd boy, faces a giant named Goliath, who scoffs at Israel's army. But instead of relying on strength, David chooses to trust God, armed only with a sling and a stone, showing that even the smallest heart can stand tall when God is with them. The lesson ends with an application: God doesn't ask us to be "giant-sized" for Him; He empowers us to face challenges with trust, just like David did! Key Points: - Goliath's challenge was scary, but God chose David because he trusted Him. - Sometimes God works in small ways (like David's sling) to show His strength. - Application: Ask God to help you trust Him when you feel too small to handle a problem, just like David! Lesson Flow: 1. Story Hook: Show a picture of David and Goliath (e.g., a drawing or short clip) and ask, "What would YOU do if someone called you too small?" 2. Read the Story: Simplify the battle (e.g., "Goliath said, 'I'll eat you!' David said, 'I'll trust God!'"). 3. Discussion: "How did David know God would help him? What does that mean for us?" (Point to God's promises like His love or protection.) 4. Activity: Have kids draw a "tiny warrior" (like David) holding a sling and write/dictate: "When I feel big or small, I trust God!" Encouragement for Volunteers: This story is perfect for young kids, the contrast between David's humility and Goliath's pride makes it relatable! Use playful questions ("Why did Goliath think he was too big?") and end with confidence: "God doesn't ask us to be fearless, just brave in Him!" For shy kids, let them shout "David said..." in response to challenges.

Bible Story

David and Goliath: Trusting God Against Giants

Long ago, Israel and its army were fighting against the giant Philistines. The Philistines had a big, strong man named Goliath who kept shouting to everyone: "Why do you stand here watching? Give me your food, and I'll eat it, and then

I'll eat you and your army!" For forty days, Goliath kept taunting the Israelites, and no one dared to fight him. The soldiers were scared, but the king, Saul, was upset because they were afraid to face the giant.

One day, David, a young shepherd boy, heard about Goliath and what he said. He was only a boy, but he asked his older brother if he could go to the battlefield. Saul was surprised but agreed, though he didn't think David could win. As David ran to the army, Goliath saw him and laughed, thinking he would laugh even harder when he saw David. But David stood tall, wearing only his regular clothes and a slingshot, while Goliath wore his armor. David told Goliath he would fight with just his hand, not his armor.

Goliath came closer, and David looked him in the eyes. He said, "I am only a boy, but I trust God to help me." Then he took a smooth stone from his bag, put it in his slingshot, and shot it right at Goliath's forehead. The stone hit Goliath in the center of his forehead, and he fell down! David ran over, took Goliath's sword, and cut off his head. The Israelites cheered, and Goliath's army ran away in fear.

The story ends with King Saul realizing how God had helped David. Even though David was small, he trusted God to fight the giant, and God used him to win! This shows us that God doesn't need big heroes, he uses those who trust him, no matter how small they seem.

Why This Story Matters: David's victory teaches us that God can use anyone, even the smallest or weakest of us, if we trust in him. Just like David, we can face big challenges (like fear, hard times, or even giant problems) when we trust God with our hearts. What does it look like to trust God today? Maybe it's asking for help, believing in his love, or knowing he's stronger than any "giant" in our lives!

Key Verse

Judges 16:28

God is Stronger Than Our Fears! This Bible verse is from the story of David and Goliath, two boys who played together in the fields. Goliath was a giant who was so big and scary that everyone else in Israel was afraid to fight him. But David didn't feel afraid because he knew God would help him. The verse says, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty." This means that even though Goliath had big weapons, David trusted God to give him strength and courage. God doesn't always protect us by making things easy, but He always protects us in the right way, through faith, courage, and trusting Him. When we feel scared or big challenges come our way (like a mean word from a friend or a tough test at school), we can remember that God is with us. His name is strong, and He wants us to know that we're never alone. David faced Goliath with just a sling and a few rocks, but he knew God was the real warrior. That's a big lesson for us! No matter how big our problems seem, we can trust God to help us. When we feel afraid, we can pray and ask God to give us His courage. He'll help us stand strong, just like David did. Sometimes, we might not see how God is working in our lives, but we can always believe in Him. For example, when we make a mistake, instead of feeling upset, we can say, "God, help me do better." Or if we're sad about something, we can remember that God loves us and will help us feel better. So, the next time you feel scared or unsure, remember this verse: "I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty." You're not fighting alone, God is fighting for you! And that's a superpower we can all use.

Activities

Activity 1:

1. Discuss the Story: Ask, "How did David trust God to help him defeat Goliath?" Show them 1 Samuel 17:47 ("David trusted the Lord"). Write it on the board.
2. Cut the Paper: Give each group 5, 7 paper strips. Have them fold them in half (to make them easier to glue) and draw a small circle or triangle on the front (to represent a "step").
3. Build the Chain: Glue the folded strips end-to-end, spacing them evenly to form a chain. Once done, cut a few links to show that God's strength is like a chain that doesn't break, even if some parts seem small.

4. Apply to Life: Ask, "When we face big problems (like Goliath), what can we trust God for?" Let them hold up their chains and say, "God is stronger than our giants!"
5. "Rock Hunt & Stone Throw Challenge"
6. A fun, hands-on game that mimics David's trust in God's tool (the smooth rock) over Goliath's weapon.
7. Preview the Bible Story: Share 1 Samuel 17:46, 47 ("The Lord who rescued me from the claws of lions will rescue me from this Philistine!"). Ask, "How did David know God would help him?"
8. Collect Stones: Have students go outside (or use a basket indoors) to find 3, 5 smooth stones. Place them in the basket for groups to share.
9. The Challenge: Place a hula hoop or cone about 10 feet away as "Goliath's target." Let each student take a stone and toss it gently into the hoop. Encourage them to say, "God gave me this smooth stone, He's got my back!"
10. Reflect Together: Ask, "What's a 'giant' we're facing today? How can we trust God like David?" Let them share answers, then pray for one another.
11. Notes:
12. For the paper chain, adjust chain length based on age groups (younger kids may need fewer links).
13. For the rock hunt, add a short Bible verse on the back of each stone (e.g., "Trust God like David!").
14. Both activities reinforce the theme: God's strength is bigger than our problems!

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for early elementary children (ages 6, 8) based on the lesson "David and Goliath: Trusting God Against Giants":
- 1. What was Goliath like?
 - Goliath was a huge, scary warrior from Gath. His armor was heavy, his sword long, and his voice loud. He challenged Israel for days, making them afraid. How do you think David felt when he first heard Goliath? Did you ever feel afraid of something big or strong before? What did David do when he was scared? Why do you think God gave David courage in this situation?
- 2. How did David trust God instead of trusting his own strength?
 - David didn't carry a giant sword or wear armor like Goliath. Instead, he asked God for strength and wisdom. He even said, "I am only a boy, but I trust God!" Do you ever feel like you're too small or not strong enough to handle something? How can you trust God, even when it feels hard? What happens when you pray and ask God for help?
- 3. What was David's first step when facing Goliath?
 - David didn't fight right away, he went to see King Saul and asked if he could fight Goliath. He didn't just jump into battle without asking. When have you ever wanted to do something big but needed help or permission first? What happened when you asked someone (like a teacher, parent, or friend) for advice? How did it feel?
- 4. How did God help David win?
 - David didn't rely on his own strength, he trusted God, and God gave him the perfect weapon (a sling and a stone). God's power is bigger than any giant, even if we don't always see it. When have you felt like God was helping you in a small or big way? What did you learn from that time? How can you remember God is with you, even when things seem tough?
 - These questions encourage kids to reflect on the story while connecting it to their own lives in simple, meaningful ways! Would you like any adjustments to match a specific focus?

Prayer Focus

Prayer Focus for Early Elementary (Ages 6, 8): Trusting God Like David "Dear God, You are so strong and mighty, stronger than any giant, bigger than any challenge. Today, we're learning about David, who stood brave and brave against Goliath, not because he was big or tough, but because he trusted in You. Help us to be like David, small but strong in You! When we feel scared or big problems come, remind us that You are always with us, just like You were with David. Give us courage to speak up for what's right and to believe in You even when it's hard. Amen!"

First paragraph (God is bigger than our fears): "God, You are the biggest God in the whole world, way bigger than our worries, bigger than our giants (like sadness, bullying, or big tasks), and bigger than anything we might face today. Just like David trusted You, help us to trust You when we feel afraid. You're the one who protects us, and You've got this!"

Second paragraph (David's faith as an example): "Remember how David ran to God first, even though he was only a boy? He didn't fight alone, he asked God for strength and then took a step forward. Today, when we feel like our problems are too big, show us how to trust You, like David did. Give us small ways to stand brave, whether it's speaking up, asking for help, or believing that You're with us!"

Third paragraph (Application for today): "Now, let's pray together! Close your eyes and imagine God is holding your hand. He's saying: 'I see you, I love you, and I'm with you.' When you wake up today, ask God to help you trust Him, just like David trusted Him. Maybe you'll stand up for a friend, or finish a hard task, or just know that You're strong enough to carry your heart. Thank You for being our giant-killer!" (Bonus: The teacher could ask the class, "Who can tell me one way you trust God today?" as a response to this prayer!)

>> Missions Spotlight

The churches in North Korea face enormous persecution, a true giant. Underground church members risk everything to follow Jesus. David's story encourages them that the battle belongs to the Lord, even against the most powerful enemies.

-> To the Cross

David faced Goliath in the name of the Lord. We face a giant too, sin and death. And just as God delivered David, God has delivered us through Jesus, who defeated the giants of sin and death on the cross. Our victory is already won.