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Samson: Strength Wasted, Then Redeemed

Scripture: Judges 13:1-16:31

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

Nursery (Ages 0-2)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

"God's Love Is Stronger Than Giants!" "God loves you, and He's with you always, just like He loved little David, who trusted Him against the big giant!" "Even if something feels big, remember: God's love is always big enough!" "Together, let's sing: 'God is bigger, God is brave, God is always there with me!'"

Bible Story

David and Goliath , God's Strong Love

Once, there was a giant named Goliath who kept mocking God's people every day. His voice was loud and scary, and everyone was afraid. But God knew this giant was not as strong as He was.

God called a young boy named David to stand up and fight. David wore a simple robe and had only a sling and a stone. Goliath laughed and said, "Who can fight me?" But David said, "I trust God!"

With a mighty swing, David hit Goliath with the stone, BOOM!, and Goliath fell down. The people cheered, but David just said, "I trusted God!"

Even when things seem big or scary, God is always with us. We can trust Him, just like David did!

Why this story matters: God's love is stronger than any giant, just like David trusted Him! He's always there to help us feel safe and brave.

Key Verse

Judges 16:28

"God is strong and loves you!" "God has a big, mighty name, He protects you, oh so fine!" "Even when you're small, brave or shy, God's love keeps you safe today!"

Activities

Activity 1:

Toddlers glue paper "rocks" (like David's) to show God's love, then color how they trust Him.

1. Read the Bible story (1 Samuel 17) with a focus on how David trusted God even when he was small.
2. Give each child a "rock" to hold. Say, "God gives us His strength, like David, let's pray!"
3. Act it out: Hold a rock high and say, "God's love is strong! Like David, I trust Him!" Then gently "throw" the rock toward a stuffed giant (or a pillow).
4. End with praise: Sing a short song (e.g., "The Lord is my shepherd" or "Trust in God" with actions).
2. "Glue & Color God's Promise" (Simple Art Activity)
6. Show a picture of David with Goliath. Say, "God helped David because He loves us!"
7. Give each child a green paper strip (like a "rock"). Glue it to a larger paper (e.g., a field).
8. Let them color: "Draw how you trust God like David!" (e.g., a heart, a smiley face).
9. Repeat the phrase: "God's love is big and strong! I trust Him!" as they finish.
10. Note: Keep activities short, repetitive, and sensory-friendly. Use toddler-friendly language like "God loves you so much!" to reinforce the lesson.

Discussion Questions

- Here are four simple open-ended questions to help babies and toddlers explore God's love through the story of David and Goliath:
- "Goliath was big and scary. What was David's special superpower that made God strong?" (Repeat: "God is always with us!")
- "When you feel like a giant is too big (like being sad or tired), what can you do to trust God like David trusted Him?" (Repeat: "God loves you, let's ask Him to help!")
- "David didn't run away, he ran to God. Where do you run to when you need God's love?" (Repeat: "God is near!")
- "How can we be like David and fight with God's strength instead of being too small?" (Repeat: "God gives us courage!")

Prayer Focus

"Dear God, You love us so much, just like You loved David. He trusted You even when Goliath was big and strong, just like we trust You every day! Help us trust You too, just like David. Amen!" (Optional repetition: "God is big, God is strong, God loves us, just like David!")

>> 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.