

Stones, Slings, and Giant Things

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16-17

Character Trait: Bravery

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that God helped David defeat the giant, Goliath.
- Children will demonstrate bravery by sharing what they have learned about God with others.
- Children will explain how being brave honors God.

Supplies:

- *Stones, Slings and Giant Things* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Five, paper "stones" *(cut large enough for the children to write/draw on, one set of five for each child)*
- Small envelopes *(to hold the stones, one for each child)*
- Pencils, pens, and/or crayons
- Coloring supplies

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children if they would rather go into battle with one shield or five, small stones. Tell them to share their answers by holding up either one or five fingers. Then, tell the children to put their hands down. Call on a few volunteers to share aloud.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about a young boy who did not take a shield into battle. Instead, he took only five, small stones and one sling into battle. But he had the courage to do this because he knew that he also had the one, true God on his side.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Who did Samuel think was calling out for him?** *(Eli, the priest)*
- **Who figured out it was God calling out to Samuel?** *(Eli, the priest)*
- **What did Eli tell Samuel to do?** *(Eli said to say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.")*
- **What did God ask Samuel to do?** *(Be His prophet and pass His words faithfully to His people)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Stones, Slings and Giant Things* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Israel's first king was named Saul.
- King Saul did not obey God.
- So God said to Samuel, the prophet, "Find a man named Jesse, one of his sons will be the new king."
- Samuel found Jesse in Bethlehem. He looked at seven of Jesse's sons. They looked handsome and strong.
- "Not them, God said. "I don't care about looks. I care about what's in a person's heart."
- Jesse sent for his youngest son, David, who was tending sheep in the fields.
- Samuel saw him and God said, "He is the one!"
- So David was anointed the new king.
- Some time later, Israel fought the Philistines.
- A giant Philistine soldier called Goliath challenged the Israelites to send a champion to fight him. But the Israelites were all too afraid.
- David brought food to his brothers in the army.
- He heard Goliath's challenge and was not afraid.
- "How dare he defy God's army?" asked David. "I will fight him!"
- Surprised, King Saul offered David his armor.
- "No," said David. "God helped me kill wild beasts. He will help me against Goliath, too!"
- David took five stones and a sling.
- "Am I a dog?" Goliath roared. "You send this stick of a boy to fight me!"
- "You have a spear," said David, "but I have the help of Israel's God!"
- David put a stone into the sling and threw it.
- It struck Goliath's forehead and knocked him down.
- The Israelites defeated the Philistines.
- With God's help, David was a hero!

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did God tell Samuel to do? *(Find a man named Jesse because one of his sons would be the new king)*

Samuel was looking at Jesse's seven sons. What did God tell him He cared about? *(What is in a person's heart, not physical appearance)*

What did God say when Samuel saw Jesse's youngest son, David? *("He is the one!")*

What was the giant Philistine's name? *(Goliath)*

What made David different than all the other Israelites? *(He was not afraid to fight the giant, Goliath.)*

David refused the armor that King Saul offered him. What did David take into battle instead? *(Five stones and a sling)*

Why did David refuse the armor? *(He trusted in God's power and faithfulness. God had helped David kill wild beasts, and David knew God would help him against Goliath, too.)*

How did Goliath react when David came to fight? *(He laughed and mocked David.)*

- **What happened when David put a stone in his sling and threw it?** *(It hit Goliath's forehead and knocked him down.)*
- **Who helped David defeat Goliath?** *(God)*

SAY: David's words and actions showed that he trusted God completely. He knew God had been faithful to help him in the past and that God would help him in battle, too. When Jesus was on earth, He showed that He trusted the Father completely. When we truly know and trust God with all our heart, He gives us the strength and courage we need to face challenges, too.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: David defeated the giant, Goliath, and saved the Israelites. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to defeat sin and death. Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in Him.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"People *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
judge by outward appearance *(smooth hands over shirt)*,
but the LORD *(point both hands up)*
looks at the heart *(bring hands together in heart shape)*."

1 Samuel 16:7b (NLT)



Activity:

(10 minutes)

Secretly select a child from the group. The other children may then ask questions that can only be answered with "yes" or "no" in order to identify the secret person. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play as time permits.

SAY: Many of the questions asked were about outward appearances, which is how the secret person might look on the outside. But that does not matter to God. He sees what is really important. God looks at our hearts, who we are inside.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: David took five stones into battle, but he really only needed one because God was with him. God helped him defeat Goliath. And the same God who helped David so long ago is also with each one of us today.

SAY: David was able to be brave because of God. David remembered the time God had helped him in the past. We can be brave in the same way.

Hand out five, paper "stones" to each child. Tell them to write or draw one specific way they can know that God is with them and/or has helped them on each "stone." When all the stones are filled, provide each student with a small envelope in which to store their stones . Encourage them to keep these "stones" as a reminder that they can be brave because God is always with them, too.

For younger children...
Make the activity more accessible by providing small, simple drawings for younger children to copy onto their stones. For example, the outline of a book can represent reading God's Word for guidance, a heart can represent God's love that is always with them, an eye can represent that God is always watching over them, the outline of a house can represent all that God blesses

them with, and a stick figure can represent all the friends and family God has given them.

For older children...
Extend the activity by telling older children to write the memory verse on the outside of their envelope. Then, remind them that God cares about what is inside us, not how we look on the outside. Explain that one of the most important ways we can care for the heart that is inside of us *(not our physical heart but our inner selves)* is by focusing on God—and everything that they wrote on their "stones."



Character Trait: Bravery

(10 minutes)

SAY: Bravery is having the courage to do something even when it is difficult. David showed bravery when he stepped up to fight Goliath when no one else would. David's complete trust in God gave him the strength to be brave.

Encourage the children to think more about bravery by asking the following:

- **What kinds of situations and challenges do you need bravery to face?** *(Answers will vary but may include trying new things, standing up for what is right, and sharing God with others.)*
- **David remembered how God had helped him in the past. This helped David be brave. What are some specific ways that you can strengthen your bravery?** *(Answers will vary but may include asking God in prayer for help, remembering specific times God has helped them in the past, and reading His Word to learn more about how God has proven faithful to help others.)*
- **How does being brave honor God?** *(It shows that we fully trust that God is capable to help, wants to help, and will follow through on His promise to do so.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Bravery is needed to do lots of things, including sharing what we learn about God's truths with others.

Challenge the children to show the craft that they completed in this lesson to someone else. Encourage them to use it to share the story of David and Goliath and how God was faithful to help David do the impossible. Give the children a few minutes to practice sharing their craft and the main part of today's Bible story in pairs.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: Being brave has nothing to do with physical strength or even our abilities. Bravery does not come from us; it comes from God. When we choose to lean on and trust in Him, God is faithful to help and equip us for any challenge we need to face.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
You are powerful and faithful. Thank You for making me brave. Help me to complete the tasks that You have planned for me to do.
Amen.

Notes