Placement of the Goals

1 Corinthians 15:55, 1 Samuel 17, John 5:43, Romans 12:21



James Naismith didn't want to see rough play in the game of basketball. In other games, the ball is thrown, run, or kicked hard into the goal. To avoid this, Naismith placed the goals high above the players' heads. This made throwing the ball in a gentler arc more accurate and effective than throwing it hard. Roughness and force couldn't give anyone an advantage with the goals up high. **When shooting the ball, how does the right arc improve your accuracy? Why is it better to shoot with a relaxed wrist?**

> ***So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a stone! He hit him and killed him. He did not even have a sword in his hand.***
> 1 Samuel 17:50



In Bible times, David was just a boy when the Philistines came to fight God's people. A Philistine giant, named Goliath, stood over nine feet tall. He wore heavy armor and carried a sword and two spears. He taunted God's people and challenged them to send someone out to fight him. The soldiers were scared. No one wanted to fight the evil Goliath. Then young David stepped up and said, *"I will go and fight this Philistine!"* The soldiers were surprised that a boy would risk his life like that. David didn't want to wear armor or carry a sword. He took only his slingshot and some small stones. He told Goliath, *"I come to you in the name of the Lord…Everyone gathered here will know the Lord does not need swords or spears to save people." 1 Samuel 17:45,47* As Goliath moved in to attack, David took a stone, put it in his sling, and slung it striking Goliath in his forehead and killing him. Goliath fell over dead and the rest of the Philistine soldiers ran away. God had saved his people and David was a hero! **Did God use David to defeat the evil Goliath with strong force or gentler accuracy?** (gentler accuracy) Many years later, God would send another hero to fight for his people. Jesus stepped up to save the world from even bigger enemies. These enemies are sin and death. Jesus said, *"I have come in my Father's name." John 5:43* Jesus didn't arm himself with swords and spears either. He willingly laid down is life and died on the cross, giving his life for ours. And then, three days later, God raised Jesus back to life. This was the only way Jesus could destroy the enemies of sin and death so that sin and death would not destroy us. **Did God use Jesus to defeat evil, sin, and death with strong force or gentler accuracy?**



God defeated sin and death not with a sword, but with love and sacrifice. Romans 12:21 says, *"Do not let evil defeat you. Defeat evil by doing good."* Trusting God and loving others wins over all kinds of evil. **How does choosing gentleness and love over roughness and force show you trust God to fight your battles?**

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for the love and sacrifice of Jesus who saved us from sin and death when he died on the cross and was raised to life again. Help us remember that you have already won the biggest battle for us. When we go up against evil, help us trust you to defeat it by doing good. Amen.

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