

UNIT 11 | SESSION 1

DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17



KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 10:6-7a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

CHRIST CONNECTION: The Israelites were helpless to defeat the giant enemy Goliath, but God sent David to save them. We are helpless to defeat our enemies of sin and death, but God sent Jesus to save us by dying for our sin and rising again.

STORY POINT: God gave David power to defeat Goliath.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The story of David and Goliath reveals more than a battle between a shepherd boy and a giant. Through this showdown, we recognize how the powers of this world set themselves in opposition to the one true God. While Israel needed someone to face Goliath on their behalf, we too, need a Savior to defeat our enemies—sin and death.

Where did David find strength to fight against Goliath? How does the story point us to the true Hero, Jesus?

David was no stranger to the faithfulness and protection of God. He said to Saul, “The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” David saw the threat of Goliath, yet recognized he had what Goliath didn’t—the favor of the Lord of Armies. David trusted that God would secure the victory for His own namesake. Just as God had proven Himself faithful in David’s battles against lions and bears, David knew that Goliath posed no threat to those whose faith is in God.

David’s faith in the Lord of Armies encourages us to remember how God has provided us with victory through His Son, Jesus. The true hero of this story is Jesus—the foreshadowed victor in the battle against sin and death—who took to the cross to defeat the grave and rose again so we may find new life in Him.

Lead boys and girls to see that, like David, we can trust in God for salvation and in every circumstance we face. While we may not find ourselves going to war with a giant like Goliath, we do face the reality of sin and death and cannot save ourselves. We need a Savior who has already won the battle! Pray for kids to place their hope, not in themselves or in the things of this world, but in Christ alone.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "Small to Giant" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- paper or plastic cups, 4
- rubber bands, 4



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- plastic cups, 2 per kid
- beanbags, 1 per group

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- "Order It" activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "David Defeated Goliath" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 11, Session 1" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- "Ryan and Tricia McCammack: Loving a Diverse Community" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "You Are Great, You Are Great (Jeremiah 10:6-7a)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- construction paper
- beanbags, 1 per group



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever had a problem that was so big you thought you would never overcome it? What was the problem? How did you overcome it?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Small to Giant” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn how Israel faced a giant problem when a Philistine name Goliath threatened God’s people.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: BULL’S EYE

Before the session, cut out four 2-by-3 inch strips of paper. Fold the paper, lengthwise, two times. Then fold the paper in half. Form kids into four groups, and guide each group to form a single file line about 2 feet away from a table. On the table, place a cup for each group.

Give the first kid in each line a rubber band and a folded paper. Direct the kids to stretch the rubber band around their pointer finger and thumb, creating a slingshot shape. Next, lead kids to place the open end of the folded paper over both strips of the rubber band. Kids will then pull back on the paper. Before they let go of the paper, challenge kids to try to aim for and hit the cup. Award a point to the groups who hit the cup. Repeat, until all kids have had a turn. Then challenge kids to hit the cups again, but this time lead kids to stand 3 feet away from the table. The group with the most points wins.

SAY “Today, we will hear how David defeated a giant named Goliath with a slingshot and a stone. We’ll learn that **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.**”

OPTION 2: LORD OF ARMIES



Challenge kids to listen for the words you call out and perform the appropriate action associated with the word. Tell kids that if you call out “sword,” they must place a hand on their hip as if they are unsheathing a sword. If you call out “spear,” kids will raise one hand in the air. If you call out “shield,” kids will cross both arms across their chest. If you call out, “Lord of Armies,” kids will make prayer hands. Play several rounds, calling the words out in random order. Consider inviting kids to call out the words as well.

Read Psalm 46:6-7.

SAY “In our Bible story, we will hear how Goliath trusted in his own strength and his weapons. However, David trusted in the Lord of Armies. The Lord of Armies is a name used for God to describe His military power and strength. We’ll learn that God was with David and fought for him. Even when Goliath raged against God, God proved He was with David and gave him the victory. We’ll also see that God is with believers, and He has won the battle against sin and death.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m so happy to see you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Over the next four weeks, we will be learning about the life of David. We’ll be studying his life from the books of 1 and 2 Samuel as well as the Psalms.

We’ve learned that David was a shepherd boy from the town of Bethlehem. We’ve also heard how God chose David to be king. Today, we will see how **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray and ask God to prepare our hearts to hear from His Word: ‘Lord, thank You for the Bible. Help us have ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts that believe Your truth. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ As we learn about David’s life, we’ll also learn more about God. While the Bible tells us about the people of God, it is first a book about God and what God has done or will do. Over the next several weeks we will ask the question, **Is anything or anyone greater than God?** What do you think? [Allow responses.] The answer we’ll learn is, **No, God is greater than everything and everyone.** Let’s say the answer again: **No, God is greater than everything and everyone.**

Sometimes when we face big problems, we may think there is no way to overcome them. But God’s Word reminds us that God is greater than everything and everyone. In today’s story, the Israelites faced a huge problem—a giant named Goliath. The Israelites were scared, but through David, God reminded His people that He is the Lord of Armies who fights for them and gives them victory. God reminds us of this truth as well through His Son, Jesus. God sent Jesus to conquer our biggest problem—sin and death. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ God’s people demanded a king and chose Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul was a mighty warrior and saved Israel from some of their greatest enemies, but he was disobedient to God. God rejected Saul as king and chose a shepherd boy named David to be the next king. But God’s timing for David to take the throne had not yet come. So, David began to serve in Saul’s house and comforted Saul’s spirit by playing music for him. During this time, David also continued to shepherd his father’s sheep. Today, we’ll see how God’s people were at war with the Philistines and faced a giant named Goliath. Let’s learn how **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 17:1-50. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “David Defeated Goliath.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

“**The Philistines gathered for war against Israel.** The Philistines stood on one hill, and the Israelites gathered on another hill. There was a narrow valley with steep sides between them.

Then **a champion named Goliath came out from the Philistine camp. He was nine feet, nine inches tall** and wore bronze armor that weighed 125 pounds. He had a long spear, and the tip of the spear weighed 15 pounds. **He shouted to the Israelites:** “Why are you lining up for battle? **Choose one of your men and have him come down and fight me. If he wins, we will be your servants. If I win, then you will be our servants.**”

Goliath threatened the Israelites every morning and every evening for forty days. Saul and all the Israelites were terrified.

One day, Jesse sent his son David to bring supplies to his brothers who were in the Israelite army. He heard the words Goliath used to threaten the Israelites. David said, “Who does Goliath think he is, that he should mock the living God and his army?”

Someone heard what David said and reported it to Saul. So, Saul had David brought to him. **David said, “Don’t let anyone be afraid of this Philistine. I will go and fight him!”**

Saul replied, “You can’t go and fight Goliath. You’re just a young man, and he’s been a warrior for a long time!”

David answered, “I have been tending my father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb, I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.”

Saul had his military armor put on David. **David said, “I can’t walk in these,”** because he was not used to them. He took them off. Instead, he **took his staff and sling, and chose five smooth stones. Then David approached Goliath.**

David said, “You come against me with a sword and spear, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies—you have defied him! Today, the LORD will hand you over to me. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, and that the battle is the LORD’s.”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Visualize it: If you’re room has enough height, place a strip of painter’s tape 9 feet high on a wall. Invite kids to stand under it. Remind kids that no giant is greater than God.

Active listening: Tell kids to give a thumbs up when they hear David’s name and a thumbs down when they hear Goliath’s name. Remind kids that David trusted in the Lord, while Goliath trusted in himself.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

When Goliath ran to attack David, David ran toward him. **David pulled out a stone, slung it, and hit Goliath on the forehead. Goliath fell** facedown to the ground **and died**.

Christ Connection: The Israelites were helpless to defeat the giant enemy Goliath, but God sent David to save them. We are helpless to defeat our enemies of sin and death, but God sent Jesus to save us by dying for our sin and rising again. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God’s people had many enemies, including the Philistines. Goliath was the Philistine’s champion, standing more than 9 feet tall. All of Israel was terrified of Goliath. What did the enemy Goliath say about God’s people? Look at 1 Samuel 17:10. [Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 17:10.] Goliath shouted insults at God’s people. He made fun of them and essentially called them cowards for not fighting him. By doing so, Goliath was also mocking God. To insult God’s people is to insult God Himself (1 Samuel 17:45). Goliath trusted in his own strength and in his weapons.

When David heard the taunts of Goliath, what did he say to Saul? Look at 1 Samuel 17:32. [Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 17:32.] David said he would fight Goliath. Yet, Saul didn’t think David was up for the task since he was young and inexperienced. Why did David have the courage to face Goliath? Look at 1 Samuel 17:34-37. [Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 17:34-37.] While David had not faced an enemy giant, he had fought against lions and bears. David trusted in the Lord of Armies who had rescued him from these dangerous animals. He trusted God would be with him as he fought Goliath and rescue him again. **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.**

While Goliath towered over David and had a sword and a spear, he was no match for a man who had the Lord fighting his battle. David defeated Goliath with a sling and a stone because he trusted in God. The Israelites were helpless to defeat the giant enemy Goliath, but God sent David to save them. We are helpless to defeat our enemies of sin and death, but God sent Jesus to save us by dying for our sin and rising again. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Like Goliath, we all rebel, defy God, and sin. And like David knew he couldn’t defeat Goliath alone, we can’t defeat the sin in our lives. David trusted in God to rescue him. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin and death. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross. When we put our faith in Jesus, He saves us. Have you trusted in Jesus? ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 11, Session 1” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What is your favorite Bible story and why?
2. How do the different Bible stories help us understand God’s plan to save sinners?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Tell kids that Atlanta is the capital city of the state of Georgia in the United States. Share how the east side of Atlanta is a very diverse area with people of different races, cultures, and backgrounds. Tell kids that more than 100 different languages are spoken in Atlanta, Georgia.

SAY “ Ryan McCammack and his wife, Tricia, and their eight children moved to Atlanta in 2016 to become a missionary family. They started Gospel Hope Church on the east side of Atlanta. Ryan was a pastor in the Midwestern United States for 10 years. He and Executive Pastor, Rob Dewberry, want to lead Gospel Hope Church to share about Jesus and help people in their community learn to follow Him. ”

Show the missions video. Then pray for the McCammacks, Pastor Rob Dewberry, and Gospel Hope Church as they tell their diverse community about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write two or three words from the key passage on individual sheets of construction paper, and tape the papers to the floor. Create a set for each group of four kids. Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Jeremiah 10:6-7a together.

SAY “ **God is greater than everything and everyone.** Not even Goliath could stand against David because God was with David. As we learn our key passage, let’s remember there is no one like our great God. ”

Form kids into groups of four, and direct them to line up, one behind the other. Challenge the first kid to toss the beanbag so that it lands on the first words of the key passage and then move to the back of the line. Continue until the verse is complete. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “You Are Great, You Are Great (Jeremiah 10:6-7a).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Dear heavenly Father, You are great. There is no one like You. You have the power to defeat evil, and You deserve all glory. Help us remember that through Jesus Christ, You are with us. Help us trust You. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 17. Invite kids to point to the chapter number 17. Then invite kids to find the verse number 45. Practice finding other verse numbers in chapter 17.

Consider pointing out the Valley of Elah (13), south of Jerusalem and to the west of Bethlehem, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Tell kids the Israelites camped in this valley while they fought the Philistines. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Samuel 17:45-47 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “**GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH**, and God proved He is the One who wins the battle. David’s trust to defeat Goliath didn’t come from a sword or a spear, but from God, who was with him. God invites us to trust in Him as well. When we trust in His Son, Jesus, and repent of our sin, God rescues us from sin and eternal death. Through faith in Jesus, we continue to trust in God—believing like David—that He is with us and working for our good. Our faith in God causes us to act on what we believe, whether that means we are patient or we move quickly in obedience.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why did Goliath fail and lose the battle?”

Remind kids that Goliath didn’t trust in God. He put his faith in his own strength and the weapons he had. Tell kids that we must be careful not to trust in things other than God to save us. The world will tempt us to trust in power, fame, money, physical strength or beauty, and so on. Only faith in Jesus gives us true victory over sin and death. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 20:7-8.)

SAY “David trusted God was with him. Why is God’s presence a comfort to believers?”

Tell kids that God has promised to always be with those who have trusted in His Son, Jesus. Share how God’s presence gives us comfort because we know that no matter the circumstance we are in, God is greater. Even if we suffer or struggle, the Lord’s presence can give us hope, encouragement, strength, and joy. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 23:4.)

SAY “All of Israel, except David, was scared of Goliath. How can we have courage like David?”

Discuss how we will all face times when we are afraid or uncertain. Tell kids that God’s victory over sin and death through Jesus gives us courage to face any circumstance. Remember that our greatest enemies are sin and death. Because Jesus has conquered them by His blood, believers have already won! Encourage kids to live boldly for Jesus, knowing nothing can separate Christians from Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 56:3-4.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: KNOCK IT DOWN

Form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each kid with two plastic cups and a marker. Lead kids to write a fear or struggle they may have on each cup. Then guide groups to stack their cups into a pyramid. Guide groups to take turns throwing a beanbag at the pyramid, trying to knock down all the cups. Repeat as time allows. Consider forming a giant pyramid, using all the kids' cups and allowing them to take turns throwing the beanbag at the cups.

SAY “ If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, God is with you, and His presence will help you in your fears. This doesn’t mean our situations will necessarily change, but it does mean we will respond to and view our circumstances differently. God helps us trust Him and believe that He is working all things for our good. When we trust Him, we have the confidence we need to face our fears. Those who trust in Jesus never have to fear the punishment of sin because God sent Jesus to save us by dying for our sin and rising again. ”

OPTION 2: PRAISE HIM!



Tell kids that some Bible scholars believe David wrote Psalm 9 after his victory over Goliath. While we’re not certain this was the exact time he wrote the psalm, we do know that Psalm 9 helps us understand that God is just and victorious over His enemies. Tell kids that David wrote many of the psalms as songs to God. Read Psalm 9:7-10 aloud. Then provide kids with paper and pens. Invite kids to rewrite the words from these verses into their own song of praise to God. Consider using a Bible dictionary to define words like “righteousness” and “refuge.”

SAY “ God is King, and He reigns over the world with perfect justice. As King, **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** Goliath was punished because he rebelled against God. The Lord will punish people because of their sin. But for those who trust in Jesus, God is a place of safety. David’s psalm reminds us that those who trust in God will never be abandoned by Him. Christians praise God for who He is and how He has saved them. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel, and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for His victory over our enemies, sin and death. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Order It” on the activity page.