

A large illustration of Goliath on the left, wearing a white helmet with a red plume and armor, holding a long spear. He is looking down at David, who is on the right, running towards him. David is wearing a white tunic and a sash, with a determined expression. In the background, a line of soldiers in white tunics and shields stands on a rocky ledge. The landscape is rocky and hilly under a blue sky with clouds.

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

- ☐ "Select the Stones" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ plastic cups, 10 per group
- ☐ table tennis balls, 1 per group



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ brown craft paper

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ paper cups, 1 per kid
- ☐ balloons, 1 per kid
- ☐ large marshmallows, 1 per kid
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring 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
- ☐ pictures of biblical armor (optional)
- ☐ small, smooth stone (optional)

#### 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)



## 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** “Who is the tallest person you know? What does it feel like to stand next to someone who’s taller and stronger than you?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Select the Stones” activity page.

**SAY** “Today, we’ll learn about one of the Israelites’ enemies, a giant named Goliath. We’ll also see how **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.**”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: TAKE YOUR SHOT

Form kids into two teams. Provide each team with 10 plastic cups and a table tennis ball. At one end of the table, guide teams to line their cups upside down on separate tables. Instruct the kids to line up single file at the opposite end of the table. Encourage the kids to take turns trying to knock the cups off the table by rolling the table tennis ball at each cup. The team to knock all the cups off first wins.

**SAY** “Imagine if instead of having to knock down cups, you were faced with battling a giant who stood over 9 feet tall? Do you think a table tennis ball would do the trick? Today, we’ll see how David was able to defeat a giant named Goliath with only a slingshot and a stone. We’ll learn that **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.**”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: RESCUER



Form kids into groups of three or four. Challenge groups to be the first to call out who you would go to for help in each situation below. Award a point for teams who respond correctly. Consider the following situations or create your own:

- Thief broke into a house (police)
- High fever (medical doctor)
- Trouble solving a math problem (teacher)
- Tooth pain (dentist)
- Drowning (lifeguard)
- Forgiveness of sin (Jesus)

**SAY** “Today, we will learn that David found himself in a situation where he and the rest of Israel needed help. A giant named Goliath came out to fight against God’s people. As David fought Goliath, he didn’t trust in his own strength or abilities. Rather, he trusted in God’s power to save him from Goliath.”





## 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.] The Bible, God’s word, is full of stories that help us see God’s power. God is greater than anyone or anything. We can always trust Him to fight for His people.

As we hear our story, we’ll learn how David, the shepherd boy who was anointed to be the next king, came face to face with an enemy of Israel. 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** “ Over the next several weeks, we will learn our new big picture question, **Is anything or anyone greater than God?** How would you answer this question? [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**.

In today’s story, we’ll see how God is greater than a giant named Goliath. While many people feared Goliath, the giant was no match for God. **God is greater than everything and everyone**. God is even greater than our sin. 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** “ We’ve learned how Saul looked like a king on the outside and even started out following God, but eventually Saul’s disobedient heart was revealed. Saul didn’t obey God’s commands, and God rejected him as king. God chose a shepherd boy named David to be the next king. But it was not time for David to become king quite yet. While David waited to be king, he served Saul and comforted him by playing music. 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

**Show a picture:** Print off a picture of ancient biblical armor. Remind kids that David chose to trust in God rather than a sword or armor.

**Pass around a stone:** Collect a small, smooth stone. Lead the kids to pass around the stone as you read the story. Encourage them to think about how David didn’t need a sword or spear because He trusted God to defeat Goliath.



## LEARN

### 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** “ The Philistine army was ready to fight the Israelites. They presented their best warrior: the giant Goliath. All of Israel was terrified of Goliath! For forty days, Goliath made fun of the Israelites and God. What did David say to Saul when he heard about how Goliath mocked God? **[Allow responses.]** David said, ‘Don’t let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!’ David trusted God and wanted the Israelites to trust God too.

Then Saul told David he was too young and inexperienced to fight Goliath. What did David say to Saul? **[Allow responses.]** David said that the same God who saved him from the bear and the lion would rescue him from Goliath. As a shepherd, David had to fight off lions and bears who wanted to eat the sheep. God had protected David from those wild animals. David trusted God would protect him from Goliath.

When David went to fight Goliath, David didn’t want Saul’s armor. It was big, and he was not used to fighting with it. What did David use instead? **[Allow responses.]** David took his staff, sling, and five smooth stones to the battle. David knew that Goliath had weapons, but David had something greater: the Lord of Armies. David knew that his God was more powerful than Goliath. **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.**

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** “ We all sin, and we need someone to rescue us. God used David to rescue Israel from Goliath and the Philistines. God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and death. We can’t fight sin and death on our own. Only the power of God through faith in Jesus will take away the guilt of our sin. ”

(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 over 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)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Jeremiah 10:6-7a together.

**SAY** “ Our key passage reminds us that the Lord our God is great and mighty. No one is greater than Him! ”

Direct the kids to recite the key passage using the following motions:

“Lord, there is no one like you” (make an x with your arms and sweep them by your side). “You are great (give a thumbs up) your name is great in power” (flex your arm muscle). “Who should not fear you” (hold hands out like you don’t know) “King of the nations?” (act like you are putting on a crown). “It is what you deserve” (hold out hands like you are giving a gift).

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** “ God, we know that there is no one greater than You. Help us have the courage and faith, like David, to trust You in any circumstance. 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. Share how the Bible reveals many names for God, including the one found in 1 Samuel 17:45. Invite kids to find 1 Samuel 17:45 and read the name of God (LORD of Armies). Tell kids this name is used to describe God's military power and strength.

Consider pointing out the location of the Valley of Elah (I3), south of Jerusalem and to the west of Bethlehem, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. 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** “ We may not face giants, like David did, but we do have circumstances in our lives that are scary or hard to understand. Like David, we have a choice to trust God. Or we have a choice to trust in ourselves, like Goliath did. God is greater than any circumstance we face, including the sin in our lives. Trusting in Jesus is the only way to be saved. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ Does trusting God mean everything will always work out how we want? Why not? ”

Discuss how trusting God doesn't mean we always get exactly what we want. But when we trust God, we get to experience more of God. When we trust God, He gives us His peace, joy, comfort, and hope. Trusting in God is always best because we give Him glory and show others how He alone is worth trusting in.

**SAY** “ When have you trusted God during a hard time? ”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that God is always with believers and invites us to trust in His power in our lives. Discuss how God was faithful to David, and He will be faithful to be with us. Encourage kids to remember how God gives believers the Holy Spirit, who helps them.

**SAY** “ Why is God greater than Goliath and our enemies, sin and death? ”

Remind kids that **God is greater than everything and everyone**. He is Creator and King over everything. God doesn't need any help with anything. He made the world simply by speaking, and He holds the world together by the word of His power. God doesn't even need sleep! When God sent Jesus to earth, He made the way for sin and death to be defeated. God's power raised Jesus back to life, showing He is greater than sin and death.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### ☐ OPTION 1: BUILD A GIANT



Form kids into four groups. Provide each group with brown craft paper, markers, and scissors. Assign each group one of the following body parts: head, body, arms, and legs. Lead kids to build a giant by drawing and cutting out their assigned body part. Then assist kids in taping the “giant” to the wall. Offer guidance on how large to make each body part.

**SAY** “Goliath may have been a giant, but we know that **God is greater than everything and everyone**. We learned that **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH**. God is so powerful He defeated sin and death through His Son, Jesus. When we trust in Jesus, God rescues us from our greatest enemies. We can trust God with every part of our lives, knowing He loves us. God wants each of us to help others see His great power and how He can rescue them. ”

##### ☐ OPTION 2: READY, AIM, FIRE

Before the session, cut away the bottom of paper cups, making sure to have a cup for each kid. Provide each kid with a paper cup, a balloon, and scissors. Lead kids to tie a knot at the end of their balloon. Assist kids as needed with this step. Then direct kids to cut off the top of the balloon, making sure the balloon is only about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the length of the paper cup. Guide kids to carefully stretch the balloon over the bottom of the paper cup, so the balloon tie is flat against the bottom of the cup.

Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to a wall. Distribute one large marshmallow to each kid. Challenge kids to put their marshmallow in their cup, pull back on the tied portion of the balloon, aim for Goliath, and let go of the balloon. Allow kids to continue trying to hit Goliath. Consider moving kids closer or farther away from the target each round.

**SAY** “**GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH**, Israel’s enemy. We have a big enemy: sin. We can’t defeat sin on our own. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus is the greatest hero. ”

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.