

UNIT 11 | SESSION 1

DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

1 SAMUEL 17



CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent David to help the Israelites fight their enemies. God sent His Son, Jesus, to help all of us. Jesus fought against sin and death and won. When we trust in Jesus, we have life with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

KEY PASSAGE: LORD, there is no one like you. You are great. Jeremiah 10:6

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 God would secure the victory for His own name’s sake. Just as God had proven Himself faithful in David’s battles against lions and bears, David knew 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 the 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 that preschoolers place their hope not in themselves or 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 preschoolers and
open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the
story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers
to love the God
of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers
to live the mission
of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an
additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find the letters

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ shallow bin
- ☐ shredded paper
- ☐ smooth rocks, 8



LEARN

Compare heights

- ☐ painter's tape

Tell the Bible story

- ☐ "David Defeated Goliath" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ gray socks

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Look at armor

- ☐ "Armor" printable, 1



LIVE

Gather stones

- ☐ canvas bag

Missions activity

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

Snack and transition

- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Circle the Biggest" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Compare opposites

- ☐ various opposite items (fork and spoon, salt and pepper, pen and pencil, etc.)

Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Pretend to pack a lunch

- ☐ toy food items
- ☐ paper lunch bags, 1 per child
- ☐ basket

Care for sheep

- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ cotton balls



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

FIND THE LETTERS

Fill a shallow bin with shredded paper. Write DAVID and GOD on medium-size flat rocks (one letter on each rock). Hide the rocks in the shredded paper. Write DAVID and GOD on strips of paper and tape them in front of the shallow bin. Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the room. Encourage children to take turns finding a rock in the tub and pulling out a letter. Guide the children to match the letters to the strips of paper. Read the words to the children as they find the letters. Read the Big Picture Question Poster to the children.

SAY “Hi! I am so glad to see you today. David loved and obeyed God. David said that God would help him fight Goliath, a very big soldier. David fought Goliath with a sling and a stone. **GOD GAVE DAVID THE POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** Our big picture question asks, **Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.**”





LEARN the Bible Story

1 COMPARE HEIGHTS

Place a piece of painter's tape about 9 feet 9 inches on a wall in the group time area. Mark the length on the floor if the ceiling is not high enough to accommodate. Greet the preschoolers as they join the group time. Take turns letting children stand with their backs against the wall under the piece of tape. Hold a ruler flat over each child's head to show them how tall they are as they step away. For a small group, consider putting a piece of tape with the child's name on it at their height. Comment that a person as tall as the tape would be very big! Stand one of the teachers against the wall and ask if the teacher is as tall as Goliath.

SAY “The piece of tape on the wall is almost 10 feet from the floor. This is how tall a soldier named Goliath was! In our Bible story, a young man named David came to bring food to his older brothers and heard Goliath yelling at his brothers and the other soldiers. Listen to the story to find out what happened.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 17. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

SAY “Two big groups of soldiers were getting ready to fight. The army of God's people, the Israelites, stood on a hill. Their enemies, the Philistines, stood on another hill.

The Philistines had a very big soldier named Goliath. Goliath was as tall as a tree! Every day, Goliath yelled at the Israelites, “Send someone to fight me! If you win, we will do what you want. If I win, you must do what we want.” Goliath did this for 40 days, and all the Israelites were scared.

One day, David brought food to his brothers in the Israelite army. He heard Goliath yelling at the Israelites. David said, “Who does Goliath think he is? He is challenging God's army!”

King Saul heard what David said and called for him. David said, “I'll fight Goliath!” Saul was worried because David was just a boy, but David said, “God has helped me protect sheep from lions and bears!”

David didn't wear Saul's big armor in battle. He just took his sling and five smooth stones. David told Goliath, “God will help me!” Then he threw a stone at Goliath. Goliath fell and didn't get up. David won the battle.”

Christ Connection: God sent David to help the Israelites fight their enemies. God sent His Son, Jesus, to help all of us. Jesus fought against sin and death and won. When we trust in Jesus, we have life with God forever.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Look at the Bible Story Picture Poster together and compare the size of David and Goliath. Roll gray socks to make pretend stones. Ask the children questions about the story and let the child who answers correctly throw a pretend stone into a basket. Ask questions: What was the name of the big soldier? (Goliath) Why didn't the men in the Israelite army want to fight him? (They were afraid.) Who saw Goliath and said that he would fight him? (David) Did David wear King Saul's armor to battle? (No.) What did David use to fight Goliath? (a sling and stones) Who did David think would help him? (God) Who won the battle? (David) Did God help David defeat Goliath? (Yes.)

SAY “Goliath yelled at the soldiers and told them to send someone to fight him. He yelled for forty days. When David came to bring food for his brothers, he saw and heard a very big soldier. David agreed to fight Goliath because he knew that God would help him. He took his sling and five stones. Goliath fell and didn't get up, so David won the battle. **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** God sent Jesus to help all of us. When we trust Jesus, He forgives our sins and helps us. **Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.**”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Mulberry Bush”:

LORD, there is no one like you.
You are great.
You are great.
LORD, there is no one like you.
Jeremiah 10:6

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Jeremiah 10:6. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Make up simple motions to go with the key passage phrase. Repeat the key passage phrase using the motions several times.

SAY “David knew that God was stronger and greater than the very big soldier, Goliath. David trusted God to help him fight Goliath. We can trust God to help us, too!”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for helping David fight the very big soldier, Goliath. Thank God for helping us and for sending Jesus to die on the cross and forgive our sins.

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 BUILD A GIANT SOLDIER



Guide the children to stack blocks to build a tall soldier. Draw a face on a piece of paper and tape the face onto the block soldier. Take turns throwing a beanbag at the soldier. Build the soldier again and repeat.

SAY “Israel’s soldiers were afraid to fight Goliath. They listened to him yell and beg for someone to come fight him. David said, ‘I will fight Goliath!’ King Saul was afraid for David to fight because David was just a boy. David said, ‘I protect the sheep from lions and bears.’ David used a sling and stones. He knew that God would help him, and **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.**”

2 SORT ITEMS



Gather items such as blocks, markers, chairs, and so forth. Explore items that are small and items that are big. Guide children to sort the items from small to big.

SAY “The Bible tells us that Goliath was a very big soldier. Even though David was smaller than Goliath, he knew that God would help him defeat his enemy. **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** We can trust that **God is greater than everything.**”

3 LOOK AT ARMOR

Print one copy of the “Armor” printable. Guide preschoolers to identify where each piece of armor would go on a soldier for protection. Discuss the weight of metal objects and how the soldiers had to move quickly in battle.

SAY “David didn’t think he could fight Goliath in Saul’s armor. Do you remember what he used to fight Goliath? He used his sling and five stones. He had used his sling before to protect sheep, and he believed God would help him defeat his enemy. **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.**”

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 GATHER STONES

Place a canvas bag the floor in the center of the room. Arrange balls of crumpled construction paper around the room in piles. Encourage preschoolers to work together to get all of the stones into the sling. Say the key passage phrase together as preschoolers took stones.

SAY “ David trusted God to help him defeat Goliath. He believed **God is greater than everything.** David gathered stones and a sling to use against his enemy. **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Remind preschoolers that the good news about Jesus is too good to keep to ourselves! God wants us to tell others about Jesus. A follower of Jesus who is sent to tell others about Jesus is called a missionary. Tell preschoolers they will learn about a couple named Ryan and Tricia McCammack who are missionaries in the state of Georgia. Show the “Ryan and Tricia McCammack: Loving a Diverse Community” missions video. Pray for the McCammacks and Gospel Hope Church as they tell the people in their neighborhood about Jesus.

SAY “ The area around Atlanta, Georgia, has a large community of people who moved there from other countries. More than 100 different languages are spoken in the area. Since there are so many people with different cultures and backgrounds, many new churches need to be started to help the people learn about Jesus. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ God sent David to help the Israelites fight their enemies. God sent His Son, Jesus, to help all of us. Jesus fought against sin and death and won. When we trust in Jesus, we have life with God forever. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 COMPARE OPPOSITES

Explain to the preschoolers that David was young when he fought Goliath. He was small, and Goliath was big. Lead preschoolers to share other opposite words. Gather objects that represent opposite words or print pictures of items to share. Place one item from each pair of objects within sight of preschoolers. Hold up one item at a time that represents an opposite word. Encourage preschoolers to call out the opposite items. Examples may include fast and slow, hot and cold, big and small, long and short, and so forth.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 17. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

DAVID DEFEATED GOLIATH

- The Israelites and the Philistines stood on two hills. They were getting ready to fight a battle.
- The Philistines had a big soldier named Goliath. Goliath said, "Send someone to fight me!" But the Israelites were too afraid.
- David came to the battlefield and saw Goliath. David said, "I will fight him!" David was just a boy, but he trusted God to help him win.
- David threw a stone at Goliath. Goliath fell, and David won the battle.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Mulberry Bush":

LORD, there is no one like you.
You are great.
You are great.
LORD, there is no one like you.
Jeremiah 10:6

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Jeremiah 10:6. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Invite the children to say the key passage after you. Stand up and stomp around the room as you say the key passage together.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus and making the way for us to be with Him.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 PLAY IT OUT

Explain that you will say things that happened in today's story. Lead preschoolers to do the following motions when you say the phrases:

"The people were scared." (Make a frightened face.)

"Goliath was tall." (Stand up tall on tiptoes.)

"David was small." (Bend down low to the ground.)

"But God always wins His battles." (Stand tall with hands on hips.)

Say the events in order, leading preschoolers to do the motions. Then, say the phrases in different orders. Repeat the statements several times. Vary the speed and tone of your words. See how quickly and how slowly preschoolers can do the motions as you say the words.

SAY "The story of David and Goliath remind us that God is faithful. Even though David was just a boy, **GOD GAVE DAVID POWER TO DEFEAT GOLIATH.** God also sent His Son, Jesus, to defeat our greatest enemy. Jesus fought against sin and death, and He won! When we trust in Jesus we know that we have life with God forever."

7 PRETEND TO PACK A LUNCH

Gather paper lunch bags, baskets, and play food. Encourage the children to pretend to pack a lunch with the play food.

SAY "Do you remember why David was at the battlefield? He had taken food to his brothers who were soldiers. He was the youngest son in his family and was not old enough to be a soldier. Do you think his brothers were surprised when their little brother was the one who fought Goliath? **[Allow responses.]** We may not fight a very tall soldier, but we can help others and tell them about God."

8 CARE FOR SHEEP

Provide large craft sticks, cotton balls, play dough, and cards with the numbers 1-10 written on them. Assist children in making a fence with craft sticks and play dough. Draw a number and lead children to place that number of "sheep" into their fences.

SAY "David was a shepherd. His job was to help care for his family's sheep. Sometimes the sheep were out in fields or on sides of a mountain, and the shepherd had to make sure they had enough food and water. Other times, the shepherd would bring the sheep into their fences and guard them there. The shepherd had to count the sheep to be sure that he had not lost any sheep. While David was watching the sheep, he sang songs to God. He knew that **God is greater than anything.**"

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.