

Fearless

Lesson 10 – David and Goliath

Series Objectives:

Students will learn:

- That followers of God have nothing to fear.
- Stories that illustrate God's people living out fearless lives.
- That followers of God are called by God to live a fearless life.

Series Theme Verse: “Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.” Isaiah 44:8

Lesson Objective:

Students will understand:

- That God is on our side.
- That David battled Goliath, even when it seemed he could not win.
- That God defeated Goliath through David's faithfulness.

Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 17

Lesson Materials:

Activity: Goliath drawn on butcher paper, Foam Arrow Darts

Bible Story: plastic hangers, yarn, 16-ounce paper cups, permanent markers, scissors, hole punch, tape, pennies (7 for every 4 kids), rocks (1 for every 4 kids) (The rocks will need to be small enough to fit in the cups but large enough to easily outweigh 7 pennies), cotton balls (1 for every 4 kids)

Meal: Nachos

Bible Story:

Materials: plastic hangers, yarn, 16-ounce paper cups, permanent markers, scissors, hole punch, tape, pennies (7 for every 4 kids), rocks (1 for every 4 kids) (The rocks will need to be small enough to fit in the cups but large enough to easily outweigh 7 pennies), cotton balls (1 for every 4 kids)

Making the Balance:



- Punch two holes at the top of each cup. The holes should be across from one another.
- Thread a 28-inch piece of yarn through the holes in each cup and then pull the ends up about 12 inches above the cups. Tie the ends together over the arms of the hanger, one cup on each side.
- Hold the hanger on a finger, then slide the cups as needed so that the balance is level and then tape the yarn in place.
- Write “Israelites” on one cup and “Philistines” on the other.

The Story:

Today we’re going to learn that God is on our side. But sometimes, our side feels pretty unfair. As we learn our Bible story, we’ll need a balance to see how fairly the two sides balanced out.

Have kids form groups of four. Give each group a balance, seven pennies, and a cotton ball.

In today’s Bible story, there was a battle going on! The Bible says the Philistines (a tribe that were enemies of God’s people, the Israelites) gathered their forces for war in Judah. Saul (Israel’s King) and the Israelites assembled and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

I am going to read this next part out of the Bible, and as I read about the two sides, the Israelites and Philistines, listen for how one side had an advantage over the other. When you hear an advantage, you’ll put a penny in that side’s cup.

A balance shows which side is stronger by the cup that’s *lower*, not higher. So whichever cup is lower is the one that’s winning the battle.

(Read the following passages. After each one, have kids share what advantage the Philistines had and put a penny in that cup: 1 Samuel 17:4, 1 Samuel 17:5, 1 Samuel 17:6, 1 Samuel 17:7, and 1 Samuel 17:8-11)

Why does this battle seem so unbalanced? Would *you* be willing to fight Goliath all alone? Why or why not?

In the Bible, an Israelite boy named David took lunch to his brothers, who were fighting in the battle. David was the youngest brother and was normally in charge of watching the sheep.

When David got to the battlefield, he heard Goliath’s challenge. This is how the Israelites responded. *(Read 1 Samuel 17:24-25. Have kids put another penny in the Philistine cup.)*

Most of the Israelites saw this unbalanced battle and got really scared, but David said he was not afraid of the giant and he would fight Goliath. *(Have groups each put a cotton ball in the Israelite cup.)*

David was just a young shepherd! Even King Saul didn't think he could balance out the battle, but David insisted, so King Saul gave David some armor to wear. *(Have kids put a penny in the Israelite cup.)*

The problem was that the armor was too big! David didn't think his armor was very comfortable, either. So David took the armor off and decided to fight without it. *(Have kids remove the penny from the Israelite cup.)*

Instead, David took just his slingshot and five smooth stones from a stream. Then he approached Goliath.

Meanwhile, Goliath, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, and he despised him. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

Goliath still saw this as an unbalanced battle...in his favor. After all, look at your balance! The Israelites are losing big time! But David had a secret weapon on his side. He knew God is on our side.

David yelled out to Goliath, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands!" *(Give each group a rock to put in their Israelite cup.)*

When God is on our side, we've got an unbalanced battle...in *our* favor! God could easily defeat Goliath—even though he was huge and had all that armor. Here's what happened next.

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

How can you tell God was on David's side? How do you know God is on your side?

God was on David's side because David believed in God and had faith that God could beat the giant. God is on our side when we believe in him and have a friendship with him. David led a fearless life, because he trusted God, just as we should trust God and live a fearless life.

Activity: Taking Down Goliath

Materials: Goliath drawn on butcher paper, Foam Arrow Darts

The Activity:

- Explain to students that in today's story, a child must go up against a giant.
- To understand how huge a task this is, have the 9 foot Goliath drawn on butcher paper and attached to the wall. Let students compare their size to that of the giant Goliath.

- In the story, the child wins by throwing a rock at Goliath's head. To help students see how difficult this was, have a line for them to stand behind on the floor and give the first child a foam arrow dart.
- Allow them to try to shoot the arrow at Goliath's forehead because that is where David hit Goliath.
- Let each student try.
- After every student has gone, ask the students if it was easy, or hard, to hit such a huge person in the forehead with the arrow? If it was that hard, then why would a little child like David volunteer to fight a huge man like Goliath? (Because David lived a fearless life by trusting God).
- Give students another chance at taking down Goliath if there is time.

Music: Preparation for Musical on May 20.