Unit 9: King David and King Solomon
OT9.2 David and Goliath Lesson

Scripture: I Samuel 17:1-58

Lesson Goal:
David was a shepherd boy who had learned to love and trust God. In this lesson we will learn how David trusted God to overcome Israel’s giant problem Goliath.

Introduction:
This lesson is found in the book of 1 Samuel. 1 Samuel is in the second group of books in the Old Testament called the historical books. These books begin with Joshua and go through Esther. Let’s say these books—Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

Attention Getter: “World’s Tallest Man”
Who is the tallest person in the world? According to the Guinness World Book of Records the tallest person ever was Robert Wadlow who was 8 feet 11 inches high. He lived in Illinois during the 1930’s and had a normal sized family.

Here is a picture of Wadlow at age 19 stretched out on his bed. This was when he officially became the tallest man in the world. He had lots of trouble finding shoes and clothes that were big enough and so these had to be made especially for him. He was a giant of a man!

Did you know that our problems are sometimes like giants? They seem so large that we can never win. God has promised that when we trust Him He can give us the power and strength to succeed.

In this lesson we will learn about a big, mean, ugly giant named Goliath and how a little boy named David trusted God for the power to overcome him.

Opening Prayer:
Dear Father in heaven, Thank you for giving to us the gift of salvation. Help us each day to remember the great sacrifice you made on the cross to give us the gift of salvation. Thank You that You are our strength and shield. You are always with us, protecting and caring for us. Help us to remember that because of who You are, we can trust You totally. Thank You for giving to us the courage we need to face the giants in our lives. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse:
The memory verse is Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

Lesson Video: https://youtu.be/pSHhqXSAYU8
God wanted Israel to have a king who would follow His ways. He wanted someone whom He could trust to lead the nation of Israel to love and trust Him so God could bless them richly. Saul who was Israel’s first king started out a very humble man but soon he became proud and arrogant. He began to do things his own way instead of God’s way. Because King Saul was disobedient, God rejected him as king. Israel needed a new king, a better king.

God sent his prophet Samuel to Bethlehem to meet a man named Jesse and his eight sons. God had chosen one of Jesse’s sons to be Israel’s new king. Samuel did what God told him to do. He went to Bethlehem to meet with Jesse and his sons. At the sacrifice offering Samuel asked Jesse to bring his sons to meet him. Eliab was Jesse’s oldest son.
When Samuel saw Eliab, he thought, “This must be the one God has chosen!”

Eliab was tall and good-looking but God said, “No, this is not the one!” Why wouldn’t God choose someone like that? God does not make decisions like people do. God said, “People can only see how someone looks on the outside, but I am looking to see what is in a person's heart.” God meant that how a person thinks and feels is more important than how a person looks.

Jesse’s sons took turns passing before Samuel, one by one. Samuel was probably wondering which son God had chosen to be Israel’s next king! Abinadab? No not him. Shammah? “The Lord has not chosen him either.”

Jesse had one more son. His youngest son David was out tending the sheep. They called for David and he came in. God said, “This is he.” David had a heart that loved God. So Samuel anointed David by pouring oil on his head and the Spirit of the Lord was with David. Samuel went home and David returned to tending his father’s sheep. God had a plan for David to become king but it would be many years later before he would assume the throne. God wanted to teach him some important lessons.

As a shepherd boy David learned great courage and faith in caring for the flock. He trusted God to help him protect the sheep by killing lions and bears with his sling shot. He used his rod and staff to lead the sheep to green grass and pull them from dangerous cliffs. He showed great love to them by pouring oil over their sores and carrying them when they were lame. David also learned to sing and play songs of thanksgiving to God on his harp. David was a good shepherd to his flock of sheep. Because David loved the Lord and the Spirit of God was with him, whatever he did, he always did it as unto the Lord.

But the Spirit of the Lord was not with King Saul anymore. In fact, Saul was bothered by an evil spirit. Saul’s servants suggested that Saul find someone who could play the harp. Hearing beautiful music might make Saul feel better when the evil spirit bothered him. One of Saul’s servants knew just the person to play the harp—David, the son of Jesse. David came to Saul and whenever Saul felt troubled David played on his harp and King Saul felt better. King Saul liked David so much that he had him stay near the palace and carry the armor for the warriors. And so God allowed David to be in the palace and learn what it meant to be king as a young man.

At this time Israel’s enemies, the Philistines got ready for war. They were going to attack a town in Judah. King Saul got his army ready to fight. The Israelites camped on one hill while the Philistines camped on another. The Elah Valley was between them.

The Philistines had a great warrior named Goliath who came from the city of Gath. He was a giant of a man and their hero. Armies at that time often had a strong warrior who would fight against a warrior from the enemy army. The fight between these two warriors would determine the winner of the battle. So Goliath came out from the Philistine camp to challenge the Israelites.

Goliath was over 9 feet tall and wore bronze armor that weighed about 125 pounds. His legs were also protected by bronze armor, and he carried a bronze javelin. The iron head on his spear weighed about fifteen pounds. A soldier walked in front of him, carrying his shield. Goliath shouted at the Israelites, “Why are you lined up, ready for battle. Choose one of your best men to fight me. If he wins and kills me; we will be your slaves; but if I win and kill him, you will be our slaves. I dare you to pick someone to fight me!” Saul and his men were terrified. None of the Israelites wanted to fight Goliath. They were very afraid of him.

At this time David the shepherd boy was back in Bethlehem looking after his father’s sheep. He had been going back and forth from playing the harp and being the armor bearer for King Saul to helping his elderly father care for the flocks. He often had to protect the sheep from attacks by lions and bears. He had learned to use a sling shot against the enemies of the sheep. His three oldest brothers Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah were in the army facing the Philistines.
Every morning and evening for forty days Goliath would come out from the camp of the Philistines and challenge the Israelites. King Saul was especially worried because he was the tallest man in the Israelite army and he was obviously the best match for Goliath. Each side was waiting for the other to attack first.

One day Jesse said to David, “Take this roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers in the camp. And take these ten cheeses to the commanding officer. Find out how your brothers are getting along.”

Early the next morning David left the flock with a shepherd and took the food to the officers in charge of the supplies just like his father had said. He then ran to the battle line to see his brothers. As he was talking with them, Goliath came forward and shouted his usual taunts at the Israelites. When the Israelites saw Goliath they all ran away in terror.

David asked, “Who is this Philistine to defy the army of the living God?” They told him the man who killed Goliath would get a big reward, marry the King’s daughter, and his father’s family would not need to pay taxes. David saw the giant as a man who was defying the Almighty God! He was volunteering to fight Goliath because he knew God would fight with him.

When Eliab, David’s oldest brother heard him talking to the other soldiers, he became very angry. He started criticizing David by saying, “Why have you come down here? Aren’t you supposed to be taking care of the sheep? You are so conceited. You can’t fight. Just watch the battle!”

When the other soldiers heard what David was saying he was taken to King Saul, “Your majesty,” said David, “no one should be afraid of this Philistine! I will go and fight him.”

“No,” answered Saul. “How could you fight him? You’re just a boy, and he has been a soldier all his life!”

“I have killed lions and bears that attacked my father’s sheep,” replied David, “and I will do the same to this Philistine, who has defied the army of the living God. The Lord who delivered me from the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine giant Goliath.”

“Go, and the Lord be with you,” Saul replied.

He gave David his armor but when David tried it on he said, “I can’t fight with all this, I’m not used to it.”

So David took them off. Instead, he took his shepherd’s staff in his hand and then picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them in his bag. With his sling ready, he went out to meet Goliath. Goliath started walking toward David, with his shield bearer walking in front of him.

Goliath saw that David was only a boy and he despised him. “What’s that stick for?” he shouted at David. “Do you think I’m a dog that you can beat?” Goliath called down curses from his god on David. “Come on, I will give your body to the birds and animals to eat,” he shouted.

David answered, “You are coming against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty the God of the army of Israel whom you have defied. Today the Lord will put you in my power. I will defeat you and cut off your head. Everyone here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves. The battle is His and He will defeat you!”

As Goliath started walking toward David again, David ran quickly toward the Philistine. He reached into his bag and took out a stone, which he slung at Goliath. It hit him on the forehead, breaking his skull, and Goliath fell face downward on the ground.

So David killed Goliath with a sling and stone without a sword in his hand! David ran and stood over the dead body of Goliath. He took Goliath’s sword out of its sheath, and cut off his head with his own sword.
Who gave David the power to defeat Goliath? God did! When the Philistines saw that their hero Goliath was dead, they ran away.

The men of Israel shouted and ran after them, pursuing them all the way to Gath and Elron in Philistine territory. David kept Goliath’s weapons and returned in triumph as a hero.

When King Saul saw David returning from the battle in victory, he asked Abner the commander of his army, “Who is that young man?” Abner brought David to King Saul and David said, “I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem.” From that day on King Saul kept David in his army.

In this lesson we see that Israel was up against their toughest enemy the Philistines. They didn’t stand a chance against Goliath the mighty Philistine warrior. God gave David the power to defeat Goliath because he had a heart that wholly trusted in Him. David knew that he would not be alone when he fought Goliath. God would fight with him.

David understood that he needed to look at the situation from God’s point of view. God gave David courage to fight the giant. Viewing difficult problems from God’s perspective helps us see things more clearly. When we trust God, it means we depend on Him to help us and care for us. God is all powerful and He loves us very much. We can count on Him to protect us in times of trouble.

When Eliab, David’s oldest brother, heard that David was willing to fight Goliath, he was not very happy. Perhaps he criticized David because he was dealing with some jealousy and resentment. He knew that his little brother had been anointed as king and perhaps David’s position as a musician playing the harp for Saul also brought jealousy. When faced with criticism David was not easily discouraged. He knew the importance of taking action. With God there to fight for him, there was no reason to wait. He stepped forward in faith.

People may try to discourage you with negative comments or mockery but like David you must continue to do what you know is right. By doing what is right you will be pleasing to God. God’s opinion is more important than anyone else’s!

We are just like the Israelites who were afraid to fight the giant Goliath. Apart from Christ we are powerless before our enemies of sin and death. David reminds us of Jesus, the greatest hero, who came to save us. Although David saved Israel from Goliath Jesus saved people from something much worse. He saved us from sin and death.

Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy He cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death.” When we look to Jesus He gives us salvation and eternal life. Jesus is our ultimate hero who gives us salvation. Because we were separated from God and had no hope of eternal life, God provided a way for us to be saved.

God loved us so much that He sent his son Jesus to earth. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. His death and resurrection paid the price for our sins. Because Jesus gave up His life for us we can receive the gift of eternal life. We can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! To receive this gift we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins. We must repent or turn from our sin and ask God to forgive us. We must confess our faith or trust in Jesus and ask Him to give us that gift of salvation.

Remember trust the Lord and He will help YOU!
Review Questions: “Target Practice”

Preparation: You will need a painted wood or cardboard target and some bean bags for each team.

Say: “In this lesson David used a sling shot to kill the giant Goliath. David trusted God to help him conquer this Philistine enemy of Israel. David had practiced many times with his sling shot while caring for his father’s sheep and defending them against the lion and the bear. Today we are going to play a game to see how well you can hit a target.”

Procedure: Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a bean bag to toss by taking turns. Each team member will take turns answering the following review questions. Explain that the value of the question will be determined by the circle of the target the bean bag touches. The winning team is the one who earns the most points. You may want to move the targets further away to increase the challenge.

1. In what book of the Bible is this lesson? (The story of David and Goliath is in 1 Samuel 17.)
2. Why did Samuel go to Bethlehem? (God told him to go. God said, “It’s time to stop being sad about Saul. Take a little bottle of oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”)
3. What quality did David have that God was pleased with to choose him to be king? (He had a heart that loved God and was totally devoted to Him.)
4. What did Samuel do that showed David was the chosen one to be king? (He anointed David’s head with oil.)
5. How did being a good shepherd help train David to be a good king? (He learned to care for others by caring for the flock. He learned to protect the flock. He would have to fight many battles as a king for the nation of Israel to protect them. He would have to care for them. In protecting the flock David learned to rely or trust of God’s strength.)
6. How did David show his thankfulness to God? (David played on his harp and sang songs of thanksgiving to the Lord. He knew that God had protected him and helped him!)
7. Why did David have to wait so long before he actually assumed the throne of Israel? (King Saul was still alive. God wanted to use this time to prepare and teach David some important lessons so he would be a good king.)
8. Why was David chosen to play his harp for King Saul? (King Saul was bothered by an evil spirit. His spirit would be soothed while listening to beautiful harp music.)
9. Who were the enemies of Israel who wanted to fight them in a battle? (The Philistines wanted to go to battle with the Israelites.)
10. Why did the Philistines send out Goliath every morning and evening to taunt the Israelites? (Armed at that time often had a strong warrior who would fight against a warrior from the enemy army. The fight between these two warriors would determine the winner of the battle. So Goliath came out from the Philistine camp to challenge the Israelites.)
11. Why were the Israelites so frightened of Goliath? (Goliath was over 9 feet tall and wore bronze armor that weighed about 125 pounds. His legs were also protected by bronze armor, and he carried a bronze javelin. The iron head on his spear weighed about fifteen pounds. He was a giant of a man and was very strong.)
12. Why did Jesse send David to the battle field? (Jesse wanted David to check on his brothers and see how the battle was going. He also wanted David to deliver some roasted grain, ten loaves of bread, and ten cheeses to supply the army with food.)
13. What did David think and do when he saw the giant Goliath uttering his threats to the army of Israel? (David saw the giant as a man who was defying the Almighty God! He was volunteering to fight Goliath because he knew God would fight with him.)
14. What did Eliab David’s oldest brother think when he saw David talking to the other soldiers and volunteering to fight Goliath? (He became very angry. He started criticizing David by saying, “Why have you come down here? Aren’t you supposed to be taking care of the sheep? You are so conceited. You can’t fight. Just watch the battle!”)
15. What did King Saul say at first when David volunteered to fight Goliath? (He didn’t think David could fight him. He said, “How could you fight him? You’re just a boy, and he has been a soldier all his life!”)

16. What did King Saul do to try to help David fight the giant? (He gave David his armor and spear but it was too big and David was not used to fighting an enemy with those things.)

17. Why did David believe that he could defeat Goliath? (David had killed lions and bears that attacked his father’s sheep and he believed that he could do the same to this Philistine because God would fight for him.)

18. What did David use to fight Goliath? (David took his shepherd’s staff in his hand and then picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them in his bag. With his sling ready, he went out to meet Goliath.)

19. How did Goliath the giant die? (David hit him in the forehead with a stone and he died instantly.)

20. What did David do to show that he had won the battle with Goliath? (He cut off his head and took Goliath’s sword as his own.)

21. Who gave David the power to defeat Goliath? What did the Philistines do when they saw that Goliath was dead? (God did! When the Philistines saw that their hero Goliath was dead, they ran away.)

22. What important lessons can we learn from this Bible story? (We should view difficult problems from God’s perspective because it will help us see things more clearly. When we trust God, it means we depend on Him to help us and care for us. We are just like the Israelites who were afraid to fight the giant Goliath. Apart from Christ we are powerless before our enemies of sin and death. David reminds us of Jesus, the greatest hero, who came to save us.)

23. What is the memory verse? (Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”)

**Bible Memory Verse Activity: “Scrambled Stones”**

Our memory verse is Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.” Help students locate the verse in scripture and read the verse together orally.

Say: “This verse was written by David and helps us understand that whenever we are surrounded by trouble or evil we should pray to God and ask for His help and strength. God is our only real source of safety in difficult times.”

**Preparation:** You will need to make stone-shaped cards with the words or phrases of the memory verse printed on each card. Print the Scrambled Stones template below if desired and cut out stones.

**Procedure:** Distribute the “stones” cards—one to each student. A set of “stone” card should be provided for every word of the key passage to each group. Mix up the stones and ask the kids to work as a group to put them in the right order. If you have several kids, form groups and use an extra set of stones.

**Group Learning Activity: “How tall is the Giant?” (Grades K-4)**

**Preparation:** You will need a tape measure that is at least 10 feet long and masking tape.

**Procedure:** To get an idea of how big Goliath was in comparison to David, use a tape measure to measure out 9’ 9” in the center of the room. Mark off the size using masking tape. Have each child lay on the floor next to the measurements with their feet at the line where you began your “Goliath” measurement. Mark the child’s height using a piece of masking tape. Write the child’s name on the piece of masking tape. Have all of the children mark their height and then as a class compare their height with Goliath’s height.
Say: “Why do they think it was so important for David to trust in the Lord? He was facing a giant! The giant’s name was Goliath, and the Israelites were afraid of him. Every morning and night for forty days Goliath had challenged them to choose one soldier to fight him, but none of them had had the courage for such an uneven fight. It’s a good thing that God fights our battles for us!”

Optional: Print or draw full size Goliath and David on a long roll of chart paper. Use the coloring sheet of David and Goliath and enlarge to fit the full size. Goliath’s height would be 9 ft. 6 inches and David’s height would be 5 feet 2 inches.

Optional: You can also stack empty cardboard boxes on top of each other to reach the 9 feet height. Draw a large giant so that part of his outline is on one side of each box. When the boxes are stacked students should be able to see the giant.

Group Learning Activity: “Killing the Giant” Game (Grades K-5)
Purpose: Students will toss soft “stones” at a high target to get an idea of what David’s battle with Goliath might have been like.

Preparation: You will need paper plates, tape, newspaper, and a tape measure. Secure the plates to the wall approximately 9 feet 9 inches from the floor. If your walls are only 8 feet high, explain that Goliath was as tall as the room plus 1 ½ more feet. Create a tossing line on the floor with masking tape approximately 8 feet from the wall. Wad the newspaper into stone-sized balls.

Say: “In our lesson David was faced with a giant named Goliath. He trusted in God to help him kill the giant because he was defying God by challenging the armies of the Israelites. God helps people who trust in Him. God wants us to trust Him not only when we are afraid but every minute of the day. Today we are going to play a game to help us understand how David might have felt as he faced Goliath.”

Procedure: Form two teams. Direct the teams to line up behind the starting lines. Demonstrate how to wad up newspaper into stones to throw at the paper plate. Be sure to demonstrate how to aim and throw the stone.

Say: “One person on your team will throw a stone at the plate. If you hit the plate you earn a point.” Alternate between the teams tossing the stones at the plate. Award points. Be sure to congratulate the children on their efforts.

Say: “The height of the plate is approximately where Goliath’s forehead would have been. God directed the stone from David’s sling to the very spot needed for David to defeat Goliath. In what ways do you think David trusted God? Did God answer the trust that David had in Him?”

Change teams and replay the game. Lead children to repeat the memory verse as they throw their paper “stones.” Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”
Group Learning Activity: “Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones” (Grades 4-5)

**Purpose:** To help students learn to trust in God when they face difficult situations.

**Preparation:** Using brown wrapping paper cut out three large stepping stones. Place the stone cut-outs on the floor. Students will need Bibles, pens or pencils, and spiritual journal.

**Procedure:** Ask the children if they have ever used stepping-stones to cross a stream or puddle. Have one of the children demonstrate how this is done using the three flat rocks printouts that you have placed on the floor. Discuss how stones can help us, but they can also cause us to stumble and fall if we aren’t careful. With marker write on the stones challenges your children might face in their daily life. Have a child read the challenge on the first rock. Ask the children how that challenge could be a stumbling block. Then ask how the challenge can become a stepping-stone to make them better people. (Examples of stumbling blocks could be magazines that have bad pictures, people who swear at ball games, people who offer you drugs, other kids who want you to steal or cheat, etc.)

Continue the discussion with the other two rocks. Help the children understand that the challenges in our lives can be stumbling blocks or stepping-stones depending on how we handle them. If we become unhappy and angry because of the difficulties we face in life, they are stumbling blocks to us. If we handle our difficulties with a positive attitude and learn from them, then we become better people and our challenges are like stepping-stones to us. You may want to have the children take turns using the rocks as stepping-stones.

Say: “Today we are going to look up verses of scripture that tell us the weapons that God has given to help us fight against evil and the devil’s temptations. God can help us face difficult situations.” Help students locate the following verses of scripture. Read verses aloud. Highlight the Biblical principles being taught.

- Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Jesus commanded us to pray for God’s strength to help us when we are tempted. Without God’s help we are weak and will fail. **Prayer**
- Psalm 119:11 “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” David understood that memorizing God’s Word can help us overcome temptation. We will not be fooled by evil lies. We will know the truth of what God wants us to do. **Scripture or God’s Word**
- John 16:13 “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” We should ask the Lord give to us the Holy Spirit who can lead us to obey God. He will reveal to us the truth. **Holy Spirit**
- James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” God will give us wisdom to make good decisions if we will ask Him. **Wisdom**
- Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Colossians 3:2 2 “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” God wants us to think right thoughts and have the right priorities. Choose to do what is right. We need to check our heart attitude and desire to put God first in everything. **Thoughts**

Have students record the principles they have learned from this lesson in their spiritual journal. Close in prayer asking God to help us make good choices about the “stones” in our lives.
Group Learning Activity: “Pantomime the Story” (Grades K-4)

Preparation: You do not need any special equipment. Use a large area for children to sit on the floor so they have space to move. On index cards write out the following events for students to pantomime. (Goliath shouting at the Israelite army; The Israelites shaking in fear; David putting on Saul’s armor; David choosing five stones from the stream; David using his slingshot, and Goliath falling; Goliath strutting before the Israelites; The Israelites shouting for joy).

Procedure: Have students choosing a card and then acting out the story action. Take turns pantomiming the actions of people in the Bible Story. Other children can guess the actions. Be sure children understand that pantomimining the story means that someone can’t talk when they act out the story.

Invite students to pantomime words from Psalm 28:7 (for “strength,” flex arm muscles; for “shield,” pretend to hide behind a shield; for “heart,” make heart shape with hands; for “helped,” hold out hands.) Have other children guess the actions.

Group Learning Activity: “A Lion, A Bear, Goliath, Oh My!” Game (Grades 2-5)

Preparation: You will need a chair for each child in the game.

Procedure: Assign each kid to either be a lion, a bear, or a Goliath. Form a circle with kids sitting in chairs. Place one less chair in the circle than the number of kids playing. Play a version of “Fruit Basket Turnover.” The person standing in the middle calls one of the three groups. Everyone in that group must find a new chair. The person in the middle will try to steal one of the empty chairs. The person who does not find a chair must be in the middle. The person in the middle will call a new group and play continues. The person in the middle also has the choice of announcing “a lion, a bear, Goliath, oh my” and all three groups must find new chairs.

Say: “David told Saul he had defended his family’s sheep from wild animals like lions and bears. Then David defended the Israelites from Goliath and the Philistines. Who gave David power to defeat Goliath? God gave David power to defeat Goliath. Who saves us from our greatest enemies: sin and death? (Jesus came to save us from our greatest enemies: sin and death. Jesus, the ultimate hero, gives us salvation and eternal life.)

Craft Learning Activity: “David’s Sling Shot” (Grades 3-5)

Preparation: For this craft you will need small square pieces of leather or suede (approximately 3” x 3”), leather lace or string (4 pieces per child approximately 12” long), a hole puncher, ping pong balls and markers.

Procedure: Using the square pieces of leather or suede, punch a hole in each of the 4 corners. Tie one end of each of the 4 leather cords to the ends of the piece of suede. Next give each child a ping pong ball and allow them to color it with markers gray, brown, or black to resemble a stone. They now have a sling and a stone that resembles David’s in our story. On the piece of leather or suede, allow the children to write, “God fights our battles for us,” along with the scripture reference or the memory verse.
Craft Learning Activity: “David and Goliath Spoon Puppets” (Grades K-3)

Preparation: You will need long-handled and short handled wooden cooking spoons (one of each per child), colored markers, and one printed template of David and Goliath below printed on cardstock. Look for spoons at your local dollar store. Optional: Provide a puppet stage.

Say: “Our lesson was about David killing the Giant Goliath with one smooth stone and his slingshot. We learned that we can trust God to help us. We are going to make some spoon puppets to retell our favorite parts of the Bible story.”

Procedure: Place the craft supplies on the table. Give each child two spoons (1 long-handled and 1 short handled). Each child will also need a printed copy of David and Goliath below. Direct the children to use the long-handled spoons to create puppets of Goliath and the short-handled spoon to represent David. Provide assistance as the children create their puppets.

Discuss the feelings and thoughts David may have experienced as he fought Goliath. Perform a drama of the Bible story using the spoon puppets. Have children tell things they fear and how God helped them. Utilize the puppets to perform dramas of present-day situations in which the children can trust God’s help.

Review the memory verse: Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”

Craft Learning Activity: “Stone Tic-Tac-Toe Game” (Grades K-5)

Preparation: You will need 10 small smooth stones for each student, newspaper, brushes, tempera or poster paint, zip lock bags and scissors. Cut a poster board into 6 inch squares—one square per child.

Say: “What kind of weapon did David use in killing the giant Goliath? (He used 5 smooth stones in a sling shot). David had practiced using the sling shot but it was God whom He trusted. God helps people who trust in Him. God wants us to trust in Him not when we are afraid but every minute of every day. Today we are going to create a tic-tac-toe game. The words on the stones will help us to remember to trust God.”

Procedure: Give each student in your class ten small stone rocks. Distribute the paints and brushes. Have students lay rocks on newspaper that has been spread out on the table. Provide brushes and red or blue tempera or poster paint. Have students decorate 5 of their stones with the word trust and five of the stones with the word afraid. Let dry while you complete another group activity. You could let students use red permanent markers or drawing markers instead of paint to make the letters.

Distribute the poster board and markers. Have children draw a tic-tac-toe grid on their poster board. Have children take turns playing tic-tac-toe with the painted stones. Distribute the zip lock bags. Encourage the children to place their stones in the bags to take home.

Say: “These are David’s stones.” Keep your David’s stones in a special place at home to remind you that you can trust God.” Close in prayer thanking God for His help.
Craft Learning Activity: “Trust” Banner (Grades K-4)

Preparation: You will need five sheets of poster board, colored markers, various craft supplies, scissors, glue, tape, etc. Cut the letters TRUST from the poster board (make as large as possible.) Place craft supplies on the table and place letters around the area.

Procedure: Have children sit in groups at tables near each of the letters. Direct each group of students to decorate their letter. Display the letters when the groups are finished decorating all of the poster letters.

Say: “What do you think the word trust means? (Allow children to answer.) Trust means to believe in the truth, character, ability, or strength of someone or something. Let’s make a list of things people trust.” (Parents, grandparents, teachers, policemen, chair, light switch, telephone, television) “Let’s think about why it is important to trust God.”

“There are many things people trust. Why do people trust in God? Through many events in his life David learned to trust God. God helped him kill the lion and the bear to protect his father’s flock of sheep. David learned to trust in God to protect him. We can learn from David that God will help each one of us when we trust in Him. God helps people who trust in Him. David’s success in defeating Goliath was because he placed his trust in God, not in armor, swords, or his own power.”

Review the memory verse: Psalm 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.”

Life Application Challenge: “Super Hero”

 Preparation: You will need some small toy super hero figures to show to class.

Say: “Who is your favorite super hero? (Show toy figures.) What special power do these superhero possess? (Have students name their hero and what special power they had.) What power would you want if you could have any power in the world? Why would you want that power? Having a super power would be cool, but we don’t get to have super powers.

“Who is all powerful? God is all-powerful. Who can help us anytime we need help? God can. Who gave David power to defeat Goliath? God gave David power to defeat Goliath. Jesus is our ultimate hero who gives us salvation. Jesus rescued us from our sin.

Procedure: Using Scripture and the guide provided, explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me
Ask students if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to students that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.
We sinned. Tell students that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with students that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell students that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.
David and Goliath

Psalm 28:7

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him."
David said he would fight Goliath.

David was a boy. Goliath was a giant, 9 feet tall!

David used a stone and sling to fight Goliath. How many stones did David take with him?

Circle the number of stones.

1 3 5 7
The armies of the Philistines and Israel were camped on opposite sides of the valley of Elah. What happened there?

Fit in pairs of rhyming words to complete the story.

day there call stand set tall king joke bear then stand head too
away care Saul land yet fall bring spoke there men land dead drew

For 40 days, this Philistine came and took his ________________

Over 9 feet tall Goliath stood, the champion of his ________________.

He shouted and defied God of Israel each ________________;

He struck fear into everyone and kept them all ________________.

While tending sheep in Bethlehem, young David heard a ________________;

His father Jesse wanted him to visit the camp of ________________.

He had some cheese and bread to send to his three brothers ________________.

So David set off for the camp to deliver the package of ________________.

Now at the camp, the soldiers stood at battle lines all ________________.

But not one man had dared to take this Philistine on ________________!

David was surprised at that and went to see the ________________;

“I’ll go and fight this giant man and glory to God will ________________.”

Saul said to him, “A boy you are, and he is fierce and ________________.

Why do you think that you can make this fighting giant ________________?”

Young David said, “I did protect my sheep from lion and ________________;

My Lord delivered me from these and will be with me ________________!”

With no armor or sword, only 5 smooth stones, he approached Goliath ________________;

His sling in hand, God by his side, he had more courage than all those ________________.

With weapons drawn, Goliath laughed and thought it quite a ________________.

But David was quite serious and words like this he ________________;

“In the name of the Lord Almighty I come, and with Him now I ________________.

Soon the whole of Earth will see that God is in Israel’s ________________.”

As Goliath moved in to attack, David ran closer, ________________;

And into his shepherd’s pouch he reached, and one smooth stone he ________________.

He put the stone into his sling and aimed at Goliath’s ________________.

It hit the mark, and the mighty giant fell on the ground, ________________!

(Read 1 Samuel 17:51-54 for the rest of the story!!)
Number the pictures to tell the correct order.

David and Goliath
Read 1 Samuel 17:46 to learn what David said the whole world would know after the battle. Circle the items hidden in the picture. Color the picture.

Bible  Goliath  sheep  sword
cross  king  shield  throne
David  sack  slingshot
David and Goliath

Now King Saul was a good king at the beginning of his reign, but he didn’t remain faithful to God. He became proud and did many things which displeased God. God told Samuel to anoint the younger son of Jesse as the new king. His name was David. Samuel did anoint him and David eventually became the second king of Israel. But before he became king he served King Saul. David played the harp beautifully and would play for Saul to soothe him when he was troubled. David also fought the enemies of Israel. 1Samuel 17 tells the story of how David defeated a giant Philistine named Goliath and how he relied on God to help him.

Read the story in 1Samuel 17:1-58 (NIV) and finish the crossword puzzle below.

Across:
3. The Philistine Giant was 9 feet _______. (vs.4)
4. David told Goliath, "I come against you in the name of the ______ Almighty" (vs.45)
5. David used a _______ and a stone to defeat Goliath. (vs.50)
7. David said to Saul, "your servant will go and _________ him." (vs.32)
9. David said, "The LORD who _________ me from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. (vs.37)

Down:
1. The name of the giant Pilistine that David fought was _______. (vs.4)
2. _______ was the son of Jesse. (vs.12)
5. David chose five smooth _______ from the stream. (vs.40)
6. David used Goliath’s _______ to kill Goliath. (vs.51)
8. David slung a stone at Goliath and it sank into the ________, and Goliath fell down. (vs.49)
Spoon Puppets

Goliath

David

David
Scrambled Stones