

**Lesson 49: DAVID AND GOLIATH**  
**1 Samuel 17**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Sometimes something that seems small and not very powerful can have a lot more to it than you think. In today's story, a young shepherd named David proves to have "more to him" than the giant Goliath, and David's simple, smooth stones have more to them than Goliath's huge sword.

The story begins like this: King Saul was the leader of the Israelites, and one of their main enemies was the nation of the Philistines. At this time, when the Philistines drew near to battle the Israelites, they had with them a huge champion named Goliath.

Goliath stood much taller than any of the other soldiers, and he was very strong. In battle, he wore a bronze helmet, a heavy coat of mail, and bronze "greaves" on the front of his shins. The shaft of his spear was as thick as a wooden beam, and it had a very heavy iron spearhead at the top. He also had a great big sword.

Goliath was very sure of himself, that he was better and stronger than any other soldier. He arrogantly cried out a challenge to the Israelites: "Choose any man to fight me! If he kills me, then the Philistines will be your servants. But if I kill him, you will all serve us." Goliath was certain that he could easily defeat anyone that the Israelites sent to fight him.

The Israelites looked at Goliath and were terrified. They had no one as big or strong as he was. They conferred with each other uneasily. What should they do? What could they do against this giant?

Meanwhile, a young man named David had been back at Bethlehem, taking care of his father's sheep. Then the father sent David to the battleground with some food for his older brothers, who were soldiers in Saul's army.

David arrived at the army camp and heard Goliath shouting his challenge across the valley, just as he had been doing for forty days in a row. David heard the Israelite soldiers talking fearfully about Goliath, and about how King Saul was offering great riches and honors to anyone who could defeat the giant.

David listened, and then felt indignant. "Who is this Philistine," he asked, "that he should defy the armies of the living God?" David's older brother and some others were angry at David for saying this, probably because his brave words made them feel embarrassed by their own terror. Soon word spread to King Saul about this shepherd boy who was speaking so boldly.

King Saul sent for David, and David said to him, "Let no man's heart fail because of this giant Philistine. I will go and fight him." Saul was amazed at this young man's boldness, and wondered how David could have such confidence.

David answered that God had strengthened him before in battles against a lion and a bear, and he was able to kill those beasts single-handed. David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And so King Saul said, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

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**READING:**

Have the children take turns reading aloud from **1 Samuel 17:38-54**.

**DISCUSSION:**

You might find this hard to believe, that a young shepherd with a stone and sling could conquer a huge, armed warrior. But it's true! This story really happened. This is because the Lord is tremendously powerful! If He wants to, He can put more power into one little stone than exists in a whole army.

Some of you might know what stones represent. What is that? (Truth) These stones, that were made smooth from being in flowing water for a long time, represent the Lord's own truth that has been used in life for a long time.

Goliath is a picture of selfishness, and a good thing to compare him to is a bully. A bully is a person who is being pretty selfish, right? A bully has decided that he has the right to hurt other people and make them miserable. A bully thinks he's pretty great, doesn't he? He thinks he's pretty powerful, and often times, other people are pretty scared of him, just as the Israelites were afraid of the bully named Goliath.

David is a picture of someone who really has the truth in them, and one example of truth is, "No one has the right to be nasty and hurt other people." Isn't that true? This idea is definitely truth from the Lord. The Lord created all people to be equally important, and does not approve of anyone deciding that they have the right to be nasty and hurt someone else.

This truth, that no one has the right to be a bully, might seem like a small truth, that isn't as powerful as nasty words and rough treatment that a bully might be throwing around. But this truth has much more to it than it seems. This truth has the Lord's power inside of it, and the Lord's power will always win in the end.

First David takes a stone, and knocks Goliath immediately unconscious. That truth was enough to stop Goliath's bullying. Then what was it that David used to kill Goliath? Goliath's own sword. In the end, a bully's own weapons will destroy him. The very nastiness that a bully uses will, in the end, leave him without any friends, alone and powerless.

The Lord's truth is constantly conquering the attacks of evil spirits. And if we come up against a bully in earthly life, what can we do? We can look for a source of the Lord's truth to protect us. The Israelite soldiers couldn't face Goliath on their own, but when they found David, they found someone who could use the truth to help them.

A child might not be able to handle a bully all on their own on earth. But a child can look for more sources of truth. A teacher or other adult can have the truth in them that "a bully has no right to hurt others," and can stop the bully. Or a group of friends can band together, making it harder for a bully to get at them. There are many ways to bring the truth into a form that can keep a bully away, and there are many ways that truth can bring strength to keep evil spirits away that might want us to turn into bullies.

So remember, some things like truths might seem small and insignificant, but there might be much more to them than it seems. There might be a whole realm of power inside of them, from the Lord.

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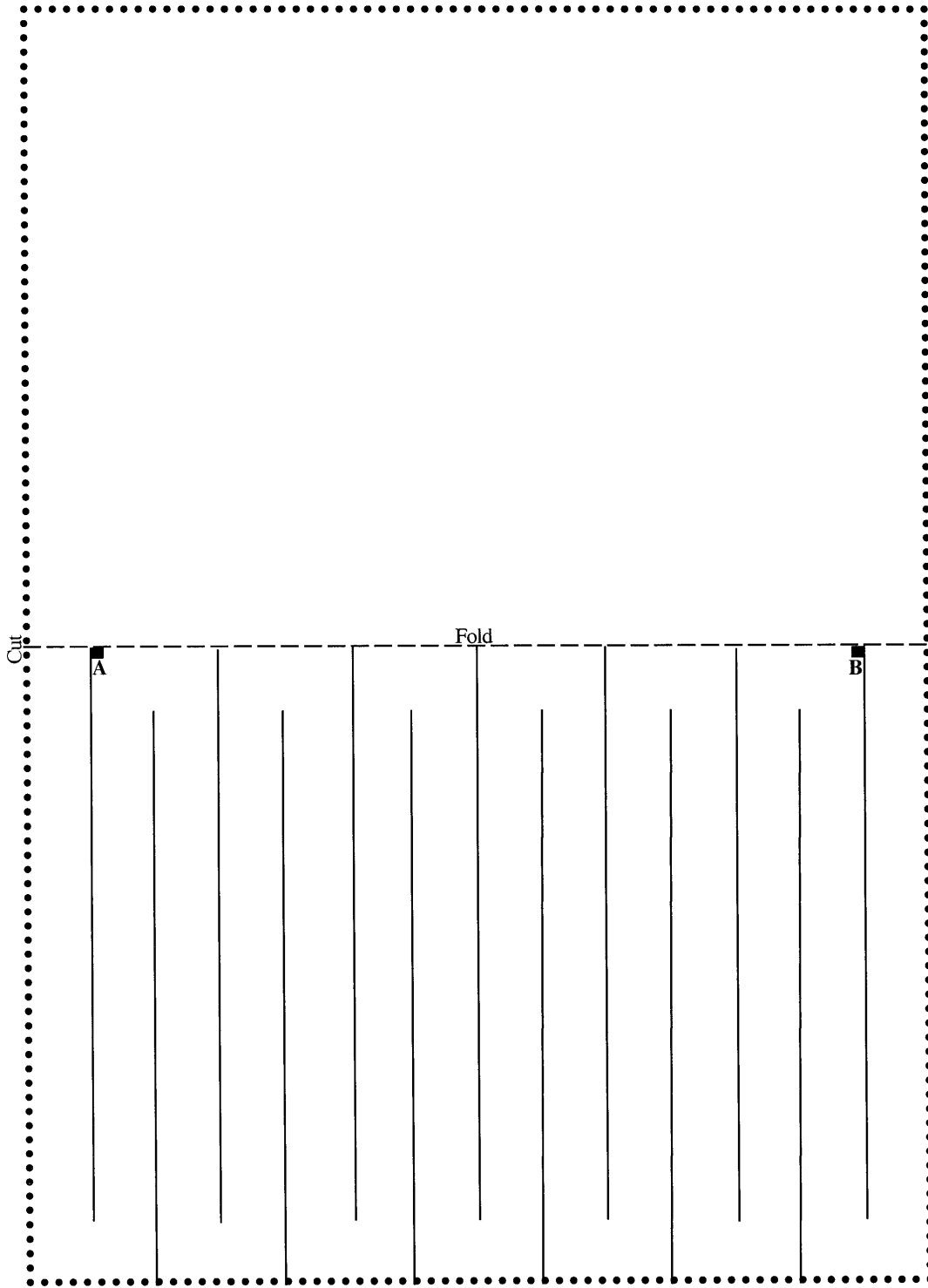
Here are a couple of activities that show that there can be more to something than what appears at first! You can do just one of the activities, or both.

**PROJECT: The Big Hole in the Small Piece of Paper.**

A small piece of paper becomes big enough for a person to step through!

1. Photocopy the template
2. Cut out the large square along the dotted line.
3. Fold the page in half along the dashed line.
4. Now cut along each of the solid lines. While you are cutting hold the two halves of the page tightly together to keep them from shifting. Be careful *not* to cut past the lines to the edge of the page. It works best to do this with the page lying on a table rather than holding in your hand.
5. Now cut along the fold line between points (A) and (B) (every section except the two ends).
6. Lift up the page and the hole will appear.

**Project Template**



**PROJECT: Paper Tree**

1. Flatten out a sheet of newspaper and roll it up lengthwise. The diameter of the tube should be about an inch-and-a-half.
2. When there is about 4 inches left insert another sheet of newspaper and continue to roll.
3. Repeat step 2 with a third sheet this time roll until the end of the sheet (do not insert another sheet)
4. Pinch the top of the tube in half so that it becomes flat; continue pinching down the tube until you reach the center.
5. Make a cut down the center of the pinched area and then cut along the folds that you made in step 4.
6. Hold the bottom of the tube in your hand and with the other hand gently pull the tree up from the center. Carefully work the tree up, larger and larger.

