

General Church Education



David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17

Lesson 11

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is King of Kings

For ages 10-11

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17

Teacher Background

Shortly after being anointed king, the youthful David went to his brothers at the battlefield as they faced their chief enemy, the Philistines. Goliath, a Philistine who was ten feet tall, stepped forward and demanded an Israelite opponent. David, who had previously overcome a lion and a bear, convinced king Saul to let him reply. David refused Saul's armor and took five smooth stones from the brook. Goliath was insulted! But David had faith in the Lord. With a stone and a sling, he felled Goliath. He severed Goliath's head with his sword. With their champion dead, the Philistines fled. The Israelites chased them out of the valley.

The Philistines represent a state of knowing the truth but not living by it. Goliath, their champion, pictures our most selfish loves, especially pride in our own intelligence. As a Philistine he stood for the evils and falsities of a church which has turned away from the Lord. This pride cannot be overcome by man-made weapons but can only be conquered by simple truths from the Lord's Word, represented by five smooth stones. Thought it is love that calls us to fight against evil, it is the truth that enables us to do so.

Focus Points

- Goliath challenged the Israelites every day for forty days.
- David accepted the challenge and chose five smooth stones and a slingshot as his weapons.
- David stunned Goliath and cut off his head. With their champion dead, the Philistines fled.

Readings from the Writings

“Those who believe that their own intelligence can enable them to acquire knowledge about God, heaven and hell, and the spiritual ideas relating to the church, are unaware that the natural man considered in himself is opposed to the spiritual man; and consequently he wants to root out or entangle in fallacies the spiritual ideas which enter his mind.... They are as self-confident as Goliath, little foreseeing that, like him, they could be laid low by a sling-stone striking their forehead.” *True Christian Religion* 276

“Power was given to David to smite the lion and the bear that took away the sheep from the flock, because "David" represented the Lord in reference to Divine truth in which those who are of His church are instructed; and a "lion" signifies the power of spiritual Divine truth, and in the contrary sense, as here, the power of infernal falsity against Divine truth; while a "bear" signifies the power of natural Divine truth, and in the contrary sense the power of falsity against that truth. But "a sheep from the flock" signifies those who are of the Lord's church.” *Apocalypse Explained* 781.12

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord’s Word by heart.

“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.” (1 Samuel 17:37)

Projects and Activities (see back for answers)

Questions

Use several sentences to answer the following questions.

Ping-Pong Ball Slingshot

Make a simple slingshot such as David would have used to strike Goliath. You will need string or cord, an old sock or piece of thin leather, and a ping-pong ball. See video directions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srao1ag5S5Y>

David and Goliath Song

Listen to or learn a song about David and Goliath. At <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-david-and-goliath/>

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

David Kills Goliath Readers-Theater Play

Act out the story of David and Goliath using book-in-hand theater. Script at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/play-david-kills-goliath-1-samuel17.pdf>

Five Smooth Stones Activity

The stone which stunned Goliath came from a brook. It was smoothed from years of tumbling in the water. Stones stand for true ideas from the Lord’s Word. Like true ideas, they are hard and offer protection against the power of evil. Find a smooth stone and write a quote from the Word on it using a permanent marker. At <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-five-smooth-stones-1samuel17.pdf>

Five Smooth Stones Activity

Make a diorama of David fighting Goliath. At <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/diorama-david-fights-goliath-1-samuel-17.pdf>

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Vocabulary

spearhead—metal point of a spear

shaft—long wooden part of a spear

sheath—a cover for the blade of a sword or knife

Israel Is at War With the Philistines

The Philistines were Israel’s enemies for a long time. When Israel demanded a king part of the reason was that they wanted someone who could lead them in battle when their enemies attacked. Their first king, Saul, was tall and strong. People hoped he would conquer the Philistines. But this did not happen and the Philistines continued to cause trouble.

This story takes place at a time when the people of Israel were at war with the Philistines again. Saul’s army set up their camp between Suchoh and Azekah, on the side of a valley in the hilly

country of Judah. The Philistine army set up their camp on the hills across the valley. There was a meadow with a stream running through it between the troops.



Goliath Challenges Israel

Goliath

As the Israelites watched from above the meadow, a huge man came out from the Philistine camp. He was almost ten feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, a heavy coat of chain mail weighing five thousand shekels of bronze (about 125 pounds or 57 kilograms), and bronze armor on his legs. He carried a javelin and an enormous spear. The shaft was as thick as the beam on a weaving loom, and the spearhead weighed six hundred shekels (about 15 pounds or 7 kilograms). No ordinary person could carry all that weight! A shield-bearer went ahead of him to hold up a shield.

Goliath called out a challenge to the Israelites:

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“Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.” (1 Samuel 17:8)

Goliath announced that if he killed the man the Israelites chose, the people of Israel would serve the Philistines. However, if the Israelite killed Goliath, the Philistines would serve the Israelites. The Israelites were upset and afraid.

Would you volunteer to fight such a strong opponent? Nobody in Saul’s army was brave enough to do it. Goliath gave his challenge every morning and every evening for forty days.

David Arrives at the Camp

Then one day, David came to the camp. His three oldest brothers were in Saul’s army. David’s father sent him to find out how they were doing. He brought gifts of corn, bread, and cheese for his brothers. Jesse expected David to hurry home again with news about his sons. But things did not work out that way. The Lord had a different plan for David.

As David talked to his brothers, he heard Goliath shouting his challenge. Everyone was afraid, except David. He said to Saul:

“Let no man’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” (1 Samuel 17:32)

Saul must have been astonished! David was just a young boy, but he was willing to do what neither Saul, nor any of his soldiers, was willing to do. David convinced Saul that he was a capable fighter by telling him about the times he had saved his father’s sheep from wild animals.

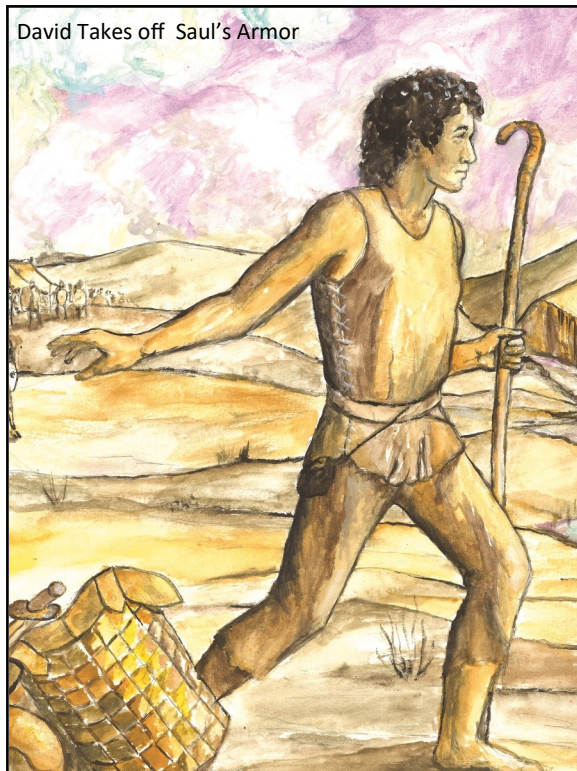
Even though Goliath was strong and mighty, David was not afraid. He had killed powerful lions and bears.

“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.” (1 Samuel 17:37)

The Lord used David’s simple duty of caring for sheep to prepare him to fight Goliath.

Saul put his own armor on David, and gave him his sword, but David was not used to such heavy equipment. He took it off. Instead, he chose his own weapons.

“He took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them... in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand.” (1 Samuel 17:40)



David was used to using a sling. Shepherds used slings to guide their sheep by throwing stones on one side or the other. They were so good that they could hit a sheep either on its right ear or on its left. Knowing this, you can understand that a sling was a much better weapon for David than a sword and shield that he had never used.

What a contrast between David and Goliath! Picture the two opponents, a simple shepherd boy and a mighty warrior. Imagine their size, their clothes, and their weapons.

Goliath was insulted. He had challenged the Israelites to send him their best warrior. Instead, he saw a young man without armor and weapons coming towards him. Goliath said,

“Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” (1 Samuel 17:43)

But David did not rely on weapons; he put his faith in the Lord. He answered,

“You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel.” (1 Samuel 17:45)

David Slays Goliath

Goliath headed towards David, covered in heavy armor from his head to his feet. David had the perfect weapon. As he ran, he took one of the five smooth stones out of his pouch and slung it, hitting Goliath right in the middle of the forehead. Goliath fell on his face to the earth. David ran and stood over him, drew Goliath’s sword from its sheath and cut off his head. David overcame Goliath, not by his own strength, but because he trusted in the Lord. He used the Lord’s weapons. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they ran away. Israel’s army shouted and chased them out of the valley.

At some time you may face problems that feel as big as Goliath did to king Saul. Remember that like David, you can trust in the Lord. If a problem feels too big to be overcome, it is time to collect some “smooth stones” from the river of truth, the Lord’s Word.



Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“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.” (1 Samuel 17:37)

Projects and Activities (answers at back)

Choose one or two.

Fill in the Blank

Complete the sentences by choosing an answer from the box.

Ping-Pong Ball Slingshot

Make a simple slingshot such as David would have used to strike Goliath. You will need string or cord, an old sock or piece of thin leather, and a ping-pong ball. See video directions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srao1ag5S5Y>

David and Goliath Song

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Questions

Use several sentences to answer the following questions:

1. What did Goliath look like?
2. Where did Goliath come from?
3. What kind of relationship did the Israelites have with the Philistines?
4. What might Saul have been thinking when David offered to fight Goliath?
5. Why did David feel confident as he gathered stones from the river and put them in his pouch to fight Goliath?
6. How do you think David felt about his victory over the giant?
7. What happened to the Philistines after the battle?

Ping-Pong Ball Slingshot

Make a slingshot using string and an old sock, and learn to sling a ping-pong ball.

Materials Needed

- 2 lengths sturdy yarn, string or cord 30" (75cm)
- 1 old sock or a piece of thin leather 3" (7.5cm) long and 1.5" (3.25cm) wide
- 1 ping-pong ball

Video Directions

This is a simple project. These video directions give a clear idea of what to do. The written directions below will help you remember what you saw. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srao1ag5S5Y>

Directions

1. Punch or cut a small hole in each corner of a piece of old sock or leather approximately 0.3" (0.75cm) from the edge of the fabric.
2. Fold the cloth in half lengthwise to create a pocket.
3. Take a piece of string and tie a knot through the two holes on one side.
4. Repeat on the other side.
5. Tie a loop in the opposite end of one of the two strings. It should be just big enough to loop around the center finger of your throwing hand.
6. Grasp both cords with your throwing hand, keeping the pocket level on both sides. Hold the non-looped cord securely with your thumb and pointer finger. At that point, tie a knot into the cord.
7. Your sling is now ready to use. Put a ping-pong ball into the pocket. Hold the knot to keep the pocket level.
8. Gently swing the sling in a circular motion and release the knot at the 6 o'clock position. The ball should go straight. If it does not, adjust the timing of the release until the ball shoots correctly.
9. It will take practice to aim correctly! Keep practicing!

Answers

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Questions

1. Ten feet tall; covered in armor from head to foot; armed with a sword, 2. The large Philistine city of Gath in central Israel., 3. The Israelites were often at war with the Philistines, 4. It was not possible for David to win; he would need the protection of armor to fight, 5. David had successfully overcome a lion and a bear using his slingshot, 6. Happy that he had had been able to help free the Israelites from the Philistines, 7. The Philistines ran away, and the Israelites chased them out of the valley.