

Ages 3-6: Five Smooth Stones

Materials Needed

Shepherd's Pouch, *Five Smooth Stones* and *Stream* pages for each child, scissors, stapler or tape

optional: yarn or ribbon to attach to the pouch so it can be worn over the shoulder; real stones, a bucket of water and a towel

Prepare in Advance

Print a copy of the *Five Smooth Stones*, *Shepherd's Pouch* and *Stream* for each child. Gather other supplies.

Optional: Find five smooth stones. Place them in a bucket of water for children to take from the "stream". Have a towel to dry hands.

David saw Goliath and was not afraid. He trusted the Lord. He had killed a lion and a bear while taking care of his father's sheep. He was confident that if he fought in the name of the Lord, he would defeat the giant Philistine who threatened Israel.

The stream from which David took five smooth stones is the Word in which we too can find simple truths from the Lord. The Word is full of heavenly truth that can support us in our deepest battles. The five stones David selected represent a few true ideas that are enough for our salvation.

Children will assemble a project that allows them to re-enact the story by taking five smooth "stones" from a "stream" and putting them into a "shepherd's pouch". The Lord's name in Hebrew, Yehowah, is written on each stone to remind us that it is the Lord who really fights our battles.

1. Give each child the *Five Smooth Stones* template and a pair of scissors. Invite them to cut out the stones. David fought Goliath in the name of the Lord. To help us remember that, each stone says "Yehowah", the Lord's name in Hebrew. Let's say the Lord's name together, "Yehowah".
2. Cut around the *Shepherd's Pouch*, fold and staple or tape to form a pouch. *Optional*: staple or tape a piece of yarn to the pouch to wear across the shoulder.
3. Act out the story by placing the *Stream* template on the floor or a table. Put the stones in the "stream". Choose stones from the stream and put them in the pouch. Say, "You come to me with a sword and a spear. But I come to you in the name of the Lord."
4. *Optional*: If you gathered the optional real stones, etc., invite the children to dip their hands into the bucket of water and find a stone. How does the stone feel? How do you think it became so smooth? Stones are like true ideas from the Lord's Word. They become smooth when we use them to do what is right.



New Church Concept Teacher Background

"The reason 'stones' meant truth was that the most ancient people used to mark out boundaries by means of stones and raise up stones to testify that something was so, that is, was the truth.... Consequently 'stones' in the Word means truths, so much so that not only the stones of the altar but also the precious stones in the shoulder-pieces of Aaron's ephod and in the breastplate of judgement meant the holy truths of love." *Arcana Coelestia* 1298

New Church Concept Teacher Background

"[A] lion symbolizes falsity destroying the Word's truths, and a bear symbolizes misconceptions that destroy them." *Apocalypse Revealed* 573

"People whose faith is divorced from charity were represented by the Philistines." *Faith* 50



Commandment 2: David and Goliath



Five Smooth Stones



