Commandment 2: David and Goliath

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain"

Exodus 20:7; I Samuel 17:23-49 portions

Goal: This lesson teaches the second commandment through the story of David and Goliath. Goliath challenged David by cursing the Lord's name, however David prepared for battle in the name of the Lord.

Process: Choose activities for the 4 parts of the lesson from the chart below. For multi-aged groups, teach the lesson to the entire group and select activities that suit your students. Online Extras provide additional activity choices.

Lesson Overview

Lesson Parts	Activities	Materials Given	Supplies Needed
1. Introduction (2-3 minutes)	All Ages *The Second Commandment*	introduction p. 2	
2. Readings & Questions (5-7 minutes)	All Ages select readings for your group	readings pp. 2-3 questions p. 4 talk-about picture p. 5	Bible for ages 11-14
3. Activities choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes) *Note*: Activity ages are approximate. Choose activities that will work for your group.	Ages 3-6 *Five Smooth Stones* project for acting out the story	directions p. 6 ***Shepherd' Pouch*** p. 7 *Five Smooth Stones* p. 8 *Stream* p. 9	scissors, stapler or tape *optional*: yarn or ribbon to hold purse over the shoulder; real stones, a bucket of water and a towel
	Ages 7-10 *David and Goliath Reveal* color and fold picture	directions p. 10 *David and Goliath Reveal* pp. 11-12	stapler; markers, colored pencils or crayons; scissors
	Ages 11-14 *In the Name of the Lord* activity and discussion	directions p. 13 activity pages pp. 14-15	scissors, markers *optional*: smooth stones
	Ages 3-10 picture to color	*David Fighting Goliath* p. 16	crayons or markers
4. Closing & Recitation (2-3 minutes)	All Ages wrap-up	*Recitation Slips* p. 17	scissors or paper cutter
Online Extras	All Ages additional activities	online links p. 17	various

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Introduction: The Second Commandment

The second commandment is about keeping the Lord's name holy. The Lord tells us,

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Exodus 20:7

When we say the Lord's Prayer, we repeat "hallowed be Thy name." The Writings for the New Church tell us that a person's "name" means their qualities or character. So when we do things "in the name of the Lord," we do them from the Lord's qualities acting in us and through us.

- What are the Lord's qualities?
- How might we take the Lord's name "in vain"? (We might do this by using the Lord's name lightly, or for the wrong reasons, when we talk to another person. We might swear that we are telling the truth when we are speaking lies. We might misuse the Lord's name so we won't be blamed for something we have done.)
- Sometimes people say the Lord's name when they make an important promise. For example, if they are sworn into office as a president or judge, or ordained as a minister. How might a person who has sworn to serve faithfully "take the Lord's name in vain"?

Our story today is about a person who fought a giant in the name of the Lord. His name was David. Listen for his qualities. One day the Lord would choose him to become the king of Israel!

Reading Ages 3-6: David and Goliath

This is a short retelling of the story for young children. To tell the story in your own words using a picture, see the talk-about picture on p. 5.

A huge giant called Goliath wanted to fight a bold warrior from King Saul's army. He shouted to the army every morning and every evening. King Saul's warriors were afraid. Not one of them was brave enough to fight Goliath.

One day, David arrived in King Saul's camp. He was a young shepherd boy. He heard Goliath yelling at King Saul's army. He was not afraid. He had killed fierce lions and bears taking care of his father's sheep, and he trusted the Lord. David said he would fight Goliath.

King Saul wanted to help David. He gave David his own armor and sword, but they were too big and heavy, so David gave them back. He chose five smooth stones from a stream to use to fight instead.

Goliath was angry when he saw David. He wanted to fight a warrior, not a boy. He shouted, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And he cursed David by his gods. But David said, "You come to me with a sword and a spear. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts."

David ran toward Goliath. He took a stone from his bag and slung it at Goliath. It hit Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell on his face. David took Goliath's sword and cut off his head. David defeated Goliath because he fought in the name of the Lord!

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Reading Ages 7-10: David and Goliath

New Church Concept
Teacher Background

By the "name" of the Lord, in the Word is meant everything by which He is worshiped. And because He is worshiped in the church according to doctrine, by His "name" is meant all of religion. In heaven no other names are given but what involve the quality of anyone, and the quality of God is everything by which He is worshiped. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 81

"'You shall not take the name of your God in vain' means instances in which the truth or the good of faith is profaned or blasphemed. This is clear from the meaning of "the name of God" as everything in its entirety with which the Lord is worshipped, thus every truth or good of faith. To be precise 'taking God's name in vain' means turning what is true into what is evil, that is, believing it to be true and yet living an evil life. It is also turning what is good into what is false, that is, living in a holy manner and yet not believing." *Arcana Coelestia* 8882

Retelling of the story for children.

Goliath, a huge Philistine giant, challenged the children of Israel to choose a man to come out and fight against him. He 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. Nobody was brave enough to fight Goliath. For forty days Goliath repeated his challenge every morning and every evening.

One day, David came to the camp of Israel. His three older brothers were in the army of King Saul. Their father sent David with food to give them. As David talked with his brothers, he heard Goliath challenging Israel. Everyone was afraid, except David. David offered to fight Goliath.

Saul must have been astonished! David was just a boy. But he was not afraid. He had already killed a lion and a bear while caring for his father's sheep.

Saul put his armor on David, and gave him his sword, but David was not used to such heavy equipment. He could not walk in them. He took them off and gave them back to Saul. He took his staff and chose five smooth stones from the brook, put them in a pouch and took his sling and went towards Goliath.

Goliath was insulted. He had challenged the Israelites to send him their best warrior, and here, coming towards him, was a young boy with no armor and no weapons. He cursed David by his gods and said, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And he threatened David.

But David said, "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, whom you have defied."

Goliath headed towards David, with his armor-bearer holding a shield in front of him. David had the perfect weapon. He ran towards Goliath, and 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. David ran and stood over him. He drew Goliath's sword from its sheath and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they ran away. The soldiers of Israel shouted and chased them all the way out of the valley.

David overcame Goliath, not by his own strength, but because he trusted in the Lord and fought in His name.

Reading Ages 11-14: David and Goliath

Read 1 Samuel 17:23-26, 32,37, 43-46, 48-49 or use the retelling above.

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Questions Ages 3-6

1. What did Goliath want to do? (fight a warrior from Saul's army)
2. Who came out to fight Goliath instead? (David, a shepherd boy)
3. How did King Saul try to help David? (He gave David his armor and his sword.)
4. Why did David give back King Saul's armor and sword? (They were too big.)
5. How did David win? (David fought like a shepherd in the name of the Lord. He used a smooth stone from a stream and a sling to hit Goliath in the forehead.)

Questions Ages 7-10

1. The Philistines planned a battle against Israel, but instead of having the whole army fight, they sent a champion, Goliath, to challenge one man from Saul's army. What did the Philistines want if they won? (They wanted Israel to serve them.)
2. What did the fact that David had killed a lion and a bear tell King Saul? (That David was strong and not afraid. He could win the battle.)
3. Why did Goliath feel insulted when David offered to fight? (Goliath wanted to fight Israel's best warrior. David was only a boy. He had no armor and didn't appear to have weapons.)
4. In whose name did Goliath fight? (His false gods.) He defied the Lord.
5. How do we know David trusted the Lord to help him? (He told Goliath that he fought in the name of the Lord.)
6. What happened when David won? (The Philistines ran away.)

Questions Ages 11-14

1. Have you ever had to do something big and difficult that you felt too small to deal with? What did you do?
2. What did David do that gave him the confidence to win? (He called on the name of the Lord.)
3. Our biggest problems come from evil spirits that attack us on the inside. For example, when we give in to selfishness, we can feel like a huge giant is trying to control us. Like Goliath, we may want to hide behind arguments—false gods—that tell us that what we are thinking is all right. Another example might be thinking we have all the answers and don't need help. What kinds of giants have you faced that fight against the presence of the Lord in your life?
4. How could calling on the name of the Lord give you a new perspective on these inner battles?
5. The five smooth stones David chose from the stream correspond to simple truths from the Word, such as the Ten Commandments. Using truths from the Word can give us strength in our spiritual battle. How could the commandment "You shall not take the Lord's name in vain" be a "smooth stone" to help you fight a giant in your life?

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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 purse 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 Purse* 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

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Shepherd's Pouch



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Five Smooth Stones





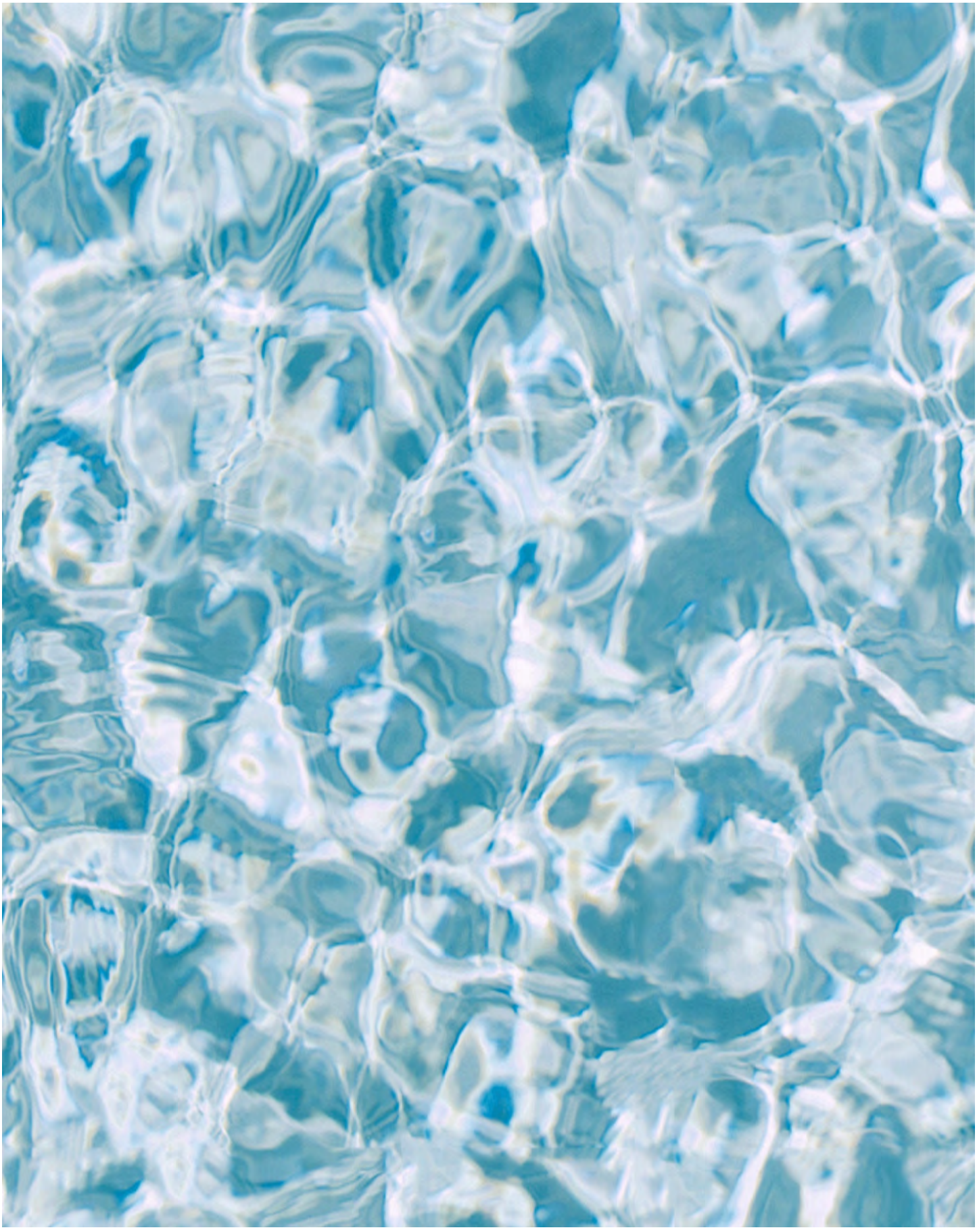






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Stream



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Ages 7-10: David and Goliath Reveal

Materials Needed for Each Student

copy of the two *David and Goliath Reveal* pages, scissors, crayons or markers, stapler or tape

Prepare in Advance

Print project pages. Staple or tape the picture of David preparing to sling a stone over the picture of David's victory. (See picture to the left.) Gather other supplies.



For forty days Goliath, the Philistine champion, challenged Israel. When David arrived at the camp, bringing food, he also brought a fresh perspective. David represents the Lord as Divine truth—truth that appeared in a time of spiritual need. David overcame Goliath with five smooth stones from the brook—simple truths from the Word, smoothed by experience and use. While cutting off Goliath's head appears violent, it represents destroying the carefully guarded love of self, which is armored with the false idea that having faith without doing what is right can lead us to heaven. Children will create a 'reveal' picture to illustrate David's dramatic victory.

1. Imagine being challenged by a giant! Goliath was six cubits and a span—9ft, 9in (300cm) tall! Have you ever met anyone that big? Most ceilings are 8ft tall. Goliath would have to bend his head to walk around in most houses. So, why was David so confident that he could beat Goliath? (David knew the Lord would be with him to fight the battle. He called upon the Lord's name.)
2. Give each child a copy of the two pages *David and Goliath Reveal*, previously stapled together, and crayons or markers.
3. Have students start by coloring David and Goliath.
4. When students have finished coloring, have them carefully insert scissors between the top page and the back page and cut the top page along the dashed line (see above).
5. Fold back the two sides of the top page to reveal David standing over Goliath in victory.
6. Color the revealed picture.
7. "Re-enact" the battle by closing the page and then reopening it. Remember, David fought in the name of the Lord using true ideas from the Word that he knew well—like not lying or cheating. He knew he should *do* what was right, not just talk about it. He called on the Lord's name and used ideas from the Word to help him.

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

Names of nations in the Word symbolize matters having to do with the church. The form of religion that falsifies the church's truths, comes from conceit in its own intelligence. The Philistines are those who have faith and not charity.

Wars in the Word signify spiritual wars. Moreover, because faith separated from charity continually desires to invade the Church, therefore the Philistines frequently molested the children of Israel.

The Philistines represented those who are without spiritual love and consequently are motivated by natural love only, for spiritual love is charity.

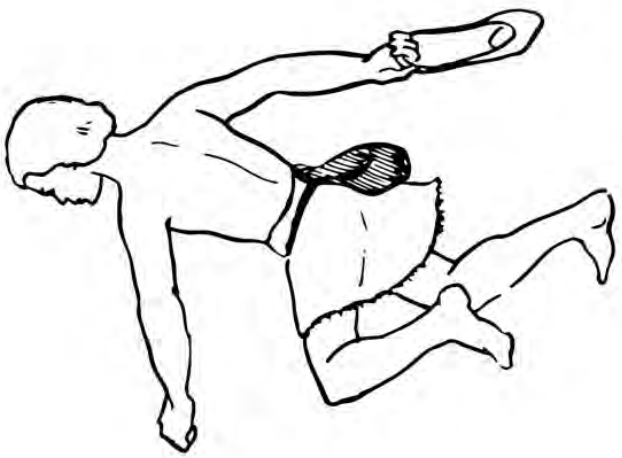
See *Doctrine of Faith* 49-51

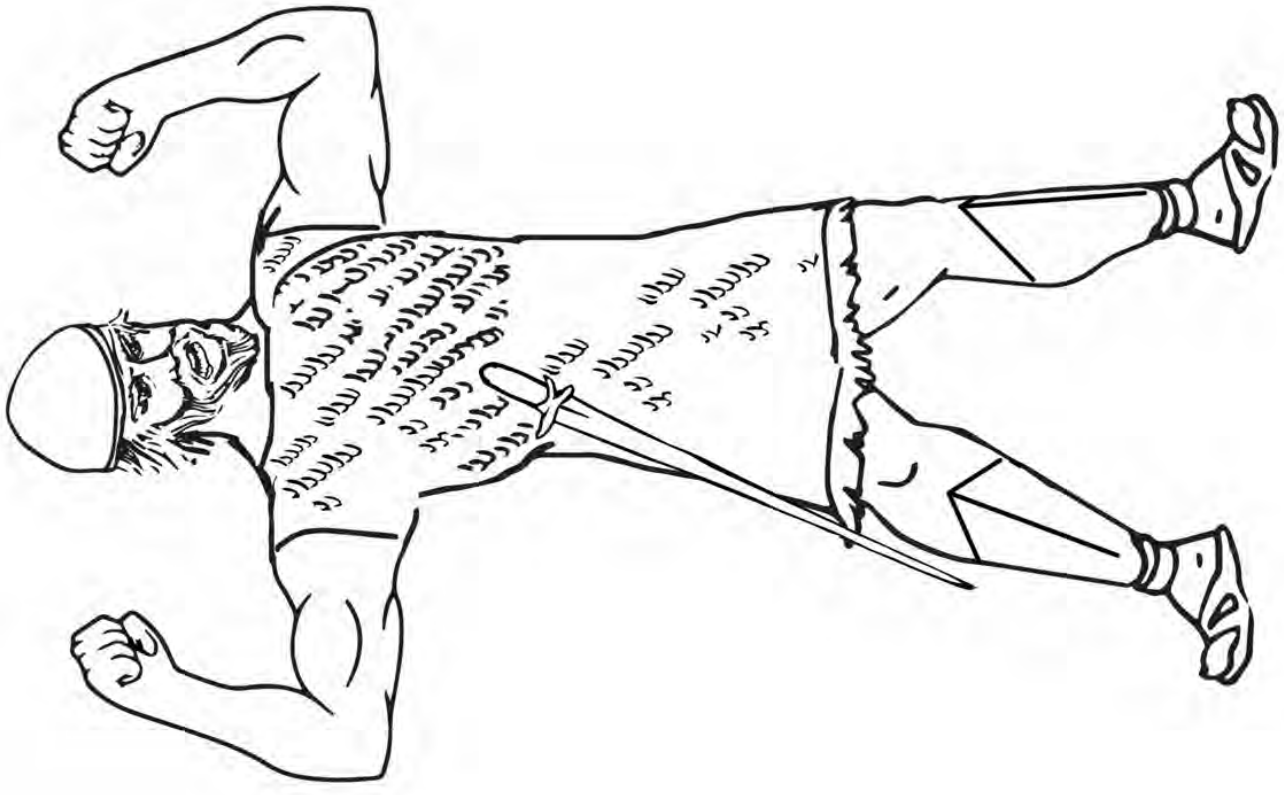
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David and Goliath Reveal

In the name of the

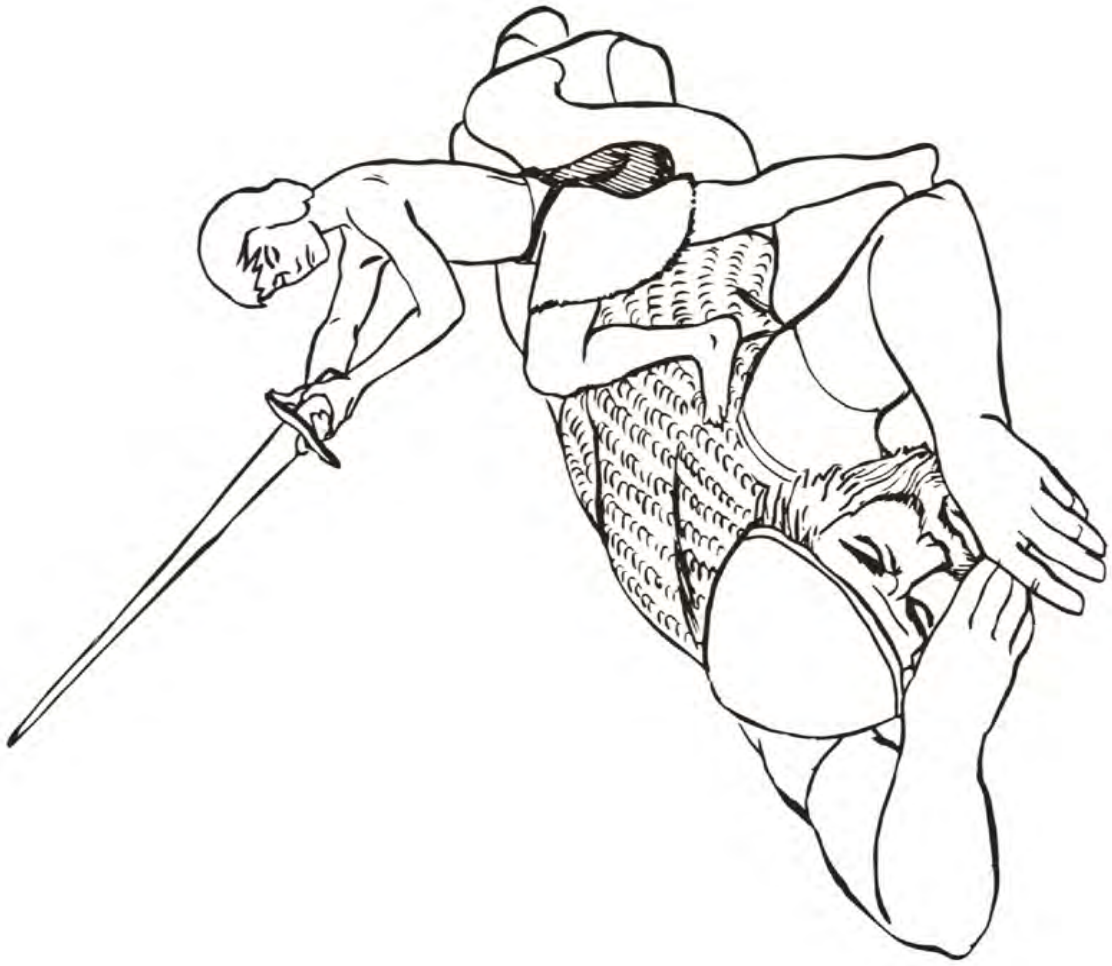
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David and Goliath Reveal



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Ages 11-14: In the Name of the Lord

Materials Needed for Each Student

The Name of the Lord, *Five Smooth Stones*, a nice pen or pencil, scissors
optional; a smooth river stone, and marker to write on it

Prepare in Advance

Print copies of activity pages and gather supplies.

New Church Concept

Teacher Background

"Names symbolize people in respect to their character." *Apocalypse Revealed* 588

"There are many names of God that must not be taken in vain, as Jehovah, Jehovah God, and Jehovah of Hosts; the Holy One of Israel, Jesus and Christ, and the Holy Spirit." *True Christian Religion* 297

"'Lord' in the Word is used to mean the Lord in respect of Divine Good, and 'god', 'king', and 'master' to mean the Lord in respect of Divine Truth ." *Arcana Coelestia* 9167

In the spiritual world no person retains the name they received in this world. Everyone is named according to their quality. See *True Christian Religion* 300

The Lord has many names. Each name tells us about one of His qualities, such as His love, His wisdom, His compassion and His healing. The more of the Lord's names we know and understand, the more we can know and love the Lord and act in His name. This activity explores some of the Lord's names and invites students to choose one name they would like to "adopt" in their own lives. Students will read and discuss the Lord's names and write their chosen names on a paper stone (or a real river "stone") to keep that quality in mind.



1. Sometimes, just hearing a name can spark feelings in us? Maybe a certain name brings a soft quality to mind, makes you feel happy, or excited. Why is that?
2. Why are names important? What difficulties might there be if people did not have names? What does your name do for you? Why do some names seem to have power, for example names of famous people?
3. Think of a someone in your congregation who your students know. How many names can you use to describe this person? Think of what he/she does, what they are to different people—e.g. parent, child, partner, friend, sibling, coach, caregiver, etc. How does hearing each name give us insight about the person as a whole?
4. Give students a copy of *The Name of the Lord* and read through the list of His names. Discuss the questions at the bottom of the page.
5. Hand out copies of *Five Smooth Stones* and pens or pencils. Choose one of the Lord's names that reflect a quality you would like to "adopt", to "add to" your own name and make part of who you are.
6. Write the name on a "stone" and cut it out. Carry it with you to remind you of the quality of the Lord you would like to make part of your life.
7. *Option*: Using a real smooth stone, write the name of the Lord on it with a marker.

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The Name of the Lord

The Lord's names embody His qualities—which are everything having to do with religion (see *Apocalypse Revealed* 81). We walk in the name of the Lord when we worship Him and follow His commandments.

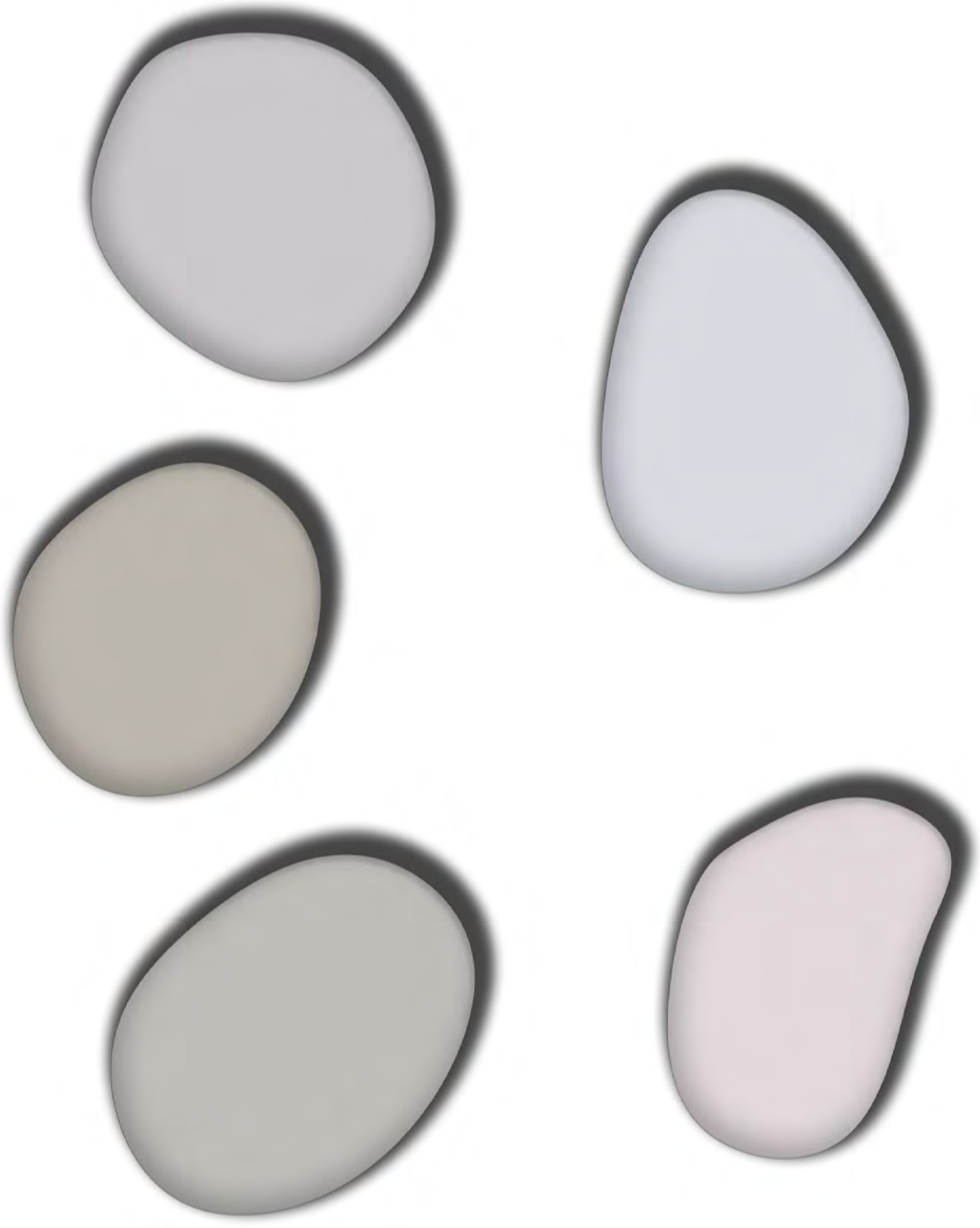
Wonderful	Preserver	Teacher	Everlasting Father
Shepherd	Lion	King	Jesus
Almighty	Alpha	Star	Lamb
Healer	Shiloh	Prince of Peace	Jehovah
Door	Lawgiver	Creator	Messiah
Hero	Counselor	Omega	Potter
Light	Comforter	Judge	Redeemer
Lawgiver	Regenerator	Bread	Hero

Questions about the Lord's Names

1. How does reading these names help you see a bigger picture of the Lord?
2. Which names refer to something the Lord *does*?
3. Which names refer to something He *is*?
4. Which names are associated with the Lord's *love*?
5. Which names are associated with His *wisdom*?

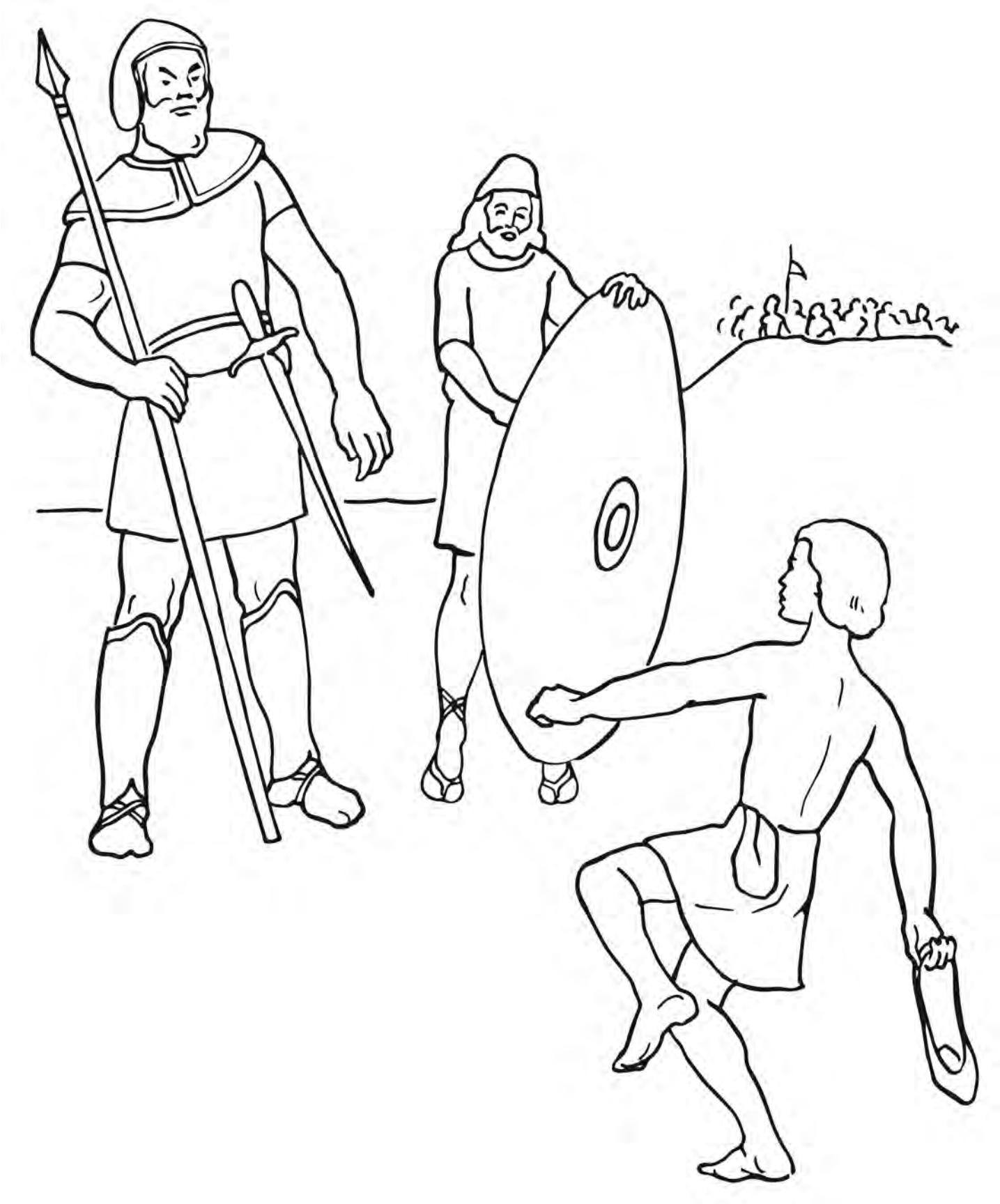
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Five Smooth Stones



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David Fighting Goliath



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Closing & Recitation

The second commandment, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" means we remember that a person's "name" means their qualities or character. So when we do things "in the name of the Lord," we do them from the Lord's qualities acting in us and through us.

Today we add the second commandment to the first commandment which we have already learned, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." Let's say it together now. Take home a recitation slip and practice the first two commandments each day.

1. You shall have no other gods before My face. 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Exodus 20:3-7	1. You shall have no other gods before My face. 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Exodus 20:3-7
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Online Extras

Looking for something "extra"? Try these online ideas!

Ages 3-6 Make a puppet and act out the story https://www.preschool-plan-it.com/david-and-goliath.html

Ages 7-10 *Defeat the Giant,* a group game https://biblegamescentral.com/defeat-the-giant/

Ages 11-14 Use activity provided in this lesson, but substitute hot crayon rocks for the paper ones https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWVXqLm8CfU

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