

THE KINGS

Date: 4.14.24 | Title: David and Goliath | Scripture: 1 Samuel 17

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God commands people to obey Him. People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives.

High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God commands people to obey Him. People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives. God wants us to share his messages with those around us.



MEMORY VERSE

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Most of 1 Samuel 17-31 revolves around the contrast and conflict between David and Saul. Through Saul's actions, we understand how smart, brave, and dedicated David is. Even though Samuel has anointed David as the next king, Saul is still on the throne with no intention of peacefully handing it over to David.

The story of David and Goliath, one of the best-known in the Bible, tells how David trusted God and God delivered David and his people. It is how young David, already chosen and anointed privately and taken up by Saul as a court musician, comes onto the public stage. David's victory leads to Saul's jealousy, which drives the plot of the rest of the book. David shows himself better qualified than Saul to serve as the king of Israel as the "champion" of God's people in battle and in the life of faith.

For the first 23 years that Saul was king, Israel was at war with the Philistines. If the Philistines gained control of the Valley of Elah, it would give them entry into the hill country of Judah.

In 17:4-11, Goliath comes out from the camp of the Philistines as a "champion". A "champion" is a man who steps out to fight between two battle lines. Here Goliath offers to fight, on behalf of his side, against any "champion" that Israel will put forward; the victor's side then, would partake of his victory (8-10). Goliath's height was about 9 feet and 9 inches. Goliath's armament was the best that the highly skilled Philistines could obtain, either by manufacture or by trade. The shield was a large standing shield that covered the whole body. His spear was about 26 ft long. Most of his armament was bronze, except his spears' head of iron, which weighed about 15 lbs. His coat of mail weighed about 125lbs. It is not surprising that the Israelites were dismayed. It was Saul's job to accept the challenge on behalf of Israel; instead, he was greatly afraid (15:24) with everyone else.

Sometime after being anointed as the next king of Israel, David was sent from Bethlehem by his father to take food to his three oldest brothers serving in the Israelite army. When David arrived, he learned of the Philistines' challenge to the Israelites that had been going on for 40 days to send a champion to fight their warrior Goliath from Gath. "All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid". (17:24) David on the other hand, took up the challenge saying, "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?". (17:26) David grasps Goliath's challenges as being directed at God himself. To David, this battle is spiritual in nature. David's oldest brother questions his intentions, and Saul told David he couldn't fight Goliath because he is only a youth. David reassures Saul that he has fought off lions and bears who have come against his father's sheep. "This uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God... The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." (17:37). David is confident that God will defend his own honor and defeat Goliath. Because of his faith in God, David shows more willingness to do battle on behalf of God's people, and to defend God's honor, than the seasoned warrior Saul.

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Saul clothes David with his armor, but David is not used to wearing armor and takes it off. “Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.” (17:40). When Goliath sees David, he thinks the youth is unworthy of consideration or respect. He makes fun of the weapon David will use and curses David by his gods. David says to the Philistines, “You come to me with a sword and 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. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s and he will give you into our hand.” (17:45-47)

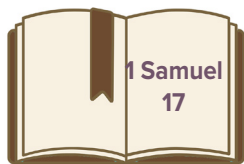
David struck Goliath in the forehead and Goliath fell facedown. David finished Goliath off by cutting off his head with his own sword. When the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

In 17:55-58, Saul asks, “Who is this youth?” Even though Saul knew David from before, he would not remember David’s father. Saul is asking about David’s background- his family and his social status or pedigree so that he may ask David’s father to let him keep David permanently (17:25-26). After this, everyone loves David. Saul takes him into his service; all of Saul’s officials love him; even members of Saul’s own family love him.

The story of David and Goliath demonstrates that David should lead Israel instead of Saul. Saul cowers with the rest of Israel’s army and does not challenge Goliath. David, even though he is a youth, acts boldly, trusting in Yahweh’s name. The Lord made small, as Hannah predicted, one who was tall (17:4). Goliath “cursed David by his gods”. David, however, placed his trust entirely, in the Lord. He came “in the name of the Lord of hosts” showing that “the battle is the Lords”.

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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders to help teach 1 Samuel 17. “David Stands Tall” is a re-telling in *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook* and “The Young Hero and the Horrible Giant” is a re-telling in the “Jesus Storybook Bible”. These two books also provide good illustrations of today’s text. The Message version of the Bible provides a good teaching summary for this text.

**TELL
THE
STORY**



Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL:

“the Seed of the woman” (Genesis 3:15) has arrived, and in David’s first action as king he is a warrior, an anointed one who conquers and beheads a monstrous giant. Through David’s victory, the Lord will be glorified, and all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel (17:46).



Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students support their answers by sharing evidence they took from Scripture.

1. Who were the Israelites going up against in battle? (17:1)
2. Who was the champion of the Philistines? How is he described physically? (17:4-7)
3. What will the winner of the battle receive? (17:9)
4. How did Saul and all of Israel respond to Goliath’s call? (17:11)
5. Describe what we know about David and his family. (17:12-15)
6. What does Jesse ask David to do? (17:17)
7. What happens when David gets to the valley? (17:19-23)
8. How does Saul’s army respond to Goliath in 17:24?
9. How does David respond to Goliath’s rant? (17:26, 31-32)
10. How does David’s oldest brother respond to David? (17:28)
11. In 17:33, what excuses does Saul give David to bow out?
12. How does David justify himself to Saul as a warrior in 17: 34-37?
13. How does Saul prepare David to go in 17:38?
14. How does David prepare himself in 17:39-40?
15. In 17:41-44, how does Goliath approach David?
16. In 17:45-47, how does David respond to Goliath?
17. In 17: 48-54, how does the battle play out?
18. Where did David get his courageous spirit? How did he know he would be victorious? Who did he give the victory to? How do we know?

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PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank you for being the perfect king over us! Help us to trust and follow You! Help us to recognize the spiritual battles You place us in as well as the power we have through Your Spirit to show all the earth You are God alone!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Bible Skills Practice: Encourage your students to not only know the order of the books of the bible but also the different divisions they come in.

The Torah: Genesis - Deuteronomy | **History:** Joshua - Esther | **Poetry:** Job - Song of Solomon | **Major Prophets:** Isaiah - Daniel | **Minor Prophets:** Hosea - Malachi | **Gospels:** Matthew - John | **Acts** | **Paul's Letter:** Romans - Philemon | **General Letters:** Hebrews - Jude | **Revelation**

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the month of March through Easter, our church will be collecting money for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering. This offering goes to fund missionaries in North America. Please encourage your group to collect change for the giving funnel in the lobby.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this week's verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

BTLTSDNLOHAOOTHOHSBIHRHFTLSNAMSMLOTOABTLLOTH - 1 Samuel 16:7

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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?