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The Giant and the Rock

Key References: 1 Samuel 17; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 63, pp. 643-648; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 9-13; Our Beliefs, nos. 3, 11, 8.















Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 75.

powertext

"For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory" (Psalm 149:4).

powerpoint

God is our champion; He wins the victory for us.

Think of a time you were sent on a special errand. Was it something you really wanted to do, or did you dread doing it? Did the experience turn out very different from what you had expected? In today's story a young man was sent on an errand that turned into a battle!

The young man, David, reached the top of the last hill he had to climb and looked down at the camp of the army of Israel spread out before him. His father had sent him with supplies for his three older brothers, who had been camped here with the army for several weeks. Father wanted to know how things were going.

"What's happening?" David called to one of the soldiers.

"There's movement from the Philistines' battle lines. Our men are lining up to fight."

David, looking anxious, hurried to his brothers.

"What are you doing here?" Eliab greeted him with irritation.



10

Sunday

READ Read 1 Samuel 17:1-7 and this week's story, "The Giant and the Rock."

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

WRITE List things that make you afraid.

PRAY Ask God to defeat your fears and give you peace.

Monday

READ Read 1 Samuel 17:8-11.

DESCRIBE In your Bible study journal, draw Goliath's armor. Label the pieces of armor as people or things that represent some of your fears.

LEARN Write the power text on a rock, including the reference. Memorize it.

PRAY Thank God for defeating your giants.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 17:12-19.

THINK How do you think David felt about being left behind to tend the sheep? Have you ever been "left behind" and had to miss something special?

WRITE Write a letter of appreciation to a Christian friend, telling that person how much you value his/her support.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that He knows all about you and loves you.

"I've brought . . ." David began, but suddenly there was silence all around him. From the lines of the Philistines an enormous man swaggered forward. Rays of sunlight bounced off his bronze helmet and battle vest. Hanging from his back was the biggest javelin David had ever seen. A soldier walked in front of him, carrying his huge shield.

"Who is that?" David asked curiously.

"Shhh. It's Goliath," came the answer.

"Send a man over to fight me, you cowards!" Goliath thundered. "If your man wins, the Philistines will be your servants. But if I win, the Israelites will be our servants."

David waited for someone to accept the challenge. But no one moved. The silence made Goliath shout louder. He shook his huge spear in his rage.

Shocked, David turned to his brothers. "We can't let him defy our God! Are you all afraid of the giant?"

Someone reported David's comments to King Saul, and it wasn't long before David was summoned before the king.

"What's this I'm hearing from my men?" Saul asked.

"I don't understand," David responded. "Why don't we have the courage to fight this Philistine? If no one else will fight him, I will," he said.

"You? Why, you're just a boy," the king responded. "You know nothing of battle techniques. Goliath has been trained to fight since he was a child."

David faced the king. "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep.

When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

The king seriously contemplated David's voluntary offer. "I will give you my permission, but you must wear my personal armor."

David tried the armor on. He could hardly move in it.

"Sir, it's too heavy, too awkward. Let me go without it."

The king nodded his agreement.

David shrugged out of the heavy armor. Picking up his shepherd's walking stick, he marched past the front lines and down into the valley.

"God, this battle is Yours," David prayed.

As he crossed a small stream, David grabbed five smooth stones and put them in the bag he carried around his waist.



Wednesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 17:20-37.

THINK Do you ever feel put down or not listened to? Today, be the one who will listen to someone.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for opportunities to share His love.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Samuel 17:38-40.

THINK David knew he could never win the battle if he wore Saul's armor. He knew that God didn't need anything human! The victory was already won.

DISCUSS What human solutions do you sometimes rely on? Talk with an adult about this.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Read Ephesians 6:19, 20. Make this your prayer.

Friday

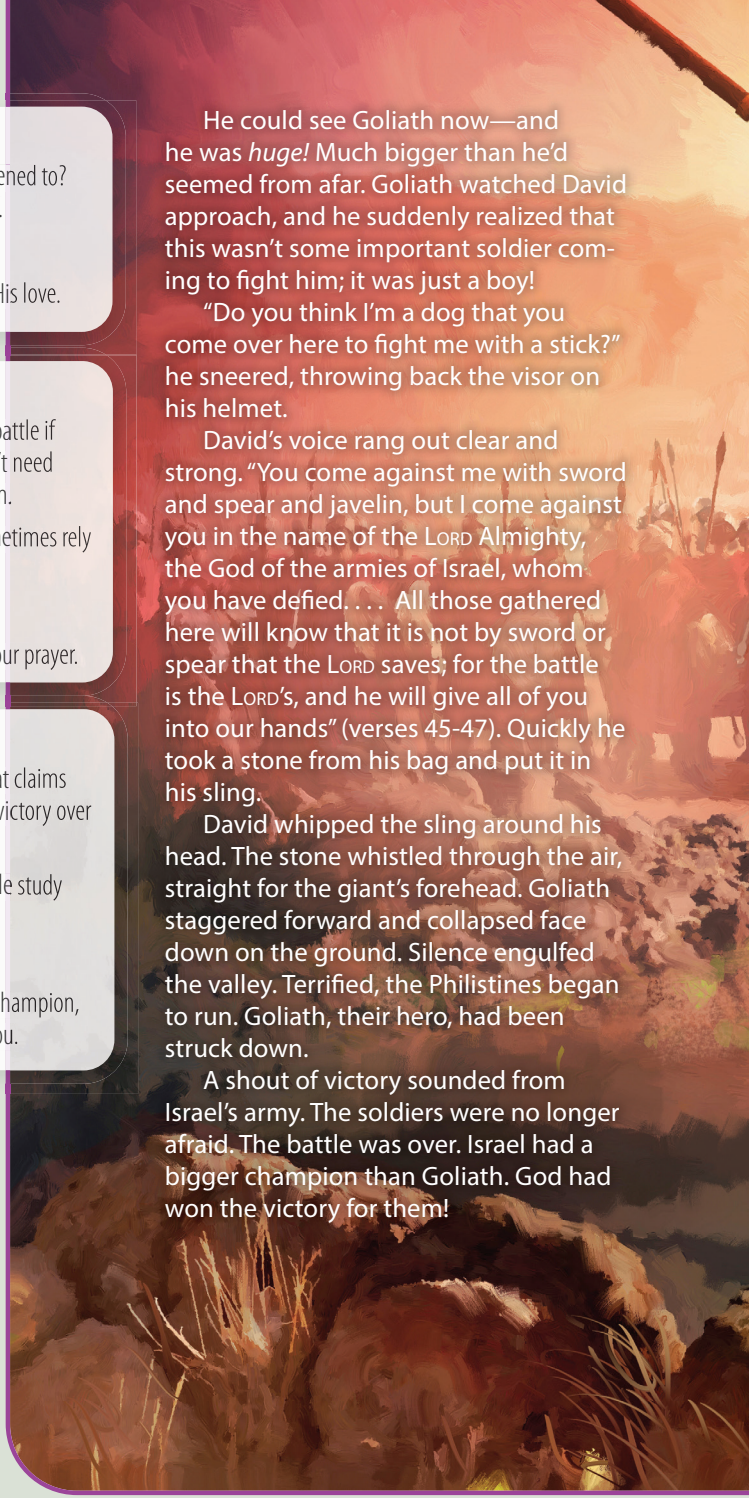
READ Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47.

FIND Look for the phrase in this passage that claims God as your champion, who will lead you to victory over the "giants" in your life.

DRAW Draw a picture of a shield in your Bible study journal and write this phrase on it.

REPEAT Say by memory your power text.

PRAY Tell God that you accept Him as your champion, and thank Him for winning life's battles for you.



He could see Goliath now—and he was *huge!* Much bigger than he'd seemed from afar. Goliath watched David approach, and he suddenly realized that this wasn't some important soldier coming to fight him; it was just a boy!

"Do you think I'm a dog that you come over here to fight me with a stick?" he sneered, throwing back the visor on his helmet.

David's voice rang out clear and strong. "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. . . . All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands" (verses 45-47). Quickly he took a stone from his bag and put it in his sling.

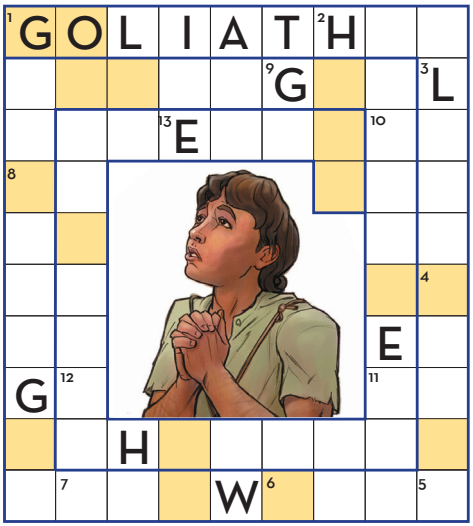
David whipped the sling around his head. The stone whistled through the air, straight for the giant's forehead. Goliath staggered forward and collapsed face down on the ground. Silence engulfed the valley. Terrified, the Philistines began to run. Goliath, their hero, had been struck down.

A shout of victory sounded from Israel's army. The soldiers were no longer afraid. The battle was over. Israel had a bigger champion than Goliath. God had won the victory for them!



AND THE WINNER IS . . .

Instructions: Solve the clues to this puzzle by reading the shaded boxes around the numbered grid. The first letter of each answer starts in its numbered box, and the last letter of each clue is also the first letter of the next answer. Some letters have been filled in to help you get started. Follow the direction of the path to discover the four-word answer that tells you who will win your battles.



Clues: All answers are found in 1 Samuel 17, NIV.

1. "__ __ __ __ __ __ __ . . . came out of the Philistine camp" (verse 4).
2. "The Philistines occupied one __ __ __ __ and the Israelites another" (verse 3).
3. David, son of Jesse, __ __ __ __ __ in Bethlehem (verse 12).
4. Jesse had eight sons; __ __ __ __ __ was the youngest (verse 14).
5. "For forty __ __ __ __ the Philistine came forward every morning" (verse 16).
6. "David said . . . , 'You come against me with __ __ __ __ __ and spear' " (verse 45).
7. The king "will also give him his __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ in marriage" (verse 25).
8. "__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ in his bag and taking out a stone" (verse 49).
9. "Goliath, who was from __ __ __ __ " (verse 4).
10. "Saul dressed David. . . . He put . . . a bronze __ __ __ __ __ __ on his head" (verse 38).
11. "David __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ over the Philistine with a sling and a stone" (verse 50).
12. "Goliath . . . shouted his usual __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ , and David heard it" (verse 23).
13. The Israelites pursued the Philistines "to the gates of __ __ __ __ __ " (verse 52).

Answer: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .