

10

The Giant and the Rock

Community
We strive to build up God's people.

POWER TEXT

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

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 17
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 63, pp. 643-648
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 9-13
- Student story on page 112 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 3, The Father
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 8, The Great Controversy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God is their champion; He wins the victory for them.
- **Feel** victorious because God wins the battle against sin.
- **Respond** by encouraging others to trust God to win the victory for them.

POWERPOINT

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

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Philistines have a champion named Goliath, a giant, who continually taunts the Israelite camp. David, a shepherd boy who has come to the encampment to bring provisions to his older brothers, is amazed that no one responds to Goliath's insults against God. He offers to fight the giant. The king and others protest, but David recites how God has taught him that the battle belongs to Him. Refusing the king's armor, David faces the giant in the name of the Lord. Goliath is defeated, and all the army of Israel cheer.

This is a lesson about community.

God offers Himself to us through Jesus, our champion. He fights our enemy and wins the battle of salvation in our behalf. When we realize that the battle has been won, we feel encouraged and inspired to tell others about our Champion, who wins the victory for us. Therefore we build God's kingdom when we encourage others to trust God to win the victory in their personal battles.

Teacher Enrichment

The word *champion* has different shades of meaning. The meaning in this lesson is not the winner of first prize or first place. *Champion* in this lesson means one who does battle for another's rights or honor. Synonyms are *defender*, *protector*, *upholder*, *advocate*, *guardian*. "Operating a sling like David's required both a strong arm and an expert aim. A slinger first tied one end of the leather sling around his wrist. With the other hand he held a stone in the side strip of leather or cloth which formed the middle section of the sling. Then gathering up the loose end, he whirled the sling in the air above his head. When he reached the proper momentum, he released the loose end and sent the stone hurtling at the mark. With practice, a slinger could become a deadly shot" (V. Gilbert Beers, *The Book of Life*, vol. 9, p. 172).

What victories have I experienced? How has God been my champion?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Giant Balloons* *B. Rock Solid*	balloons, markers large rock, written verse
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, small rock, and circle of fabric for each student, ribbon, "The Prayer Rock" on a small piece of paper
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	six copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 155) Bibles Bibles, paper and pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Prayer Rocks*	rocks, cloth circles, ribbon, paper, pens/markers
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ balloons
- ☐ markers

Giant Balloons

Provide each student with two nine- to 12-inch balloons and a permanent marker. Ask them to write FAITH in GOD on one balloon and FEARS & GIANTS on the other. Ask the class to begin to blow up the "fears" balloon first. Invite the class to call out things in their lives that feel like big overwhelming giants. As each "giant" is mentioned, everyone should blow two breaths into their balloon. Continue until the balloons are filled and the words are large and expanded. Ask: **What happened to the fears and giants as we talked about them and focused on each one?** (They got larger and larger.) Ask the class to quickly let the balloons go; they'll fly around the room and deflate. Then pick up the "Faith in God" balloons. Do the same thing, inflating the balloon you labeled "Faith in God" with two breaths each time someone calls out something specific that God has done to save, rescue, or win victories for them. When the "Faith in God" balloons are inflated, ask: **What happened to "Faith in God" as we talked about God's power and grace?** (They got larger.)

Debriefing

Invite them to join you by saying: **If you want to join me in spending time thinking about and praising God rather than being afraid of your "giants," tie a knot like this.** When everyone has tied off their balloon, have them toss their balloons in the air and say loudly: **God is our champion. We can encourage others by sharing with them how God has won victories for us. Let's say our power text together, Psalm 149:4:**

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

Our power point for this week is:

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

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ large rock
- ☐ written verse

Rock Solid

You will need a large rock and a paper with the text 2 Samuel 22:2, 3 written on it. Before class, fold the paper and hide it under the rock so the students do not know what is there. Ask the students to guess what is under the rock, but do not let anyone look there yet.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you were guessing?** (unsure, uncertain, silly, hopeful, etc.) **How is this guessing game like the way some people try to find God?** (They don't really look; they keep guessing. They don't really try; they just keep talking about it.) **What would be the best way to find out what is under the rock?** (Pick up the rock and look.)

Ask a student to look under the rock. When they find the paper, have them read the text written on it. Ask: **How is God like a rock for us? How can we share this message with others? What could I share about God's victory in my life to encourage someone?** (Allow time for discussion.)

Say: **Let's say our power text together, Psalm 149:4:**

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

Our power point for this week reminds us that

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

Prayer & Praise

Notes

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Jacob's Ladder" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 103)
"Side by Side" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 123)
"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 85)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Share the importance of encouraging others who are facing hardships to trust in God, who is our rock and our refuge.

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ small rock for each student
- ☐ piece of fabric for each
- ☐ ribbon
- ☐ "The Prayer Rock" on a small piece of paper

Find a small rock for each student. Wrap the rock in a circle of fabric, then copy and attach the following message.

The Prayer Rock

I place it on my pillow while I study, work, and play. Then when I come to go to sleep I know I've prayers to say.

Have prayer after distributing the rocks. Pray also for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ six scripts (p. 155)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

(Note: The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words. Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.)

Make six copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 155 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **Whom do you know that was rescued by an unlikely hero? The hero rescued Ivan. How does God rescue us? When did God use someone else to win a victory in your life? How could you share that experience with someone? In what ways could God use you to stand up for the rights of others who are treated unfairly or unjustly?**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Ask students to turn in their Bibles to 1 Samuel 17. Say: **Today we are going to review a familiar story, one that you know well, found in verses 1-50 of this chapter. To do this, we need a narrator and several people to read the parts of the people involved.**

Select people to read the following parts:

Narrator—Reads all nonspeaking parts (you may want to do this yourself)
Goliath—the giant who challenges Israel
Jesse—father of David, Eliab, and other brothers
Four Israelites—each to read a sentence from verse 25
Another Israelite—to read from verse 27
Eliab—David's older brother
King Saul—commander of the Israelite army

Conclude the reading at the end of verse 50. Then ask: **Who won this battle?** Allow time for discussion. Carefully lead students to understand that God led David and gave him the victory over Goliath. To conclude, say: **We need to tell others the good news that**

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

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ large sheets of paper
- ☐ pencils

Exploring the Bible

Divide the following verses among the students and have them read them aloud as a praise to God—Psalm 18:1-19, 46-50. (Don't force any who may be reluctant.)

Have the students form small groups. Give each group a large piece of paper and pencils. Ask them to draw a representation of their champion, God, as He is described, winning the victory in Psalm 18.

Debriefing

When students are ready, have them share their pictures and tell which specific verses they used for inspiration. Say: **God was a protector and a fortress for David, and through him for the entire army of Israel. Out of gratitude for what He has done for us we share with others the great news that He has won the victory for us. Let's say our power text together, Psalm 149:4:**

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

And that reminds us of the point of today's lesson:

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

Scenario

Give your students the following scenario:

Jon has been a Sabbath School member all his life. But lately he's been having a hard time believing God loves him. Earlier this year Jon's family moved to a new city. Jon had prayed that he wouldn't have to move and leave his friends. Since he doesn't feel God listens to his prayers, he has quit praying. Jon is confused.

Ask: **What would you say are Jon's "giants"?** (loneliness, doubt, feeling separated from God and friends) **What would Jon do if he acted like the army of Israel?** (feel defeated/depressed) **What would he do if he acted like David?** (Believe God could overcome the problems.) **What do you think Jon should do?** (Tell God exactly how he feels; ask God to defeat the "giants" of loneliness and doubt for him.) **Do you think God could bring about victory in this case? Have you ever had similar problems? How did you or can you turn them over to God?**

Say: **Our power point for this week reminds us that**

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

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ rocks
- ☐ cloth circles
- ☐ ribbon
- ☐ paper (hole-punched)
- ☐ pens/markers

Prayer Rocks

Invite students to share their experiences if they told someone during the past week how much they valued their friendship. Ask: **How many of you were able to write a letter of appreciation to someone who is a supportive Christian friend to you? What were your experiences with this activity?**

Have students make a prayer rock for a friend. Supply rocks, cloth, ribbon, paper (previously hole-punched in one corner), and pens. Have students write the power text on the paper and, after wrapping the rock in the piece of cloth, tie the cloth with the piece of ribbon, attaching the paper with the power text to it.

When they're finished, ask each one about the person with whom they plan to share the rock, and what they will tell about how God has won the victory on their behalf.

Say: **Remember our power point for today:**

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

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that each student will accept the victory of Jesus, our true champion, and share the good news with someone else.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jonathan is a faithful friend to David. God wants us to encourage and support one another.**

Notes

Student lesson

The Giant and the Rock

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, looked 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.

"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. 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!

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

POWER TEXT

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

POWER POINT

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







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 75.

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.

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.

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.