

THE FEARLESS SHEPHERD

David and Goliath
1 Samuel 17:2–11, 33–51
1019 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives victory.

BIBLE VERSE

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God gives victory to His people through Jesus.

LAW & GOSPEL

On my own against sin, death, and the devil, I would perish.

Jesus fights triumphantly for me against my adversaries. His victory is my victory.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

As their armies remain encamped against one another, the Philistines send for their champion, Goliath, to challenge the Israelites. The Israelites fear to challenge the giant. Young David expresses dismay at the soldiers' lack of trust in God. Confident that the Lord will give victory, David uses his sling and knocks Goliath to the ground before cutting off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read 1 Samuel 17:2–11, 33–51 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read 1 Samuel 17:12–32, 52–28 and study notes in *TL SB* to complete the context of the narrative.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Paper plates
- Roll of paper
- Smooth stones
- Poster paint, Mod Podge
- Poster board, Jesus stickers, ribbon, safety pins
- Blindfold
- Bread, cheese slices, cross- and heart-shaped cookie cutters

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

SAY

- Hi, children! Who is big in your family? Who is small?** Let children tell about family members. Comment on how they are getting bigger too.
- What are some challenges that you have faced? Do you ever try to overcome them on your own? Who do you turn to for help when the problem seems too big?**

PRAY

Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your Word today. Help us to learn how You give us victory. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** To reinforce the narrative, have students retell the narrative by acting out the events. Choose students to be the narrator, David, Goliath, King Saul, and the Israelite and Philistine armies.
- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Reinforce the narrative by reviewing the different emotions that each person in this narrative felt. Talk about Saul and the Israelites' fear, David's calm confidence, and Goliath's mocking attitude. Have students draw each character's face and emotion on a white paper plate. As students retell the narrative, have them hold up the appropriate paper plate when each person appears.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What problem did God's people have?
- Who helped David win the victory over Goliath?
- Who helps you when you are afraid?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- The Philistine army was fighting against Israel, and they had a huge soldier as their champion.
- King Saul neglected his duty as the king of Israel by refusing to fight Goliath. He let his fear overpower his trust in God.
- Goliath was more than just a big bully and political enemy. He was mocking God.
- David put his confidence completely in God's power. Even though he had no armor or weapons, David was not afraid.
- God kept His promise to protect the Israelites by using David to defeat Goliath. God kept His promise to us by sending Jesus to win our salvation.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ is God's promised and anointed King. He fought our enemy, the devil, on our behalf and won. Jesus is our ultimate champion.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Lead the children in saying “God saves me!” after every boldfaced sentence.

Long ago, God’s people, the Israelites, were fighting a war against their neighbors, the Philistines. The armies of God’s people were lined up on one side of a valley, and the Philistines were lined up on the other side. One morning, a giant named Goliath walked into the valley. He shouted, “Send one of your soldiers out to fight me!”

The soldiers looked at Goliath. They had never seen such a big man before. He was so big and strong! Who would go fight him? One by one, the soldiers shook their heads. “Not me,” they said.

What would God’s people do? **Who would save them from their enemy?**

One day, a boy named David came to the valley. David was a shepherd boy, someone who took care of sheep. But his brothers were soldiers in the Israelite army. David’s father asked him to take them bread and cheese. David saw Goliath and heard what he was shouting. He saw that the soldiers in God’s army were afraid of him. “Who is this Philistine who makes fun of the army of God’s people?” David asked. Some of the soldiers told King Saul what David had said.

David told the king, “I will go and fight Goliath.” The king looked at David and said, “How can you go fight a giant? You are just a young shepherd boy. You are too young and too small.”

But David wasn’t afraid. He said, **“God has kept me safe from lions and bears while I took care of my father’s sheep. He will save me from this giant too.”**

So David took his shepherd’s staff and slingshot. He picked up five smooth stones and put them in his pouch. Then, he walked out into the valley where Goliath was waiting. When Goliath saw David, he laughed at him. He shouted, “What’s the stick for? Do you think I’m a dog? Come and fight me. I can beat you without trouble.”

David told him, “You come to fight me with weapons. I come to fight you in the name of the Lord. **God will help me win this battle and give me victory. Then, everyone will know that the God of Israel has power to save us.**” David took a stone from his bag and put it into his sling. He ran toward Goliath and flung the stone at him. The stone hit the giant in the head, and Goliath fell down to the ground. David, the shepherd boy, had beaten Goliath.

Now, the Philistine soldiers were afraid and ran away. Through David, God had saved His people from their enemies! God saves us too. Nothing is stronger or more powerful than God. He helps us with our fears. **Best of all, He saved us from our enemies—sin, death, and the devil—through Jesus.**

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

David’s three oldest brothers were in King Saul’s army, fighting against the Philistines. Every morning and evening for forty days, a huge Philistine named Goliath stepped forward and shouted at the Israelites. He was a powerful warrior who stood over nine feet tall. He challenged Israel to send one warrior to fight with him one on one. King Saul should have gone to fight him, but he was afraid and did not trust God anymore. None of his soldiers were brave enough either.

But on the fortieth day, David came into the camp. His father sent him to bring his brothers food and find out how they were doing. David listened to what Goliath shouted at the Israelites, and he got really, really mad. Goliath was making fun of God! If no other Israelite was brave enough to fight Goliath, David would go. He was not afraid.

King Saul found out and called for David. But when Saul saw that David was just a boy, he said, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth.”

David told King Saul what he did as a shepherd. Whenever a lion or a bear would attack his sheep, David would never run away. He always ran after it to hit it and kill it. David told Saul, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw

of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Goliath stood behind his shield, dressed in his armor. He held his sword in his huge hand. Saul offered his armor to David to wear, but Saul was much taller than David and so his armor was way too big for David to walk in. David went to fight Goliath just as he was.

When Goliath realized David was just a boy, he made fun of him. David told him, “This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down.”

David pulled a stone out of his pouch and put it in his sling. He swung the sling around, twirling it faster and faster. Then, he let go of one strap and the stone shot out, hit Goliath on the forehead, and knocked him flat onto the ground. David ran up, grabbed the giant’s sword, and killed him with it.

When the Philistine army saw their hero dead, they turned and ran away in fear. The soldiers of Israel shouted and started chasing after them.

King Saul thought David was too young to fight against Goliath. But God is the one who gives His people power to do great things—whether they are young or old.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Comparing Big and Small

Draw a stick-figure shape on a 5-foot length of paper to represent David. Draw a bigger one on a 9-foot length of paper for Goliath. Set out art supplies to decorate and draw faces (markers, yarn, etc.). Talk about the size difference. Say, **Today, we heard how God worked through someone small to win against someone big!** Write “God gives victory!” or the Bible Verse on each paper.



Bible Verse Fun

The Bible says, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). Divide children into two groups to say a section of the verse while clapping. Switch parts to say it again, marching in place.



Group 1: **Thanks be to God,** (*Clap/march in place.*)

Group 2: **who gives us the victory** (*Clap/march.*)

All: **through our Lord Jesus Christ.** (*Clap/march.*)

Smooth Stone Game

Sit in a circle on the floor. Ask a child to close eyes and stand in the middle. Show the other children how to pass a smooth stone from hand to hand around the circle. At your signal, the child in center opens eyes and tries to guess who has the stone. Play again with a different child in the center. Say, **David took only five small stones when he faced Goliath. David was small, but God was big. He gave David the victory over Goliath.**



Winner Ribbon Craft

Cut a 5-inch circle out of poster board for each child. Write “Winner” on each circle. Children can color circle. Give them a Jesus sticker to add to the center. Attach two ribbons to the bottom. Pin on children with safety pins. Say, **No one is greater or more powerful than Jesus. Jesus won the victory over sin, death, and the devil for us. Because of Jesus, we are winners too!**



Bread and Cheese Snack

David’s father told David to bring bread for his brothers and cheese for the soldiers in the army (1 Samuel 17:17–18). Give children small paper plates, bread, cheese slices, and cross- and heart-shaped cookie cutters. Have them cut the bread and cheese into shapes, and then match them to make little sandwiches to eat. Let them nibble on the scraps too!



Victory Stones

Give each child a smooth stone. Children can use poster paint to paint a symbol on their stone (e.g., a cross, rainbow, or heart with a cross). Let stones dry. Coat them with Mod Podge. Say, **David was small. He had only five stones when he faced big and strong Goliath! But God was with David and gave him the victory! What enemies does God save us from?**



Trust Walk

Set up an obstacle course around tables and chairs, over a rope or pillow, and so on. Blindfold each child, and you or another child can lead children through the course. Make sure all get a turn. Say, **God keeps us in His care. He is with us and helps us each day. David trusted in God to help him, and God did. How does God help you?**



LEAVE

SAY

Praise be to God that He gives us victory over sin, death, and the devil! This victory is ours through faith in Jesus as our Savior.

PRAY

Thank You, Jesus, for striking down the Goliaths of sin, death, and the devil. Like David, help us to place our trust in You, no matter what troubles we face. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

THE FEARLESS SHEPHERD

LESSON 10

1 Samuel 17:2–11, 33–51

GOD GIVES VICTORY.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

Christ has given me courage and strength to overcome my enemies of sin and death.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I trust God to give me the victory over my enemies through the death and resurrection of Jesus, my Savior.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can describe how God gave victory to His people in the narrative and how He has given ultimate victory to me in Christ.

YOUTH

I can make connections between the victory God gave David and the victory God has given me in Jesus.

ELEMENTARY

I understand God gives victory to His people through Jesus.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God saves me from my enemies.

BIBLE VERSE

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

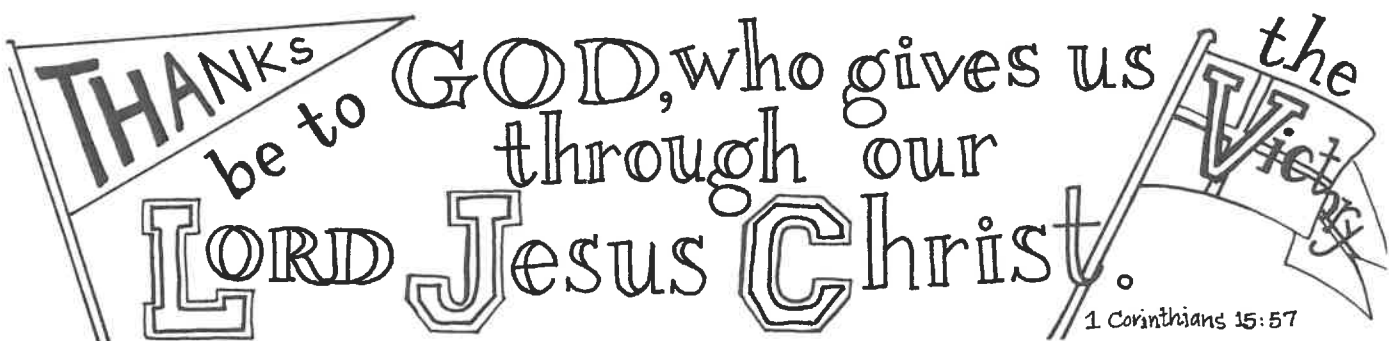
1 Corinthians 15:57

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

As their armies remain encamped against one another, the Philistines send for their champion, Goliath, to challenge the Israelites. The Israelites fear to challenge the giant. Young David expresses dismay at the soldiers' lack of trust in God. Confident that the Lord will give victory, David uses his sling and knocks Goliath to the ground before cutting off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword.

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—It can be scary to stand up to a bully. Goliath was frightening. How did David face him? How can you stand up to the bullies in your life?
- ▶ *At Mealtime*—Sometimes only the strongest man from each side fought to decide a battle. The person who fought was often the king. How did Saul respond to Goliath's challenge? Compare this with the response of David, the Lord's anointed.
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Have each member of the family decorate a small, smooth stone to remember how God can use little things to bring about big victories. Place the stones in jar and use it to decorate your table.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—Who is the champion that God sent to fight against the devil? How do you know that the victory is yours?



Leader Devotion LESSON 10
THE FEARLESS SHEPHERD—DAVID AND GOLIATH
1 SAMUEL 17:2-11, 33-51

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives victory.

BIBLE VERSE

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57

LAW & GOSPEL

On my own against sin, death, and the devil, I would perish.

Jesus fights triumphantly for me against my adversaries. His victory is my victory.

DEVOTION

The lesson this week is a Sunday School staple. The biblical account of David's defeat of the giant Goliath has been retold in countless ways. The concept of the "little" guy, or underdog, overcoming the giant has made the account of David and Goliath part of secular expression.

God strengthened David to trust His promises. Despite incredible odds against success, David defied the Philistine giant and defended the Israelites. "The message of the cross is that God chose what is weak to shame the strong, and the 'weakness' of God is stronger human strength" (TLSB, p. 464).

Pray: Lord God, when I feel small and insecure, let me cast my cares, doubts, and anxiety on You, knowing that You care for me. Amen.

LESSON 10 OPENING

THE FEARLESS SHEPHERD—DAVID AND GOLIATH

I need a volunteer. *Choose a child whom you can physically outmaneuver.* I'm putting a prize behind me. All you have to do is get around me, and it's yours. You have ten seconds. Ready? Go! *Move in front of the child, always staying in the way, while counting down from ten.* Why did you have a hard time getting the prize? Because I was in your way! It would have been easy if I had moved out of your way, but I was a pretty big obstacle to get around.

Things like this happen in our lives a lot, don't they? You have something you need to get, or a task you need to accomplish, but something gets in your way. Maybe you want to be on a sports team, but you aren't big enough yet or your family can't afford the fees. Maybe you want to get better grades in school, but some subjects just don't make sense to you. Maybe you want to be part of a group of friends, but no matter how hard you try, they don't notice you. Sometimes, we want something but obstacles get in our way.

In our Bible lesson, we will hear about a big obstacle facing the people of God. Listen to hear how God helps them overcome that obstacle in a very special way.

Jesus had obstacles too. During His life, some people didn't believe He was the Son of God. They mocked Him and made fun of what He said. At the end of His earthly life, He had to face death on the cross. He was put on trial, and He was beaten by the people who had mocked Him. He suffered for a long time. Finally, He died, and it looked like He would never overcome the obstacles He had faced in His life. When He was placed in a grave, it looked like the obstacles had finally beaten Him.

But that is the strange thing about Jesus—just when everyone thought He had been beaten, He had actually won. He had faced death and Satan, the biggest obstacles in the world, and He overcame them. He came back from the dead and walked out of the grave, defeating His enemies once and for all.

Do you know what is really amazing about what Jesus did? He overcame these obstacles of sin, death, and the devil for you. Because of His sacrifice, you don't have to be afraid of the power of the devil. The biggest obstacles in the world are already conquered for you. Remember that—and find peace in it the next time you are facing a big challenge in your life. Jesus has overcome the biggest obstacles for you!

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for dying and rising again to overcome the obstacles of sin, death, and Satan. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

1 Samuel 17:2–11, 33–51

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives victory.

FAITH FOCUS

The Fifth Commandment

LAW & GOSPEL

On my own against sin, death, and the devil, I would perish.

Jesus fights triumphantly for me against my adversaries. His victory is my victory.

BIBLE VERSE

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57

VISUAL HELPS

Small prize (candy, toy, etc.)

THE FEARLESS SHEPHERD—DAVID AND GOLIATH

Unit 5, Lesson 10

Victory!

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Directions: Jesus has won the victory for us over sin, death, and the devil! Design a victory flag that praises Jesus for winning the battle for us over these enemies.

