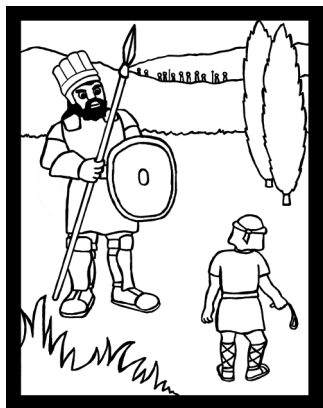




LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

1 Samuel 17:3-11,
24-26, 40-49

1 John 4:4-6

Session Theme:

Courage

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: Big and Little

Bring several pairs of related big and little items to class. Examples might include a penny and a dollar, an index card and a sheet of poster board, a crayon and a marker, etc. Set these in pairs on a table and ask kids what they all have in common. (*One item in each pair is big, one is small.*) Name other categories (*fruits, sports equipment, vehicles, zoo animals*) and ask kids to think of the biggest and smallest example of each.

In today's story, one little fellow and one big fellow faced off against each other. Normally, we might expect the big guy to win. But what if the little guy had amazing courage and faith in God? What might happen then? Let's begin our story and find out!

c. Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you watch over us every day, and you know what is going on in our lives. Give us courage to face the hard things, and help us to trust that you will never let us go. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "Only a Boy Named David" (kids' song)
- "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (hymn)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Monarchy

God's people settled in their own land and were united for the first time under the reign of three great kings: Saul, David, and Solomon. Rivalry and competition caused conflict among the royal families.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level.

Upper Elementary: Read the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read the Scripture text from the Bible

For Upper and Lower Elementary, use the Storyteller questions to help the students think about the events of the story.

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Upper Elementary: Worksheet and Drama

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, Questions)

Adult: Bible Study Sheet (Introduction and Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. If you have not already done so, introduce the Theme Word for the week, providing the definition, and asking how the lesson connects to that theme.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Upper Elementary: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: 1 Samuel 17:1-49, 16-22

1. What Philistine town was Goliath from? Were the Philistines original inhabitants of this area, or were they invaders?

Goliath was from the Philistine town of Gath. The Philistines were part of what scholars refer to as “the sea peoples” who invaded at the beginning of the Iron Age and established a foothold on Israel’s land.

2. Ancient manuscripts of the Bible put Goliath’s height somewhere between 6 ft., 6 in. and 9 ft., 11 in. How would you feel going out to fight such a large man? What did David’s brothers think?

Larger than most modern basketball players, Goliath would have been an intimidating enemy. Clearly David’s brothers, even as experienced soldiers, were not willing to engage such an enemy. The setup of this story is meant to show us that Goliath could not be defeated by human power alone.

3. Explaining his courage to King Saul (v. 34-37), what did David say about his previous battle experience? How does our remembrance of God’s help in the past give us courage for the present?

David told Saul about his experience as a shepherd, fighting off wild bears and lions. But David was not bragging about himself; he gave the credit to God for defending him! Knowing that God has proved himself faithful (in our lives and the lives of those who went before us) gives us the assurance that God will be with us even when circumstances appear to the contrary.

4. In the battle, what weapons did David have (v. 40)? What weapons did Goliath have (v. 45)? Seeing David, what did Goliath say?

David had only a staff, sling, and stones (small “civilian” weapons). Goliath had a sword, spear, and javelin (weapons of war). Goliath asked if David were going to fight a puppy dog. He taunted David for his foolishness and said he would feed the boy’s dead flesh to the birds and animals.

5. Have you ever been insulted and made fun of? How does that feel? Why is it important to remember that it’s God who gives us our true identity, *not* the things other people say about us?

It feels bad to be insulted by others. When that happens, we can feel shamed and humiliated. But it is not the opinion of others that gives us our identity; our value and integrity rests in God’s claim on our lives. When what God thinks of us is the most important thing to us, it doesn’t matter so much what others think.

6. According to verse 47, what did David trust in? Whose power did David count on? What basis did David have for this confidence? How do we also have access to this power and confidence?

David trusted in the power of Lord God. By himself, he could not have defeated Goliath, but with God’s power, he was not afraid.

Jesus promises us that we have access to his power in prayer. “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours,” Jesus said in Mark 11:24.

Keep in mind, David did not know how or by what means God would answer his prayers; he simply trusted that whatever happened, God would be glorified. God was his confidence!

7. Read 1 John 4:4-6. In this context, when John speaks of “the world,” what is he referring to? In what way is “the world” opposed to God?

Here John is speaking of the secular world, and the way things are apart from faith. In this context, he is speaking of the fallen world of sin that does not recognize or acknowledge God. The world is opposed to God in that it operates by its own selfish logic (me first, survival of the fittest, there is no free lunch, if you want something done right, you’ve got to do it yourself, etc.).

On the other hand, the promise of God is a word from outside of ourselves, dependent upon his power and strength, not our own.

8. Why is it important to know that, as people of faith, “we are from God”? In what sense have we already overcome the world (1 John 4:4) because of what Jesus has done for us? What does this say about our future?

The biblical expression “from God” is a reference to what God has created, affirmed, and supports. Compare what is said of Jesus in John 9:33. When the pharisees question where Jesus is from, the healed man says, “If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

As children of God, we know that our identity and hope rest in him. Because we have been united with him in his death and resurrection (Romans 6), we know that we will live again with him!

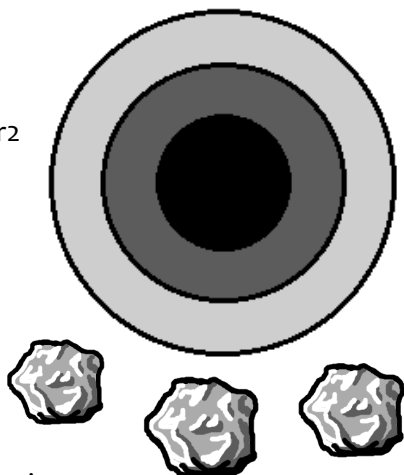
Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: Target Toss Game

Materials Needed:

- Masking tape
- Tin foil or newspaper²
- Measuring tape
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Basket or bucket



Instructions:

Before kids arrive:

Cut a circle from construction paper. Using markers, make a bull's-eye in the center of the circle. Set this aside. Next, wad up five pieces of foil or newspaper and put them in a basket.

Measure nine feet up on a wall with a measuring tape. (If your wall does not reach that high, simply go up as high as you can.) Tape the bull's-eye to the wall at that height.

Finally, take a long piece of masking tape and make a line on the floor. This can be as far from the bull's-eye as seems appropriate, depending on the ages of your students.

The goal of this game will be for kids to stand behind the line and throw the wadded-up newspaper or foil "stones" at the target on the wall.

To play:

Invite kids to line up behind the masking tape line. Give the first child a basket with the "stones" in it.

When you say go, the first player in line will throw the "stones," one at a time, trying to hit the bull's eye.

For every bull's-eye, the player gets a point. After five tries, it is the next player's turn. Keep track of points for kids.

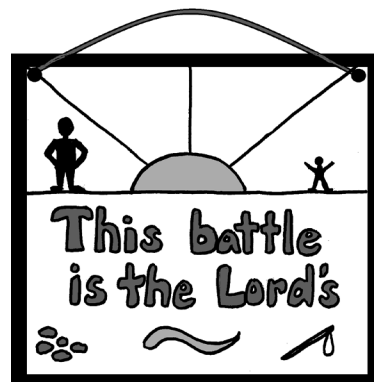
If several students are tied at the end of round one, they can have a face-off round (or rounds!). Whoever hits the highest number of bull's-eyes wins the game.

In this game, we were simply trying to hit a bull's-eye. But little David actually had to face a giant! Goliath probably stood about nine feet tall. (Point to the bull's-eye.) Can you imagine how intimidating it must have been to face him?

Activity 2: "This Battle Is the Lord's" Sign

Materials Needed:

- White or light colored copy paper
- Colored card stock (or construction paper)
- Stapler
- Markers
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Optional: adhesive jewels, stickers, or glitter glue



Instructions:

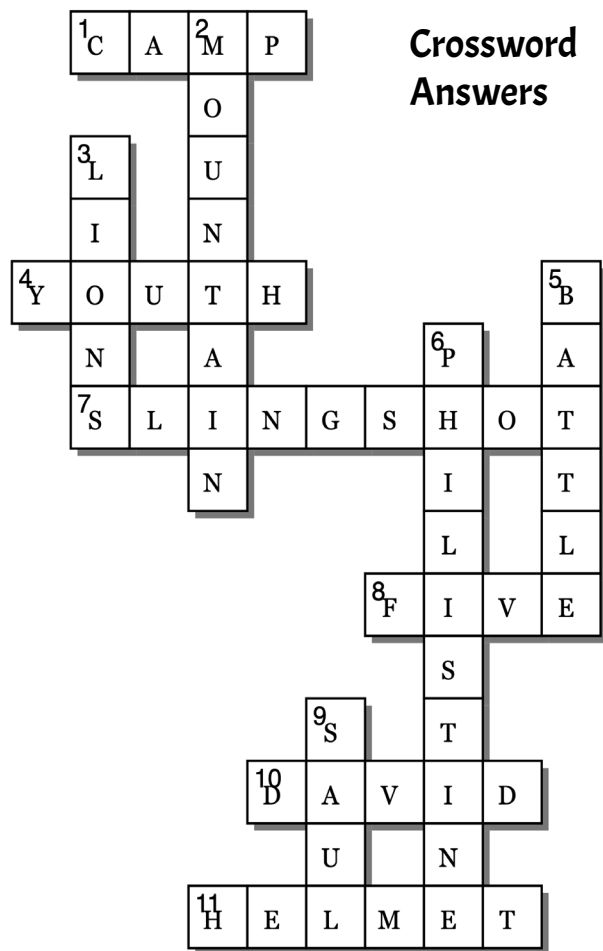
David knew that he was too small to beat the giant Goliath in a battle. But God was not. So David relied on God's strength instead of his own, and the rest is history!

Today, kids will make a wall hanging to remind them where to look for courage when they face challenges bigger than themselves. To do this craft, follow these directions:

- Each student will need a piece of copy paper, a larger piece of colored card, and markers.
- Center the white paper on the colored card stock. If the white paper is the same size as the card stock, cut the white paper in half to make it smaller. Set the colored card stock aside for now.
- Write "This battle is the Lord's" in large letters on the white paper.
- Next, add elements of the story to decorate the sign. Ideas include: drawings of David and Goliath, or of a slingshot and five smooth stones, or squiggly lines and other designs as desired. Glitter glue or adhesive jewels or stickers can be added at this point too.
- Center the artwork on the card stock, and staple (or glue) it in place.
- Use a hole punch to make a hole at each top end of the picture. Cut a long piece of yarn and tie an end through each hole to make a hanger. Hang up the sign at home to remember where to look when facing big challenges.

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

**Vocabulary Word for the Week:**

Teachers may want to introduce the theme word for the week to help expand students' biblical vocabulary:

Courage

bravery in scary times,
and facing up to our fears

*Knowing God is with us gives us
the courage to face difficulties and fears.*

Reflection for the Week Ahead

Our lesson on David and Goliath focused on courage. We saw that David had the courage in a battle with an enemy who was bigger and stronger than he was. But that doesn't mean that David was fearless

Having courage does not mean we have no fear; having courage means that we are willing to stand up and act when we are afraid. David had the courage and bravery to face Goliath because he knew God was with him, no matter what happened. David protected his people.

As we think about this story, we need to remember that fighting is not the best way to settle arguments. God does not want us to be a bully who hurts others with physical violence or by being mean. Sometimes it takes more courage NOT to fight, but to simply walk away. That can be hard, since we don't want to lose an argument or look like we are weak. But Jesus taught us to "turn the other cheek" and not give in to anger and hate.

- *In Star Wars, the evil Emperor tried to get Luke Skywalker to "give in to his hate." But Luke had the courage to resist.*
- *Talk together with your family members about a time when they chose not to fight, when they walked away from an argument in order to maintain peace.*

Name Jumble:

Goliath

David, Son of Jesse

Abinadab, Eliab, Shammah

King Saul

**Map Question:**

David was from the town of Bethlehem and Goliath was from the town of Gath.

The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, thank God for his guidance and instruction. Ask him for help for times of trial, especially when someone wants to hurt you or destroy what belongs to you.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.