# David and Goliath
## (I Samuel 17)

In the land of Judah, two great armies had been at war for many years. One army, the Israelites, served and loved the Lord. The other army, the Philistines, was an evil army. They especially hated the Israelites and wanted to destroy them. One day, they lined up to face each other on two hills with a large valley in between them.

When morning came, a giant from the Philistine army stepped out into the valley. His name was Goliath and he was almost ten feet tall! He shouted up at the Israelite army, "Why are you lining up to fight us? Don't you know we are the Philistine army? You send down your best warrior and I will fight him. If he kills me, we will become your slaves; but if I kill him, you will become our slaves."
When King Saul and the Israelite army heard this, they were terrified. Not only was Goliath a huge giant, but he had never lost a fight.

David was a shepherd boy in the land of Israel. The Lord loved him very much, for he was brave and good. He was the youngest boy in his family and his three oldest brothers, Eliab, Abinadab and Shammah were allowed to go off to war. David really wanted to go, but he obeyed his father and took care of the sheep. One day, his father said, "David, I want you to go check on your brothers and tell me if they are alright."

When David arrived at Israel's camp, he saw the whole army hiding in fear. "What are you doing?!" he asked. "Hush!" they cried, "Goliath will hear you!" The giant had been making the same challenge to Israel for 40 days and no one had the courage to fight him.

David said to King Saul, "Let no one be afraid anymore. I will fight him."
The king gave David all his own armor, but it was too big for him. He simply took his staff, his sling and five smooth stones, and went to meet Goliath.

Goliath yelled at David, "What am I a dog that you send a little boy to throw sticks at me? I curse your God and I'm going to feed you to the birds!!"

David yelled back, "You come at me with a sword and fancy weapons, but I come at you in the name of the Lord. Today, I'm going to kill you and your whole army, so that everyone here knows that the battle belongs to the Lord!"

At this, David ran down to meet Goliath. He put one of the stones in his sling twirled it around his head a few times and launched it. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead and he crashed facedown onto the ground. David pulled out Goliath's own sword and killed him. When the Israelite army saw that David had won, they all shouted with courage, ran and defeated the Philistine army. From that day forward, David became known as the hero of Israel.

Memory Verse:

Romans 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"


Understanding Questions:

1. What was the name of the evil army and the giant that David fought?
2. What had Goliath been saying to the Israelite army?
3. Why wasn't anyone in the Israelite army going to fight Goliath?
4. What weapon did David use to strike Goliath down to the ground?
5. What did the Israelite army do after they saw David kill Goliath?

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God want us to do when we are afraid?
2. What should we do if others make fun of us?
3. Why was David able to be so courageous?