DAVID FIGHTS GOLIATH
1 SAMUEL 17

Once again the Philistines went to fight the Israelites. When they met near the valley of Elah, the Philistines were on one hill and the Israelites were on the other. The valley lay between them.

Each day for 40 days a Philistine giant named Goliath stood on his side of the valley. He shouted to the Israelites on the other side, "Send someone to fight me," he said. "If you win, we will be your slaves. If I win, you will be our slaves."

Goliath was more than nine feet tall. He wore a bronze helmet and bronze leggings. His metal coat weighed 125 pounds. He carried a heavy sword and an iron spear. His bodyguard carried a huge shield. Goliath was the mightiest warrior the Israelites had ever seen. The Israelite soldiers were terrified. No one would go out to fight him.

About this time Jesse sent David with food for his brothers, who were in the Israelite army. When David saw Goliath challenge the Israelite army, he made it known that he would fight the giant. Someone told King Saul, and Saul sent for David.

"I'll fight this giant," David said.

Saul must have laughed. "You're still a boy," he said. "That giant has been a great warrior for many years." But David kept asking to fight Goliath. At last Saul agreed and put his armor on David. But David didn't want the bronze helmet and metal coat. Instead he picked up five stones and went to meet the giant. He just took his shepherd's staff, his sling, and the five stones.

Goliath was angry. Who did this boy think he was? Goliath made many angry remarks and put David down. But David answered, "You come with your weapons. I come with the Lord. He will help me win."

David put a stone in his sling. He whirled it around and around and sent the stone flying. It hit Goliath's forehead. When Goliath fell, David used the giant's own sword to kill him. Then the Israelite soldiers shouted and chased after the Philistines. They defeated the Philistines and took all of their things.
DISCUSSION:

How big was Goliath? What weapons did he have? What were David's weapons? What did David have that Goliath did not have? Who helped David win?

It is better to have less with God than more without God. Goliath had the best weapons, but he didn't have God. David had only a shepherd's weapon, but he had God on his side.

Do you have something this week that seems impossible? Don't try to do it alone. Ask God to help you!
Saul's son, Prince Jonathan, was a great warrior. He had once gone with his bodyguard to fight the Philistine army. That's because he knew that God was with him.

Jonathan must have watched with great excitement as David fought Goliath. He must have wondered who this brave young man was. Who was able to defeat a great giant?

When David had finished talking with King Saul, Jonathan came to see him. The two became good friends immediately. David knew, of course, what a great warrior Jonathan was. And Jonathan was learning what a great warrior David was.

Jonathan promised to be like a brother to David. To show David his friendship, Jonathan gave him special gifts. He gave David his own robe, his sword, his bow, and his belt.

DISCUSSION:

How long did it take for David and Jonathan to become best friends?
What did Jonathan give David to show his friendship? Why do you think David and Jonathan became such good friends?
Best friends do things for each other. That's how they show they are best friends.
What things do you like best about your best friends? What do you think they like about you?

DO FOR YOUR BEST FRIENDS WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR BEST FRIENDS TO DO FOR YOU!
Saul becomes jealous of David
1 Samuel 18:5-16

After the Israelite army defeated the Philistines, Saul made David his special helper. David succeeded in everything he did. So King Saul made David a commander in the army. The soldiers liked that, for they all liked David.

The Israelite soldiers went home after David killed Goliath. As they walked along the road, women came out from each town to dance and sing songs of joy. They sang:

"Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"

This made Saul jealous. He became very angry.

Jealousy brought the troubling spirit back to Saul. David played the harp as Saul held a spear in his hand. Suddenly Saul threw the spear at David. He tried to pin David to the wall. But David jumped aside. Saul did this a second time also.

The Lord had left Saul and was with David. So David did everything well. Saul became even more jealous and afraid. He knew that everyone loved David.

DISCUSSION:
Who liked David and who didn’t?
Why was Saul jealous of David?
How did Saul try to hurt David?
Who did Saul hurt more with his jealousy, David or himself?

Jealousy always hurts you more than the other person. If you are jealous of someone, start praising God for that person. Then thank God for what He has done for you. See if that helps you stop being jealous.
Saul became more and more jealous of David. He became so angry that he tried to get his helpers to kill David. He even told his son Jonathan to kill David.

Jonathan warned David about what his father was trying to do. He told David to find a hiding place in a field. Then he promised to talk with his father.

The next morning Jonathan reminded Saul of all the good things David had done. So the king agreed that he would not try to kill David.

Everything was fine for a while. Then war broke out with the Philistines again. David led the army and defeated the Philistines. Of course that made David popular with everyone, and Saul became jealous again.

Just as he had done before, Saul tried to kill David with a spear as David played the harp. David got away, but Saul sent soldiers to kill David. So David had to leave his home.

David had married Saul's daughter, Michal, and she helped David escape. She wrapped blankets around a big idol and put it in David's bed. When the soldiers came to get him, Michal told them David was sick. So the soldiers told Saul that. But Saul demanded that they bring David to him so he could kill him.

The soldiers went back to the house to get David. Then they found out that it was only an idol wrapped up in the bed.

When Saul learned that his daughter had tricked him, he was angry. But Michal lied to her father. "David said he would kill me if I didn't help him," she said.

David escaped from Saul and went to visit Samuel. He told Samuel what King Saul had done. So Samuel took David to live with him.

DISCUSSION:
Who wanted to kill David? Who did not want to see David killed? How did Jonathan help David? How did David's wife help David? Who took David in to live with him?

Saul's jealousy became so bad it made him want to kill David. Jealousy eats away at us until we do foolish and terrible things. If you are jealous of anyone, ask God to take away your jealousy before you hurt someone.
Choosing Our Friends

Jonathan was a good friend to David.

Circle the qualities we want in our friends.

Cross out the qualities we don't want.

- patient
- obedient
- mean

- spiritual
- critical
- complimentary

- loyal
- generous
- dishonest

- selfish
- rebellious
- caring

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Have you ever wanted something so much that it seemed as if you were hungry or thirsty for it? Maybe you wanted someone to care about. Or maybe you wished that someone would care more about you. This psalm tells about someone who was thirsty, but not for something to drink.

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God.
I thirst for God, the living God.
When can I come and stand before Him?

Psalm 42:1-2

DISCUSSION:
Wanting God is like wanting a drink of water when we’re thirsty. It’s like wanting good food when we are hungry.
Do you remember the last time you were really thirsty? How did you feel when you had something good to drink? That’s how it is to thirst for God. When we have spent time with Him, we feel as if we’ve had a nice cool drink of water.

"Please pick up your toys." Can you do it? Of course you can. "Please move the piano to the other room." Can you do it? Of course not! That’s too big. Sometimes you have to do some really big, hard things that seem bigger or harder than moving pianos. Who can help you?

God is my helper.
The Lord is the one who keeps me alive!

Psalm 54:4

DISCUSSION:
When we need a helper for the big things in our lives God is the one! He is our helper for big things and small things.
Do you have a problem that you don’t know how to handle? What is it? Can you do it alone? Why not? Who can help you? Try God. He will help you with big things and small things. But you must ask Him. Do you want to ask Him right now?
Jonathan warns David
1 Samuel 20

David stayed with Samuel for a while. Then he went back to see Jonathan. He told Jonathan that Saul was trying to kill him. Jonathan had not heard about this—he thought his father had promised not to hurt David. Even though Jonathan was Saul's son, he and David were very close friends.

"What can I do to help?" Jonathan asked, for he didn't want David to be hurt.

"I'm going to hide in the field," David said. "People will miss me at the feast tomorrow night, and Saul will ask you about me. Tell your father I've gone to Bethlehem to worship God with my family. If he doesn't get angry, all is well. If he does get angry, you will know he still wants to hurt me."

David and Jonathan agreed on a signal. Two days later David would hide behind a big pile of stones. Jonathan would shoot three arrows and send a boy to get them. If Jonathan told the boy the arrows were close by, that would mean Saul did not want to hurt David. Then David could also stay close by. If Jonathan told the boy the arrows were far away, that would mean Saul wanted to hurt David. Then David would have to go far away.

Saul missed David at the feast the first evening. But he said nothing. The second evening he asked Jonathan about David. When Jonathan said that David had gone to Bethlehem, the king was wild with anger. He shouted at Jonathan and said some terrible things to him. Then Jonathan knew for sure that his father wanted to kill David.

Jonathan went to the place where David was hiding. He shot the arrows and told the boy to run ahead because the arrows were far away. That was the signal to David that Saul really did want to kill him. Then Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to the boy and sent him back home.

David came out from his hiding place behind the pile of stones. He and Jonathan began to cry. They both had promised earlier that they would take care of each other and their families. But for now they had to leave each other. Jonathan went home and David ran away.
DISCUSSION:
How did David and Jonathan plan to learn if Saul wanted to kill David? Jonathan knew that David would be the next king instead of him. But did Jonathan betray or turn against David? Why not? Would you say that Jonathan was a good friend?
A good friend is always a good friend, even when it hurts. Jonathan remained a good friend even when it kept him from becoming king.
Are you a good friend?
David ran away to live in a cave, where he could hide from King Saul. Soon David became the leader of 400 men. Those men wanted to help David stay safe so he could be king someday.

Then David went to Judah for a while. His men went with him. One day David heard that the Philistines had come to the city of Keilah and were stealing grain. David asked the Lord if he should go after the enemy army. God said, "Yes, go to Keilah. I will help you." So David and his men went to the city and saved the people from the Philistines.

Then Saul heard that David was at Keilah. He said, "Now I'll get David, for he is trapped in a city with walls all around it!"

Saul got his army together to fight David and his men. But David learned that Saul was coming. So he prayed, "Dear God, I've heard that Saul is coming to destroy this city because I'm here. Will the people of Keilah give me over to him? Is he really coming? Please tell me."

God said, "He will come. And the people of Keilah will give you over to him." God knew the people would be traitors.

David had about 600 men by now. They all left Keilah and went from place to place. David stayed in the hill country of Ziph, where Saul hunted for him. But God didn't let Saul find David.

One day David heard that Saul was coming to kill him. Jonathan found David and told him to trust God. "Don't be afraid," said Jonathan. "My father won't find you. You are going to be the king of Israel!" The two men agreed as they had before that they would always be friends.

Then the men of Ziph told King Saul where David was hiding. They were traitors. They said, "Come whenever you're ready. We'll catch David and give him to you!"

David went to one side of a mountain while Saul and his men came to the other side. Before he could close in on David, Saul got a message that the Philistines were in Israel again. So he had to go back home to fight them.
DISCUSSION: What did David do to help the people of Keilah? Who told David to do this? What were these people going to do to David after he helped them? How did Saul's son, Jonathan, show that he was David's friend? Were the people of Ziph David's friends, or were they traitors? What saved David?

Traitors pretend to be friends but will hurt you to help themselves. Some people try to hurt friends or family members and still pretend to be friendly with them. That is being a traitor, isn't it? Nobody trusts a traitor.