

STORY

David and Goliath - I Samuel 17

TEACHER PRAYER

O Lord, You have called me to feed Your precious lambs. What a special privilege You have given me! Be with me as I prepare my lesson. Send me Your Holy Spirit. Help me impress upon my students Your power to deliver and save. You, O Lord, are the Savior of both soul and body. Amen.

VOCABULARY

cubit - the distance from the elbow to the extremity of the middle finger-estimated from 18-21 inches.

armed - "clothed" with scaled body armor

coat of mail - scaled body armor (Goliath's weighed about 150 lbs.)

5000 shekels of bronze - 150 lbs. or more

weaver's beam - 4" to 5" in diameter

600 shekels - 20 lbs. or more

ephah - unit of measure

uncircumcised - heathen, spiritually unclean, an unbeliever

Span - the distance between the extremities of the thumb and the little finger in the outstretched hand- a half cubit

sling - a weapon of ancient times, made of a piece of leather tied to cords and used for hurling stones (slingshot)

OUTER AIM

The Lord enables David to overcome Goliath.

INNER AIM

The Lord is able to deliver and save.

BACKGROUND

((*Rupprecht, Bible History References, Vol. 1, pp. 289-293*))

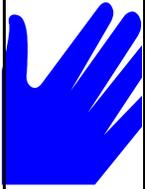
David was a young man when Samuel anointed him to some day be the next king of Israel. A number of years passed before he actually was crowned king. During this time the Lord carefully prepared his servant for what lay ahead. That preparation included his combat with the giant named Goliath. This encounter made David a national hero. Rupprecht estimates David was 18 at his anointing, 21 when he fought Goliath, and 30 when he actually became king.

vs. 1-3 For the Philistines this was a war of revenge. They had been defeated in battle with Israel not long before this. Israel's armies had been led by Saul's son Jonathan. The battle lines were now drawn in an area southwest of Jerusalem.

vs. 4 Goliath was anywhere from 9 feet 9 inches to 11 feet 4 inches tall. He truly was a giant among men! Joshua 11:22 speaks of a race of giants in the days of Joshua. Goliath perhaps was from this same area of Canaan, now under the rule of the Philistines.

vs. 5-7 Goliath was a formidable opponent indeed-strong and tall.

vs. 8-10 Goliath was certain he could easily defeat any one Israelite. He suggested one-on-one combat instead of army against army. If he was victorious, Israel would serve the Philistines. If a man from Israel was victorious, the Philistines would become Israel's servants.



vs. 11 The army of Israel was filled with fear and terror. They did not trust in the Lord who had helped them so often in the past. They feared the worst.

vs. 15 Even though David was Saul's armorbearer, he was not trained for battle. He was often sent home in time of war.

vs. 25 A three-fold reward was offered for anyone who could defeat Goliath.

vs. 26 David here confesses his faith in God.

vs. 33 Saul relied on human reason; he had no faith in God.

vs. 34-37 David displays heroic faith and childlike trust in the Lord and His help. The Lord had delivered him in the past (lion and bear) and would also in the future.

vs. 39 David had no experience in wearing armor combat.

vs. 40 David went out against Goliath armed as a shepherd.

vs. 41-47 Goliath trusted in his false gods and in his own personal strength. David trusted in the one true and living God, not in himself.

vs. 49-50 The Lord granted David the victory and delivered him from the giant Goliath.

STUDENT PRAYER

O dearest Jesus, You have promised that You will be with us always, even unto the end of the world. You are our Lord and Savior. Defend us from our enemies and lead us into all truth. Deliver us from every evil, physical and spiritual. Forgive our frequent lack of faith. Help us to rely upon You more and more in everything. Amen.

PRESENTATION

The Biblical record of David and Goliath is not mere fiction nor a myth. It really happened. It is an historical fact. "The Scriptures cannot be broken." "God's Word is truth." The account is very familiar to most of us.

Much detail is recorded for us to help us appreciate the seriousness of the situation and the miraculous nature of the deliverance. Help the students to realize and visualize the size of Goliath. He truly was a giant among men!

Also impress upon the students that it was the Lord who delivered David, not his skill and cunning with the slingshot.

APPLICATIONS

The Lord was with David. David trusted in the Lord, and the Lord delivered him. David was not tempting the Lord. He firmly believed that the Lord could and would preserve him. We need to pray for the faith and strength to follow David's example.

The faith David displayed was a gift from God. Our faith is a gift from God, too.

David faced a great foe. We face a great foe, too-the devil. Like David, only the Lord can deliver and save us.

Life in this world is filled with trials and tribulations. The Lord can and will deliver us from them all. We can be confident of that.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalm 46:1 - God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present Help in trouble.

Psalm 56:11 - In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do to me.

Psalm 91:10-11 - No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

Psalm 124:8 - Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Matt. 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

I Peter 5:6 - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time.

I Peter 5:7 - Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Middle any of the above and...

Upper any of the above and...

HYMN CHOICES

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (TLH #262)

"Oh, For A Faith That Will Not Shrink" (TLH #396)

"How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints Of The Lord" (TLH #427)

"I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" (TLH #428)

"Jesus, My Truth, My Way" (TLH #433)

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" (TLH #436)

"Who Trusts in God, A Strong Abode" (TLH #437)