

DAVID FIGHTS GOLIATH – WITH GOD ON HIS SIDE

BIG IDEA

Giants come in many shapes and sizes but with God we can face them all.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Gather an assortment of over-sized clothes (a man's big jacket, a pair of men's shoes, a bike helmet or gloves)

Collect two or three smooth pebbles (or large beads) for each child

Gather several felt pens

Find a tape measure

Find a 30cm ruler and a large sheet of newspaper

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

We're going to talk about a giant who was bullying and harassing the children of Israel. One day, a 17-year-old shepherd boy came with provisions from home, to visit his brothers in the army. He asked, "Why don't you stand up and fight that giant?" The brothers were terrified of the giant as they thought that he was too big and scary to take on. But David thought, "No, he is not too big to hit... he is too big to miss!"



David loved God and knew that God had helped him before when he was on his own and no one else was looking (to fight a lion and a bear to save his sheep). He knew that God would help him now to fight the giant Goliath who was mocking God.

David was a very brave hero – even though he was actually just a young teenager.

GAME

BRING OUT THE PILE OF CLOTHES. Explain the challenge. Each child has a turn at trying on the assortment of big clothes. They must then run around a set route in the house, while dressed in the clothes, and finish with a forward roll. Starting with the child with the shortest haircut, parents time each child and write the time they take to finish on a board next to their name.

Now each child must run around the same route again – but this time in their own properly fitting clothes, finishing in the same way with a forward roll. Time each child again – and compare how much faster they can do it in their own clothes! TALK ABOUT how the oversize clothes, because they didn't fit, slowed them down.

Now listen while we read about how David worked out the right way to fight Goliath. It was by using his own unique strengths - those ways that God had taught him in the past - and not by using weapons and armour.

READ

“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 nearly three meters tall. He wore a bronze helmet and bronze leggings. His metal coat weighed over 56 kg. He carried a heavy sword with 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 was doubtful. “That giant has been a great warrior for many years.”

But David kept asking to fight Goliath. At last Saul agreed and put his own armour on David. But David didn’t want the bronze helmet and metal coat. It didn’t fit and was too cumbersome.

So 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 into 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.”

1 Samuel 17; The One Year Bible for Children, V. Gilbert Beers, pages 132-133, Tyndale House © 2001

EXPLORE

TAKE THE TAPE MEASURE OUT OF THE BOX.

Goliath was a bully. He made people feel scared by threatening them. He was really tall. How big was Goliath?

Go back and check out how tall he was and measure it out with the tape measure from the Faith Box (nearly three meters).

When Goliath came at him, David didn’t get scared and run away. He went straight at Goliath. He took out a smooth stone from his shepherd’s bag and placed it in the sling. Then he slung it at the giant and hit him squarely in the forehead. Bullies make fun of us, scare us, but with God’s help we can be strong and face them.

NOW TAKE THE SMOOTH STONES OUT OF THE BOX (or large beads) and give two or three to each person.

Saul tried to make David fight with his weapons, but David knew that he had his own strengths. He had practiced these strengths in secret when he was minding his sheep. He knew that he was a good shot, and he knew that God would make him courageous and help him shoot his best the very first time.

We are not going to use our stones in a slingshot, but we are going to think about what strengths we can use when we are in a tough situation or facing a bully.

Using your felt pen write on the stones a word that will help you when you face a 'giant'. A 'giant' might be a hard thing you have to do, or a kid who calls you names or someone who says mean things about you.

David's stone was a mighty weapon after all. It went into Goliath's skull and killed him.

QUESTIONS

What are the special strengths that you can use when you have to face a hard situation or when you meet a bully?

What did you write on your stone?

What strength would you use as your 'weapon' if a bully was calling you names because you are a Christian?

What if a bully was trying to hurt you?

Sometimes when we are brave and show strength it makes other people brave too. If another kid is being bullied we can say, "Hey that's not fair," to the bully.

Then we can say, "Come and play with me," to the kid he is bullying. Often the others will feel embarrassed and be strong enough to stand against the bully too.

If someone is being mean, we can say, "That's a put down – I don't like it!" and walk away. That way we are being strong, but we don't get into a fight with the wrong weapons.

Facing Goliath-sized problems can be scary.

QUESTIONS

Is there anything going on in your life right now where someone is being like a Goliath to you, or to someone that you know?

TAKE SOME TIME TO SHARE ABOUT THIS.

Have you got a plan to deal with it? What might you do? David knew that God had helped him face problems like wild animals when he was a shepherd, so he could trust God to help again. Can you think of a time in the past when God has helped you?

Sometimes it's the one who is weaker who is stronger. David killed the giant with just a sling. Even though everyone saw the same terrifying giant, God had given David a brave heart and he had a different attitude. He had a different perception because he knew that this arrogant giant was challenging God's name.

Take the ruler and newspaper from the Faith Box and place the ruler on a table with 4 centimetres hanging over the edge of the table. Fold the sheet of newspaper to make a double sheet and flatten it over the ruler so the paper lies flat along the table edge.

Do you think you can hit that ruler and make the newspaper go flying? (The children will probably think that they can). Hit the part of the ruler that sticks out over the edge as hard as you can. The paper stays put! The air over the newspaper is pushing down at 15 lbs per square inch of pressure on the paper - that's over a tonne of air pressure! No wonder it wouldn't budge! It's just another example of how things aren't always as they appear.

Goliath thought he was a big, tough man, but he forgot two important things – God is stronger than anything or anyone, and David had God on his side!

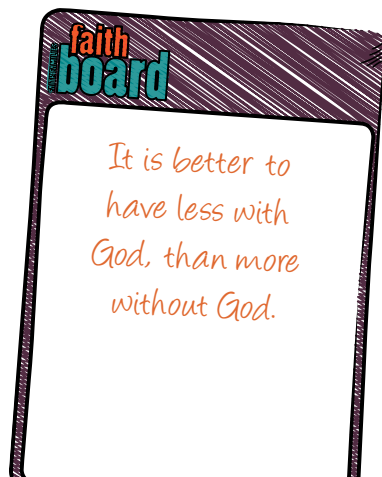
PRAY

Dear God, thank you for being with us when we are scared. We know that you are stronger than anything or anyone. Help us not to be afraid. Remind us that you are always with us and will help us when we ask for your help. Amen.

LIVE

This week at the meal table talk about situations where you have needed to be brave and tried to use the special strengths that God has given you.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 Play 'Slay Goliath'

Take a cardboard cereal box and paste a picture of Goliath on the narrow side (you can easily google a picture of Goliath). You will also need a ping pong ball. Place the Goliath box at one end of a table or on the floor. Have turns trying to bowl Goliath over with the ball.

2 Play a "Duck, Duck, Goose" type game

Children sit in a circle. One child walks around the circle tapping each child on the head saying, "David, David, David." When they say "Goliath," "Goliath" chases them around the circle back to Goliath's old spot. Then Goliath starts, "David, David", etc.

3 Watch VeggieTales "Dave and the Giant Pickle"

