#### Lesson 4:

#### David and Goliath

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

1 Samuel 17

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When I am afraid, I know God is with me, and I don’t have to be afraid.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Review last week’s lesson.

Have you ever tried to do something and then decided you needed help to do it (like moving or lifting something, doing a school project, etc)? Did you ask for help? Sometimes we are afraid or we want to try something new and realize we can’t do it on our own. God is always there to help us. Today we’re going to learn how David turned to God to help him fight a man much larger than he was. He trusted that God would be there to help him, and He was. Let’s see what happened.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Samuel anointed David to be the second king of Israel (to take Saul’s place), but David and his family kept it a secret for awhile. David went back to being a shepherd, taking care of his father Jesse’s sheep.
2. Some time later, the Philistines, enemies of the Israelites, came to attack Saul’s army. The Israelite army stood on one side of a valley (the Valley of Elah), and the Philistine army stood on the other side of the valley. Before the battle began, the Philistines sent a giant in front of their other soldiers to challenge the Israelites. The giant’s name was Goliath.
3. Goliath’s height was “six cubits and a span” (1 Samuel 17:4). A cubit was the length of a man’s forearm, from the elbow to the end of his middle finger; it is usually considered to be about 18–24 inches. A span was half of a cubit—about nine inches. So Goliath was about nine feet and nine inches tall! His armor weighed about 125 pounds. The head of his spear alone weighed about 15 pounds. The shaft of his spear was “like a weaver’s beam,” the heavy wooden tool weavers used to press down threads on a loom.
4. Goliath’s job was to go to the front of the Philistine army every day and taunt the Israelites, daring them to come and fight him before the real battle began. He laughingly said that if one Israelite soldier could defeat him, the Philistines would become their slaves, but if the Philistines defeated the Israelites, the Israelites would have to become their slaves. The Israelites, led by Saul, were very afraid of Goliath and would not fight him (1 Samuel 17:11). They were so afraid that they fled from him (vs. 24). Goliath shouted the same challenge across the valley every morning and evening for 40 days, but not one Israelite soldier stepped forward to fight Goliath.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**How Big Is a**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&amp;article=904)[**Giant?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&amp;article=904)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on the legitimacy of Goliath’s height.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Goliath was from Gath, an important Philistine city on the borders of Israelite territory. The city was one of the strongholds of giants (“Anakim”) that was not destroyed by Joshua’s army many years before (Joshua 11:22). Others in the family of Goliath are mentioned in 2 Samuel 21:15-22 and 1 Chronicles 20:4-8.

1. Meanwhile, recall that David would go to King Saul to play the harp to help calm him at those times when God would allow a “distressing spirit” to come upon him. Periodically, David would return home to feed his father’s sheep (1 Samuel 17:15). On one of those occasions, David’s father Jesse sent him to the battleground to carry food and provisions to David’s three oldest brothers who were in Saul’s army, as well as food to the brothers’ captain. Jesse wanted David to bring back news about his brothers since it had been so long. He was surely worried about his sons.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Did God Send an**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=1278)[**Evil Spirit upon Saul?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=1278)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on the “evil” or “disressing” spirit that came on Saul that is said to have been “from the Lord.”

**NOTE**: Having a monarch was new to God’s people, but they had fought wars for many, many years. The Israelite armies depended on their families for supplies and even had to provide their own weapons. David built up the army, making it a real national army, but Solomon was the king who “modernized” the army, i.e., made it comparable to the armies of other nations.

1. David was a responsible young man, and was sure to leave the sheep with a keeper (1 Samuel 17:20).
2. When David arrived at the battlefield, it looked like the Israelite army and the Philistines were about to do battle. He dropped the supplies off with the supply keeper for the army and ran to the army where he greeted his brothers. Suddenly while David was talking with his brothers, the giant Goliath came out to make his daily challenge. When David heard this loud giant, he was ashamed and amazed that not a single Israelite man had stepped forward to fight him. David was even more ashamed that the Israelites ran away when they heard Goliath’s shouting across the valley. David started asking the other soldiers why no one had done anything. “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (1 Samuel 17:26).
3. David’s oldest brother, Eliab, rebuked David, probably for shaming him and the other men for not having the courage to fight Goliath. Eliab incorrectly accused David of being irresponsible in leaving the sheep unattended, as well as being prideful or presumptuous, apparently because he thought David did not have permission to leave the sheep. David had left the supplies from his father with the supply keeper away from the army before coming to meet his brothers (1 Samuel 17:22). So Eliab would not have necessarily known that David came to the battle under his father’s orders. Instead, Eliab, assuming the worst, asked David why he came to the battle, and accused David of sneaking off without permission just because he wanted to “come down to see the battle” (1 Samuel 17:28). David responded by asking Eliab, “Is there not a cause?” Did he not have justifiable reasons for coming and asking his questions? Did David’s brothers and their fellow soldiers not need supplies? Was it not appropriate for David to question the soldiers as to why they would allow Goliath to defy God and His army?
4. Saul heard about this young man’s comments about Goliath, he sent for him, and David told King Saul that he would fight Goliath. King Saul tried to discourage him from trying to fight Goliath, since David was young, and Goliath had been a warrior for many years. David responded by telling Saul that God had helped him save his sheep from bears and lions, even being able to grab the chin of a lion, kill it, and rescue a lamb from its mouth. David knew that God would help him to defeat Goliath as well.
5. Saul tried to give David his own armor to wear, but David refused to wear it since he had not tested or practiced with the armor. David was very sure that God would help him defeat Goliath, even without armor. David went to the brook and got five smooth stones, and then started toward the valley with only his shepherd’s staff (1 Samuel 17:40), his sling, and the stones that he had picked up from the creek bed and put into his shepherd’s bag.
6. When he went out to face Goliath, surely many of the Israelites thought David was foolish, and the Philistines would have laughed at him. Goliath called him names and cursed him. Seeing David’s staff, but no sword, he said, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” Then he told David he would kill him and feed his dead body to the birds and beasts of the field. But David was not afraid and and did not back down because he was laughed at. He shouted, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand… for the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.” So Goliath began coming toward David, and David ran toward Goliath. Using a single stone and his sling, David launched the stone at Goliath’s head, and defeated the giant.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**How Did Goliath**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=5039)[**Die?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=5039)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on an alleged discrepancy regarding how Goliath died. See the article “[**Who Killed Goliath?**](http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=752)” by Joe Deweese for a study on alleged discrepancies regarding who actually killed Goliath.

1. Because of David’s great demonstration of faith that day, the Israelites believed that they, too, could defeat their enemies. When the Philistines saw that Goliath, their hero, was dead, they all ran away. The Israelites chased after them for many miles. [Go into as much detail about Goliath’s death as is appropriate for your class.]

**NOTE**: Stones used with slings were usually round and may have been the size of a baseball. It has been estimated that a skilled shepherd could sling a stone as fast as 100 miles per hour!

1. David did not trust in his weapons; they were shepherd’s weapons, not the heavy, powerful weapons of a soldier. His didn’t trust in himself because he knew he was young and much smaller than the giant. He had fought battles against wild animals in the fields without an audience of thousands. Facing Goliath was an even greater physical and spiritual challenge. But he knew God could and would do anything for His people.
2. From this point on, the Israelites treated David as a great hero, but he was careful to give the glory for their victory to God. [He unassumingly referred to himself, in 1 Samuel 17:58, as “the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”]

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**Did Saul Know**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/AllegedDiscrepancies.aspx?article=807)[**David Prior to Goliath’s Death?**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/AllegedDiscrepancies.aspx?article=807)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on an alleged discrepancy

1. Almost every day we have to face things that are very hard (challenges to our faith). We have to decide if we will trust in ourselves, in other people, or in God. There are plenty of people to discourage us. David’s own brothers did not believe in him. King Saul tried to discourage him. What is important is that we believe we can do great things for God if we trust Him.

**NOTE**: We do not know David’s age at this time, but he most certainly was **not** a “little boy” as some of the children’s songs indicate. Saul called him a “young man” in 1 Samuel 17:56. He was at least in his late teens since he cared for his father’s sheep alone and had the physical strength to fight off a lion and a bear! He was old enough to take a wife and physically able to fight 200 Philistines shortly after he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 18:2-29).

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces,

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “04” in the Visuals Folder

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“David”**

Author: Unknown\* (Tune: See Internet)

There once was a boy named David, Down by a babbling brook; Only a boy named David,

And five little stones he took.

One little stone went in the sling, And the sling went round and round, And one little stone went in the sling, And the sling went round and round.

And round and round and round and round, And round and round and round!

One littlestone went up, up, up, And the giant came tumbling down.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

Note: There are several ideas on the internet and in books for this lesson. Feel free to use your own ideas. If you have an awesome idea for this lesson that you would like to save be sure to write it down in the space at the end of the lesson. Please add the url if directions or pictures are on the internet.

* Make a Sling – A rectangular piece of felt and strips of leather (available in the craft section of Wal-Mart or Hobby Lobby can be used to make a basic sling. Demonstrate to the students how David would have used the sling against Goliath.
* Make a pouch to carry rocks –

To create this David and Goliath craft for preschool children, the following items are needed:

* + 1 Circle (8") of brown or black felt
	+ 2 strands of yarn or lacing (approximately 16" long)
	+ 5 Small, round stones or air dry clay or pom poms for pretend stones.

1. Lay the circle flat and show the child how to weave a piece of string into the first hole. Continue the process of weaving in and out all the way around the circle until the two sections meet.

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2. Help the child repeat the same process with the other piece of string. Start from the opposite side of the circle and weave back into the same holes again. 

3. Tie the ends of each side together to form a draw string.

4.Place the stones in the center of the pouch and pull the strings to close it.

### Wednesday

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* David and Goliath Sticker Scene – Oriental Trading Sells a sticker scene for this story. There may be leftovers of this in the lesson file.
* Goliath Toss Review Game – Print off a Goliath Head. Attach him to the dry erase board. Ask the students a review question. If they get it right let the student try to hit Goliath in the head with a bean bag. There is a corn hole game in the teacher work room if you need bean bags.
* Large Goliath Puzzle – In the lesson file are several print outs on cardstock. When put together these make a life size Goliath. If two tables are together it might be possible to do this at the table, otherwise it needs to be a floor puzzle.
* Kings of Israel Review Game. – Add the new card for this lesson and review all others
	+ Defeated the giant, Goliath

Review Questions

1. What did David do as a job while Saul was still king?
	1. He was a shepherd.
2. Who attacked Israel?
	1. The Philistines
3. Who was the Philistine giant who dared the Israelites to fight him?
	1. Goliath
4. What did Goliath say would happen if anyone could beat him in a fight?
	1. The Philistines would be Israel’s slaves.
5. How tall was Goliath?
	1. Six cubits and a span—about nine feet, nine inches
6. How much did Goliath’s armor weigh?
	1. 125 pounds
7. Who accepted Goliath’s challenge to fight?
	1. David
8. What weapons did David bring to the fight?
	1. A sling and five stones
9. How did David kill Goliath?
	1. With the help of God, he hit him in the head with a stone from his sling.
10. What does David’s faith in this story show us?
	1. That if we trust in God, He will help us

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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