

David and Goliath

MEMORY VERSE: You come to me with a sword, I come in the name of the Lord." 1 Samuel 17:45

SCRIPTURES: 1 Samuel 17

AiM: To teach that God will do great things for us if we trust Him.

The Philistines and the Israelites were getting ready to fight each other. They faced each other on opposite mountains. Between them was a great valley. On one mountain the Philistines put up their tents. On the opposite mountain the Israelites put up their tents. But they didn't start to fight right away. Instead the Philistines sent a giant named Goliath to challenge the Israelites.

This giant was nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet and a coat of armor that weighed two hundred pounds. He carried a thick javelin and a twenty five pound iron spearhead. And to protect him even more a man walked ahead of him with a huge shield.

Goliath, in his big, loud voice shouted, "Send a man who will fight with me. We don't need a whole army to do the fighting. If your man is killed I win and you will be our slaves. If he kills me we will be your slaves."

For forty days both morning and evening the giant strutted before the people and shouted in a mighty voice, "Send a man who will fight with me."

But no one wanted to fight with him. They said, "He is too tall, too strong and too mean." And they were too frightened to fight.

But there was someone who wasn't afraid to fight the giant. It was David, the shepherd boy.

David was at home taking care of his father's sheep. Three of David's brothers were in Saul's army and David's father said, "I want to know how they are getting along."

So he decided to send David to find out. The next morning David started for the army camp. He knew King Saul because he had worked at the palace. King Saul's soldiers looked like they were ready for battle, but each time they heard the thunderous voice, they began to run away.

Then David saw the giant that everyone was afraid of.

"Have you noticed how tall and strong he is?" said one of the soldiers.

Another soldier said, "Have you heard of the huge reward the king will give to the one who kills the giant? One of his daughters will become the hero's wife and the king will pay all of the family's taxes besides."

"Who is this man who is allowed to talk against the armies of the living God?" David asked several of the soldiers.

Then he said to other soldiers, "Why should this wicked Philistine bother us? I will go out and kill him." When his brothers heard David talking like this, they were angry with him. They said, "What are you doing here? Go home and take care of the sheep."

David didn't pay any attention to what his brothers said. He knew he wasn't doing anything wrong.

One of the soldiers told the king that David was not afraid to fight the giant and the king sent for David.

David said to the king, "No one needs to be afraid of Goliath. I will fight him."

"Don't be ridiculous," said Saul. "How can a boy like you fight a giant like him?"

"But I can," David insisted. "I've killed lions and bears who tried to steal my sheep and the Lord Who saved me from them will save me from this giant."

"All right," Saul finally said. "And may the Lord be with you."

David was wearing the clothes of a shepherd, so Saul gave him his own armor. But it was much too big and heavy. "I can't wear these," said David. And he took them off.

Then David picked up five smooth stones from a stream. He put these in his shepherd's bag. As he walked along to meet the giant, he took out his sling.

Goliath couldn't believe what he saw when David came to fight him.

"Am I a dog?" he roared. "You come at me with a stick!" Then he swore at David using the names of his gods. "Come on over here and I'll kill you and my people will win."

David wasn't afraid. He shouted to the giant, "You come with a sword and spear but I come to you in the Name of the Lord of the armies of heaven and of Israel, the very God you don't believe in!"

Then David continued, "He will give me victory so that all may know that He is the true God!"

David ran to meet Goliath. He reached into his shepherd's bag and took out a stone. Then he hurled it from his sling and hit the giant right in the forehead!

Goliath fell down to the ground with a great thud. David ran up, seized Goliath's own sword and killed him with it.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they dropped everything and ran away as fast as they could go. Saul's army chased after them and captured many and took their belongings they had left behind.

The Israelites shouted for joy! God had delivered them from the fierce Philistines.

Goliath didn't realize that in fighting David, he was also fighting God. But David trusted God to help him.