

LESSON 11

DAVID AND GOLIATH

I Samuel 17

Readings CD 1, Track 12

**The Lord, who delivered me from the paw
of the lion and from the paw of the bear,
He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**

I Samuel 17:37

The Philistines had been enemies of Israel for a long time. The Israelites had demanded a king, to lead them in battle against their enemies. Their first king, Saul, was tall and strong; they were sure he would rid them of the Philistines. But the Philistines continued to cause trouble throughout the reign of Saul.

Do you remember why Saul was never able to defeat the Philistines?

Another war with the Philistines

The people of Israel were again at war with the Philistines. Saul's army was camped between Suchoh and Azekah, on the side of a valley in the hilly country of Judah. The Philistine army was camped on the hills on the other side of the valley. Between the two armies was a meadow with a stream running through it.

Goliath

As the Israelites watched from above the meadow, a giant of a man came out from the Philistine camp. He was almost ten feet tall! He wore a bronze helmet, a heavy coat of chain mail weighing five thousand shekels of bronze (about 125 pounds), and bronze armor on his legs. He carried a javelin and an enormous spear—the shaft was as thick as the beam on a weaving loom, and the spearhead weighed six hundred shekels (about 15 pounds). No ordinary person could carry all that weight! A shield-bearer went ahead of him to hold up a shield.



Goliath called out a challenge to the Israelites:

**Choose a man for yourselves and
let him come down to me.**

(I Samuel 17:8)

Goliath announced that if he killed the man the Israelites chose, the people of Israel would serve the Philistines. However, if the Israelite killed Goliath, the Philistines would serve the Israelites. The Israelites were dismayed and afraid.

Would you volunteer to go out alone against such a strong opponent? Nobody in Saul's army was brave enough. Goliath repeated his challenge every morning and every evening for forty days.

Why do you think he had to repeat this challenge for so many days?

David arrives at the camp

Then one day, David came to the camp. His three oldest brothers were in Saul's army, and their father sent David with gifts of corn, bread, and cheese to find out how they were doing. Jesse expected David to hurry home again with news of his sons. It did not work out that way. The Lord had a different plan for David.

As he talked with his brothers, David heard Goliath shouting his challenge. Everyone was afraid, except David. He said to Saul:

Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

(I Samuel 17:32)

Saul must have been astonished! David was just a young boy, but was willing to do what neither Saul, nor any of his soldiers, was willing to do. David convinced Saul by telling him about the times that he had saved his father's sheep from the attacks of wild animals. Goliath might be strong and mighty, but David was not afraid—he had already overpowered strong lions and bears. The Lord used David's simple duty of caring for sheep to prepare him to fight Goliath.

The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.

(I Samuel 17:37)



David's weapons

Saul put his own armor on David, and gave him his sword, but David was not used to such heavy and cumbersome equipment. He took them off. Instead, he chose his own weapons.

He took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them...in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand.

(I Samuel 17:40)

David was used to using a sling. Shepherds used slings to guide their sheep by throwing stones on one side or the other. They were so good that they could hit a sheep either on its

right ear or on its left. Knowing this, you can understand that a sling was a much better weapon for David than a sword and shield that he had never used before.

What a contrast between David and Goliath! Picture the two opponents—the simple shepherd boy and the mighty warrior. Picture the details of their size, their clothing, and their weapons.

Goliath was insulted. He had challenged the Israelites to send him their best warrior, and here, coming towards him, was a young man with no armor and no weapons, at least nothing that looked like a weapon to Goliath.

Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?

(I Samuel 17:43)

David's reply shows you the reason for his strength. David did not rely on weapons; he always put his faith in the Lord.

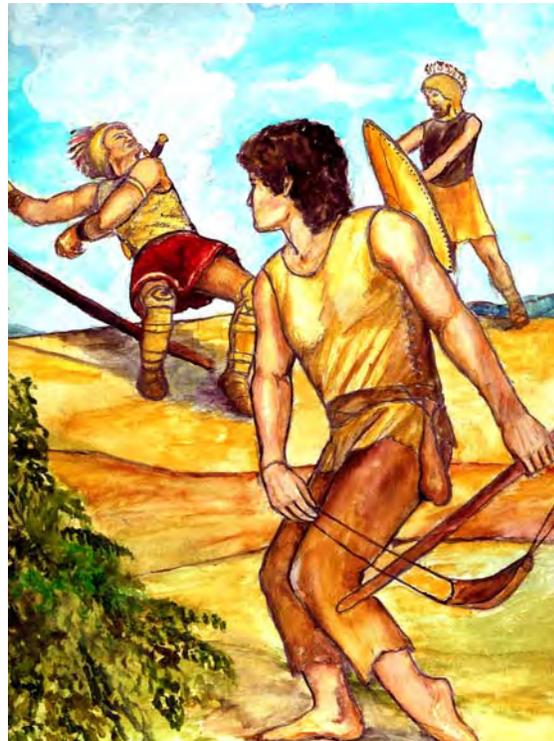
You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel.

(I Samuel 17:45)

David slays Goliath

What happened next is one of the best known stories in the Word. Goliath headed towards David, covered in armor from his head to his feet, with his armor-bearer holding his shield in front of him.

Imagine if young David had tried to run toward Goliath wearing Saul's heavy armor? David had the perfect weapon. As he ran, he took one of the five smooth stones out of his pouch and slung it, hitting Goliath right in the middle of the forehead. Goliath fell on his face to the earth. David ran and stood over him, drew Goliath's sword from its sheath and cut off his head. David overcame Goliath, not by his own strength, but because he trusted in the Lord. He used the Lord's weapons.



When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. The soldiers of Israel shouted and chased them all the way out of the valley.

You can be “David”

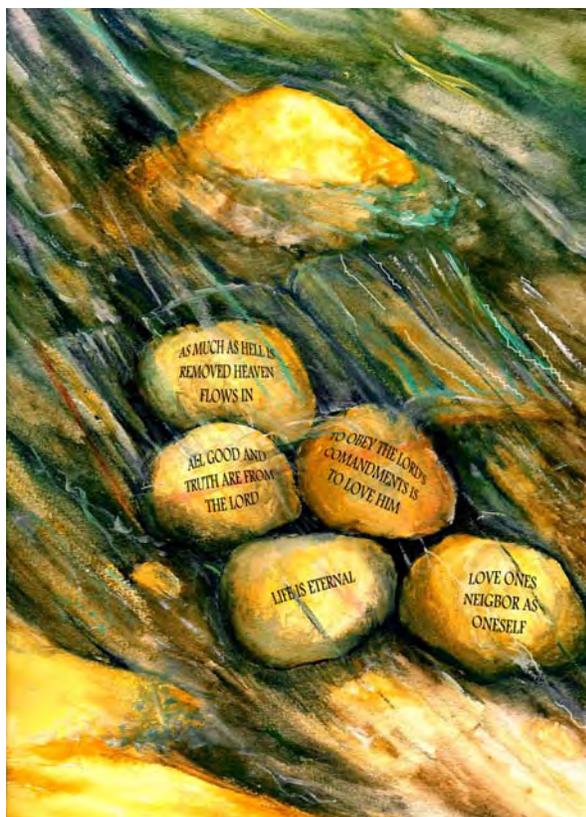
Have you ever had to do something that seemed big and difficult? Did you feel like your abilities were too puny to deal with it? Did you feel like David facing Goliath? You will have to face Goliath many times in your life—times when you will need to trust the Lord to help you deal with big problems.

The most important “Goliaths” for you to defeat will be the ones that come from evil spirits that attack you on the inside. When we give in to selfishness it can be like a big giant getting control inside of us. We can start feeling that we are more important than others, always wanting to have our own way. It seems *very* difficult, perhaps impossible, not to feel this way.

Another giant makes us think that we have all the answers and do not need to listen to someone else. And, like Goliath hiding behind his armor, we may want to hide behind arguments that tell us that what we are thinking is all right.

If we find ourselves feeling a problem is too big to be overcome, it is time to collect some “smooth stones” from the river of truth, the Lord’s Word.

Think of a simple truth that the Lord teaches. Consider the ones pictured here. They are the stones in your sling. The Ten Commandments are especially powerful. “**You shall not...**” can give you the strength to resist something that is wrong, no matter how much you want to do it. Remember, David defeated Goliath with one small stone.



ACTIVITIES

LESSON 11: DAVID AND GOLIATH

1. LEARN THE RECITATION

The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.

I Samuel 17:37

2. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

3. JOURNAL ACTIVITY

- a. The slaying of Goliath was an amazing event. The news of David's victory spread far and wide.
- b. Imagine you are an ancient newspaper reporter. Write a brief account of the momentous event. Remember to come up with a catchy title and answer the five w's: when, where, what, why, who.

4. YOUR BOOK OF STORIES – THE LORD AS A KING

- Add a page to the book you are making.
- **Picture:** Draw a picture of David approaching Goliath.
- **Calligraphy Quote:** "I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

5. DO NOT BE AFRAID

- Take comfort from the Lord's Word in times of trouble. Match the beginning of each quote with the end.

6. FIVE SMOOTH STONES

The stone which stunned Goliath was taken from a brook. It was smoothed from many years of tumbling in the water. Stones stand for the Lord's truth when they are hard and strong. Follow the directions on the page as you learn some new truths from the Word.

7. MAKING A SLING

- Have fun constructing a sling and then record the information about your attempt. If you have difficulty getting it to work, ask for some help from a parent, a sibling or a friend.

8. BRINGING THE LESSON INTO YOUR LIFE – “FEAR NO EVIL”

- David was not afraid of Goliath because he knew that the Lord was with him. Whenever we are battling against our evil thoughts and feelings the Lord is with us as well.
- When we have trust in the Lord we need fear no enemies within or without. The Lord is always taking care of our spirit so that we can have the opportunity to be happy in heaven for all eternity.
- If you feel sad, alone, or angry this week remember that the Lord can help you conquer these feelings, just as he helped David conquer Goliath. Be bold and courageous. Resist those Philistine spirits that are attacking using this week’s recitation from the Word.

**HE WILL DELIVER ME FROM
THE HANDS OF TH PHILSTINE!**

QUESTIONS

Lesson 11: David and Goliath

Use several complete sentences to answer the following questions:

1. Describe what Goliath looked like and where he came from.
2. Briefly describe the relationship between the Philistines and the Israelites.
3. What might Saul have been thinking when David offered to fight against Goliath?
4. What gave David confidence as he prepared to fight against Goliath?

Do Not Be Afraid

Lesson 11: David and Goliath

Although David was fighting someone much bigger than him, he was not afraid. The Lord tells us not to be afraid in His Word many times. Try to match the beginning of the passage with the end. You may use the reference if you need a hint.

I will not be afraid of ten...

I will fear no evil.
Psalm 23:4

Do not be afraid or dismayed...

...thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.
Psalm 3:6

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue...

For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...

Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame.
Isaiah 54:4

Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed...

Do not be afraid; only believe.
Mark 5:36

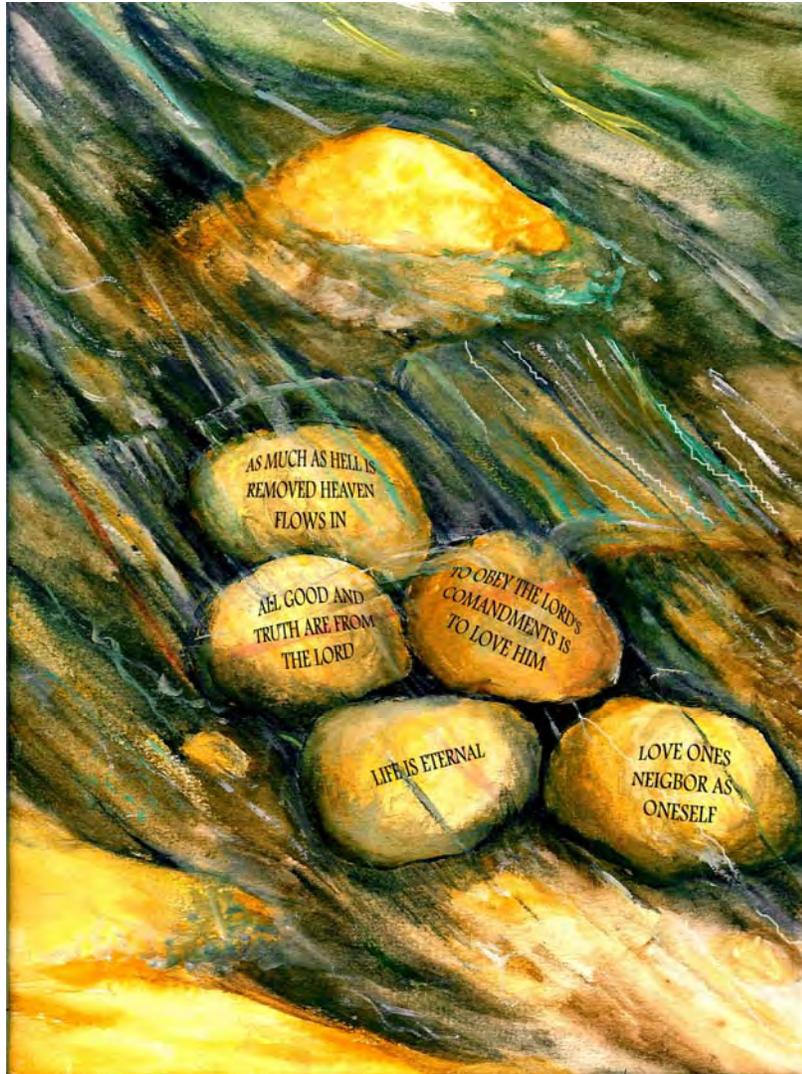
"Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him," says the Lord...

For I am with you, to save you and deliver you from his hand.
Jeremiah 42:11

Five Smooth Stones

Lesson 11: David and Goliath

The Lord gives us truths to use in our fight against evil, just as David used five smooth stones in his fight against Goliath. Look at the picture below and read the truths written on each of the stones.



Find a smooth round stone to remind you of the Lord's truth. You might look in a creek or on a lake shore. You can also find polished stones in craft stores. Choose a truth that the Lord teaches in His Word and write it on the stone using a fine tip permanent marker (be careful not to smear it). Keep the stone in a special place to remind you of David's fight against Goliath and the power of the Lord's truth.

Making a Sling

Lesson 11: David and Goliath

Slings are one of the oldest weapons. They are very simple in design, but difficult to master. Try constructing a sling and using it (outside). Use the following suggestions or create your own.

A sling consists of a central pouch which holds the object to be slung. Lengths of string, cloth, elastic, etc. on either side provide handles. With the object in the pouch and holding both ends of the handles, swing the sling in circles. When you are ready to release the object, let go of one of the handles.

- Use cloth for the pouch and string for the handles.
- Use a single long piece of cloth, using the ends for handles.
- Fold heavy paper to make a pouch, then attach string handles.
- Use a leg from an old pair of nylons or pantyhose using the ends for handles.



Describe your experience making and using a sling:

Materials used: _____

Distance (What was your furthest cast?): _____

Accuracy (Could you hit a target): _____

LESSON 11

DAVID AND GOLIATH

I Samuel 17

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

- Goliath challenges the Israelites to choose someone to fight him.
- He offers this challenge every morning and evening for forty days.
- David hears the challenge and takes it up.
- He chooses a sling shot and five smooth stones as his weapon.
- David stuns Goliath with the stone and then cuts off his head.
- The Philistines flee.



THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

Goliath pictures our most selfish loves, especially the pride in our own intelligence. He embodies the belief that we can conquer temptations without the Lord and His Word. As a Philistine he stood for the evils and falsities of a church which has turned away from the Lord.

David pictures a belief in the Lord and a willingness to be led by Him. Instead of armor and a sword, he used five smooth stones to conquer the giant. When stones are mentioned in the Word, they often stand for truths from the Word. David took them from a brook where they had been smoothed by the tumbling of the water which stands for truths of faith.

David could conquer Goliath because of his faith in the Lord. The smooth stone could stun Goliath just as the truths from the Word can help us fight against evil influences in our lives. David's final act in this lesson was to take Goliath's own sword—the symbol of truth fighting against falsity—and cut off Goliath's head. Though it is love that calls us to fight against evil, it is the truth that enables us to do so.

- ◆ The most powerful weapon against evil influences we can give our children is a belief in and understanding of the Lord's Word. Each time we share the Word with them, we help the Lord instill an affection for it.
- ◆ When possible, it is useful for our children to see us go to the Word, or hear us use a quotation from the Word when we need help with a problem.

FROM THE WORD

Those who believe that their own intelligence can enable them to acquire knowledge about God, heaven and hell, and the spiritual ideas relating to the church, are unaware that the natural man considered in himself is opposed to the spiritual man; and consequently he wants to root out or entangle in fallacies the spiritual ideas which enter his mind. They are as self-confident as Goliath, little foreseeing that, like him, they could be laid low by a sling-stone striking their forehead.

(True Christian Religion 276)

Power was given to David to smite the lion and the bear that took away the sheep from the flock, because "David" represented the Lord in reference to Divine truth in which those who are of His church are instructed; and a "lion" signifies the power of spiritual Divine truth, and in the contrary sense, as here, the power of infernal falsity against Divine truth; while a "bear" signifies the power of natural Divine truth, and in the contrary sense the power of falsity against that truth. But "a sheep from the flock" signifies those who are of the Lord's church.

(Apocalypse Explained 781)

The case with the Philistines was the same as with all the nations in the land of Canaan, in that they represented the goods and truths of the church, and also evils and falsities. For while the representative Ancient Church was among them, they represented the celestial things which are of good and the spiritual things which are of truth; but when they turned aside from genuine representative worship, they then began to represent the diabolical things which are of evil and the infernal things which are of falsity.

(Arcana Coelestia 9340)

HELPING YOUR CHILD

Help your child get ready to listen to the story from the Word

- ❖ If you have a smooth stone (such as river rock which can be purchased at a garden store), ask your child to feel it, hold it and then describe its qualities.
- ❖ With your child, list the stories they can remember that have giants in them. Then have your child tell you the qualities of those giants and the types of actions they engaged in. If the giants in the stories were conquered, discuss the ways in which this occurred.
- ❖ Ask your child what they remember about the Philistines from previous lessons and stories from the Word.

Listen to the CD

- ❖ Remind your child to find *I Samuel 17* in the Word before turning on the CD. (If you do not have the CD, read the portion from the Word together.)



Encourage your child to follow along with the reading in a copy of the Word.

Ideas to discuss together

- ❖ How big was Goliath compared to you? Your parents? Your siblings?
- ❖ How many times did Goliath challenge the Israelites? (80 times, 40 days) What other stories in the Word do you remember in which the number 40 is mentioned? (Noah and the flood, years in the wilderness)
- ❖ When David took off Saul's armor he said, "I cannot walk in these, for I have not tested the." What do you think this means?
- ❖ Why would David have taken Goliath's head to Saul? (Proof of the deed, sign of his willingness to serve Saul, or???)

Work in the Student Activity Book

- ❖ Your child should now read the lesson in the Student Activity Book. You may wish to read with your child sometimes.

Activities

1. LEARN THE RECITATION I Samuel 17:37

2. ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

Sample answers:

1. Goliath was a huge man of the Philistines. He was almost ten feet tall. His armor and weapons would have been far too big and heavy for a regular person.
2. The Philistines and Israelites were enemies. They had fought each other many times. Once the Philistines stole the Ark of the Covenant from Israel.
3. Saul might have been thinking that David did not have a chance against Goliath, but that he had no other options than to let him try because no one else in his army was willing to fight.
4. David's confidence came from the Lord. David knew that the Lord would be with him, just as He had been when David fought the lion and the bear.

3. JOURNAL ACTIVITY

It may help your child to tell the story of David and Goliath to someone before turning it into a news story. Ask them about the who, why, what, where, and when before they start writing.

4. BOOK OF STORIES

Talk to your child about scale before they draw the picture of David approaching Goliath. Goliath was 6 ½ cubits or about 9 ½ feet tall. How tall was David? Probably between 5 ½ and 6 feet, making him less than two-thirds Goliath's height. See if your child can think of a way to make his or her drawing accurately reflect this scale.

5. DO NOT BE AFRAID

- 1) Psalm 3:6
- 2) Joshua 1:9
- 3) Mark 5:36
- 4) Psalm 23:4
- 5) Isaiah 54:4
- 6) Jeremiah 42:11

6. FIVE SMOOTH STONES

Help your child follow the directions on the page as he or she learns some of the special truths from the Lord's Word.

You may want to have other members in the family find stones and put quotes from the Word on them. Or your child could make a stone for each member of the family as gifts.



7. MAKING A SLING

Help your child gather the necessary materials or suggest alternatives. You may want to send your child outside for any attempts with the sling. Remind them use care and to record their results.

8. BRINGING THE LESSON INTO YOUR LIFE – FEAR NO EVIL

- ✘ It may be beyond children to realize that the evils they must fight are present within themselves through evil spirits. David and Goliath both represent something within us, not without.
- ✘ However, learning to trust the Lord in situations of external fear as a child will hopefully lead to trusting Him as an adult when fear may accompany the internal battle between good and evil.