

## Family Lesson 34

**Principle:** God fights our battles. He gives us courage.

**Bible Character(s):** David

**Scripture Reference:** 1 Samuel 17

### Family Worship

Gather your family and play the worship video found on the Curriculum Resource page! Have fun, sing loud, and follow along with the motions!

### Bible Lesson

Today we will continue our study of 1 Samuel. We will learn about how we can respond when we have battles in our life. We do not need to be afraid because God fights our battles for us.

Last week, whom did God reveal to Samuel as the next king of Israel? A young shepherd boy named David. How did God choose David? God did not look at David's outside appearance, but instead at his heart. Why? David's heart was where it needed to be for God to choose him to be the next king.

This week we will see how David shows his trust in God for his life. Saul and his army are at battle with the Philistines. David goes out to the battlefield and sees a giant named Goliath taunting Saul and his army.

Let's begin by reading about Goliath in the Bible in 1 Samuel 17 [NLT].

#### **1 Samuel 17:4-7**

*<sup>4</sup> Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!*

*<sup>5</sup> He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. <sup>6</sup> He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. <sup>7</sup> The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.*

Goliath was huge, especially compared to David. He was over nine feet tall! Goliath wore armor that weighed as much as 20 bricks. He was a huge person to wear something that weighed this much! One brick is heavy all on its own. Would you be scared to see someone that big? Would you want to fight someone that big?

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Israel's army responds to Goliath.

#### **1 Samuel 17:24**

*<sup>24</sup> As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright.*

We do not have to face men like Goliath, but we all fear things. Let's think about some of the things we are afraid of.

Ask your child to share some of their fears. We are like the men in the Israelite Army. Sometimes we are afraid to do something or afraid of certain things. God does not want us to be afraid. When we are afraid, we are not trusting that God loves us, that he is all we need, and that he will always take care of us. Let's continue reading the Bible and see if David fears Goliath or trusts in God.

### I Samuel 17:32

<sup>32</sup> “Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!” Saul thought David was too young to kill Goliath. But David told him that God helped him kill lions and bears to protect his father’s sheep. So Saul gave David a chance to fight Goliath.

**David knew God had been faithful to him in the past and that God would continue to be faithful in the future. David trusted God and was not afraid because he had seen how God had loved him in the past.**

As you read through the next passage, have your child close their eyes and try to imagine what they would see or hear as David puts on his armor and goes to battle.

### I Samuel 17:38-50

<sup>38</sup> Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. <sup>39</sup> David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. <sup>40</sup> He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

<sup>41</sup> Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, <sup>42</sup> sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. <sup>43</sup> “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. <sup>44</sup> “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

<sup>45</sup> David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! <sup>47</sup> And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!”

<sup>48</sup> As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

<sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.

That’s a pretty amazing story! David was not afraid of Goliath. He trusted in God. David had courage not because he had the strength to defeat Goliath but because he trusted that God would fight this battle for him. Saul tried to dress David in his armor and have him fight Goliath the way Saul and his army would fight, but David did not do this. David trusted God and knew that God would beat Goliath, and he did! David gave God the credit and the glory for the victory.

### Activity

#### Fear and Trust

The purpose is to see that we do not have to be afraid.

#### Supplies:

Plain sheet of white paper (1 per child)

Printed set of three verses from the resource page (1 per child)

Talk through each fear your child mentioned earlier and what it would look like to trust God instead of fearing these things. Focus on God's sovereignty and love as you look at these fears. God does not promise that our situation will change or that things will always be great, but he does promise us love, joy, peace and eternal life with him.

Tell your child to draw a picture of something they're afraid of. As they are drawing, give them a set of verses. Have them cut the verses out and glue each verse on top of the picture. Go over the verses, and talk about how God can help them with their fear(s).

**God wants us to trust him. The fears you have drawn pictures of are not from God. How can we trust God with these fears? Does it help to read these verses and know that God is always with us? 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." He has given us love, peace, and power—not fear.**

### Optional Additional Activities

These activities can be used as part of the lesson or at a different time throughout the week to help you and your child apply the lesson content.

#### Stones

The purpose is to remember to trust God when we are scared.

#### Supplies:

Stones (1 per child)  
Sharpie

Have each camper write a verse reference from the previous activity on a stone and serve as a reminder to trust God when we are scared.

**You can use this stone as a reminder that we don't need to fear; we can trust God with our lives and step out in courage to follow him. Let's think through different times that this stone might help us to remember to trust instead of fear.**

#### God's Power

The purpose is for the campers to understand how David needed God to come through for him.

#### Supplies:

Piece of paper with an X on it  
Nail, tack, or tape for attaching to wall or tree  
A few paper wads

Use a marker to draw an "X" on the piece of paper. As you hang the piece of paper high on the wall, door frame, or tree, talk to your child about Goliath's size and stature—he was over nine feet tall and very intimidating (scary, strong, and skilled). Tell your child to stand on the other side of the room or outside and try to hit the "X" pretending it's Goliath's head using the paper wad as a "stone."

**How hard was it to actually hit the "X"? (Allow responses.) It was nearly impossible for David to hit Goliath in the exact spot on Goliath's forehead to knock him down dead. It was God's power that beat Goliath, not David's. David could not have defeated Goliath on his own.**

#### Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer with your family. Thank God that we do not have to be afraid; we can trust him with the things we are afraid of. Pray specifically for the fears listed on the fear poster.

