



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Will Always Be Victorious

SCRIPTURE: [1 Samuel 17](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Joshua 1:9](#)

Is there any story in Scripture that is more well-known than David and Goliath?

A Google search of those names offers more than 24 million results. The story is a staple of kids ministry curricula, the subject of many Hollywood movies, and the phrase “David vs. Goliath” is a longtime fixture in our sports lexicon for describing a contest between a significant underdog and an overwhelming favorite.

Yet do we know the true meaning of the story? If we stop at the remarkable courage of a plucky young shepherd boy, we’ve missed the mark.

As you read [1 Samuel 17](#) this week, consider the real hero of the story. Even David knew the victory over Goliath wasn’t ultimately his own. Before slinging that famous stone, he declared, “This day the Lord will give me the victory over you. ... The battle belongs to the Lord. He will hand all of you over to us” ([1 Samuel 17:46–47](#)).

God will always be victorious, and all the glory is His. Christ has already conquered our greatest enemies—sin, Satan, and death—through His death and resurrection. And if “God did not spare his own Son. ... Then won’t he also freely give us everything else?” ([Romans 8:32](#)). Indeed, He will.

This week, in whatever challenges you might face, rejoice in the God who fights for His people: He is always victorious!

—**Josh Cooley**

Children’s Minister and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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DAVID AND GOLIATH

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

David, a lowly shepherd, was described as a man after God's own heart. He was anointed the second king of Israel by Samuel the prophet after God rejected King Saul for disobedience. Goliath was a Philistine warrior from Gath who stood over nine feet tall.

WHAT?

Goliath challenged any willing Israelite to single combat to decide a battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. While visiting his brothers to bring supplies, David accepted the challenge, trusting God's power to win any battle. David killed Goliath with a sling and a stone.

WHERE?

Philistine territory lay along the Mediterranean coast, west of the Dead Sea. The battle took place between two cities on the eastern side of the Valley of Elah, which lay between Philistine territory and the Judean hill country. Bethlehem was 15 miles east of Elah.

WHEN?

First Samuel recounts the beginning of the monarchy after the time of the judges. David had recently been anointed the second king of Israel when he faced Goliath, though King Saul was still on the throne. David served as one of Saul's armor-bearers.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

David triumphed despite seemingly impossible odds because of God's power. Such victories point to the even greater victory of the cross, where a power greater than death itself arrived on the scene through Jesus, a descendant of David. Now death is swallowed up in victory!



Curiosity

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Curiosity Activity: Measure Me

SUPPLIES: butcher paper (at least 9'), painter's tape, measuring tapes, rulers, yardsticks, writing utensils

In our story today, we're going to hear about someone who was very, very tall and someone else who was much shorter! We can use measuring tapes, rulers, and yardsticks to measure how tall someone is. Let's see how tall you are. Then, we will see if we can measure nine feet, which is the height of the person in our story today!

Tape a long piece of butcher paper to the wall. Have kids take turns standing up against it. Mark each kid's height. Measure 9 feet and mark it on the paper. Then compare the kids' height to the 9 foot marking. Then, let them use measuring tapes, rulers, and yardsticks to measure each other. Before moving on, use a measuring tape to show the kids how tall nine feet is. You can even draw an outline of a person who is 9 feet tall and hang it on the wall for a visual during the story.

Leader Tip: This activity can also be done by laying the butcher paper out on the floor.



Belief

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that You're victorious! We can't wait to hear Your Word today and learn about Your power. We invite Your Holy Spirit to help us hear from You and show us that, with You, we can have victory. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 173-180

David and Goliath

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who was yelling at the Israelites? (*Goliath*)
- Why were the people afraid of Goliath? (*He was big and tall.*)
- Who told King Saul he could win the battle against Goliath? (*David*)
- Why did David think he could win against Goliath? (*He knew God was victorious. God had helped him win against fierce animals. David said the battle belonged to the Lord.*)
- What happened in the battle between David and Goliath? (*David won. Goliath was killed with a single stone.*)
- What does the word *victorious* mean? (*wins*)
- Who is always victorious? (*God*)
- In today's story, how did God show He is always victorious?

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. God
will be with you wherever you go.**

—from Joshua 1:9

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- What two things does our Word of Wonder tell us God can help us be? (strong and brave)
- How does it feel to know God is with you wherever you go?



Faith

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Craft: Make a Shepherd's Pouch

SUPPLIES: copies of pouch template, scissors, coloring utensils, yarn or twine, stickers, pompoms

Ahead of time, copy pouch template onto cardstock for each kid. Punch holes through the pouch pieces on the circles along the edges. (Works best if done with both pieces together so holes will be exactly aligned.)

In our story today, we learned about how God gave a young boy named David victory over a big warrior! David didn't need a sword or armor for the battle—God allowed him to win the battle against the giant by using only a slingshot and a stone. God showed His strength and power by winning the victory in this story! We're going to make our own shepherd's pouch with stones today to remind us that God is always victorious!

Give each kid a piece of yarn or twine and let them thread the yarn through the holes along the side of the pouch, tying off to leave a long strap so that the pouch can be worn as a "cross body" bag. They can also color the bag and add stickers to decorate. When finished, give each kid 5 pompoms for stones.

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Closing Game: Gather the Stones

SUPPLIES: pom-poms or small stones (5 per team), blue fabric or tablecloth (optional)

Before this game, set out pom-poms or stones on one side of the room by a pretend “river.” You can set out blue fabric or paper or just pretend there’s a riverbed on the floor. (You can also use the painter’s tape from the opening activity and tape the outline of a river on the floor.)

David collected five stones in our story today, so we are going to collect five stones from a pretend river. As you gather the stones, remember how David faced Goliath because he knew that God was with him. God is with us too!

Divide the group into teams with 2–5 kids on each team. The teams will line up across from the stones and run down one at a time to gather a stone and then run back. The first team to gather five stones wins.

David didn’t need a big sword, or heavy armor—he just used five small stones—and God gave him victory over Goliath! God will always be victorious!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for being victorious and for making us strong and brave.

God, thank You for being with us when we face problems or fears. Thank You for making us strong and brave and for giving us victory. Help us to trust You when we're afraid and to remember that You're victorious over everything. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May the God who is victorious give you His strength and power. He is with you wherever you go. May you be strong and brave with His help today and every day.