

David and Goliath

Lesson At-a-Glance

Scripture Reference

1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50

Lesson Focus

Little people can do big things for God.

Bible Memory Verse

"Saul said to David, '... you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.' " 1 Samuel 17:33

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids will look for five stones hidden in the room.	Spark Activity Pages, Spark Coloring Pages	Stones (5)
Circle Time Kids will get introduced to the David and Goliath story.	Spark Song CD, Spark Songbook	Music source
Opening Prayer Kids will hear a rhyming prayer.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
David and Goliath Story Kids engage the story by acting it out in place as it's read.	Spark Story Bibles, Spark NRSV Bibles	Flashlights (2), dark space
Be Prepared! Kids will complete a word find with David and Goliath words.	Leaflets	Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Checkerboard Challenge Kids will create a checkers game with a David and Goliath theme.	Leaflets, Spark Bible Stickers	Sticky notes in two colors, markers
Giant Problems Kids will brainstorm solutions for the big challenges of our time.	None	White paper, masking tape, markers

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids will recap the lesson and look at Faith on the Go options.	Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids will lead a closing prayer.	Family Pages	None

Introduction

Bible Background

As God had promised Sarah and Abraham, their descendants had multiplied. When the twelve familial tribes from grandson Jacob's offspring increased in numbers and power, they asked God for a king to lead them. King Saul continued to increase Israel's power and holdings, but as Saul grew older, he stopped obeying God. Meanwhile, God called a prophet named Samuel to King Saul's replacement: the scrawny, red-haired shepherd boy, David.

In this chapter, years before young David would take the throne, he volunteered to face an enormous warrior—estimated to be seven to ten feet tall! Goliath represented the Philistines, enemies of Israel. One look at Goliath and the Israelites knew no one could win. But David had faith that, with God's help, he would not lose. Proving that brains—and trust in God—trump brawn, young David used skills he had picked up while guarding his sheep against wild predators. He simply gathered five smooth stones in a sling and flung one at Goliath's head.

Why This Story Matters

Despite the violence inherent within it, the story of David and Goliath is a classic to which kids especially can relate. David was the small, little brother who worked as a shepherd in the fields; the one whom no one paid much attention to. But he was someone special, and he didn't have to wait until he was grown to be put to use in God's plan.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

Before kids arrive, hide five stones around your classroom.

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the Activity Page and Coloring Page, and set them out for kids to try.

As kids enter, tell them you need five stones, and ask them to try to find them in your classroom space. If all stones are located, invite kids to hide them for other kids entering.

Spark Resources

Spark Activity Pages
Spark Coloring Pages

Supplies

Stones (5)

Circle Time

Gather everyone into a circle and welcome them. **Has anyone ever looked at you like you were kidding when you volunteered to do something?** Listen to kids' stories. **I mean, you wouldn't offer to drive your grandma to the airport, but there are tons of things you *can* do to help, right? Why do you think kids don't always get to help?** Too small, too inexperienced, and so on.

Today, we're going to read a story about a kid named David. He was the little brother who no one really thought could help. But he did more than help in this story—he volunteered to do something no one else would even try!

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Song 1: "Father Abraham" (tracks 15 and 32 on Spark Song CD, page 83 in Spark Songbook)

Song 2: "To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul"

Sing this familiar camp song, which is based on Psalm 25, one of the psalms attributed to David.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD
Spark Songbook

Supplies

Music source

Opening Prayer

Have kids stand next to someone who is taller or shorter than they are. Invite them to put their arms around the other person's shoulders or back as you offer this prayer.

**Dear God,
David was small;
Goliath was tall.
You love the kids
As much as the bigs.
Be with us here
Where it's made really clear
Size isn't all that,
What matters is what's in your heart and your hat.
Amen!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

David and Goliath Story

Invite kids with Spark NRSV Bibles to each find and sit with a buddy with a Spark Story Bible.

In this section, the first part of the text will be read to the whole group: 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-33. It is found on pages 314-315 of the Spark NRSV Bible. Invite an older reader to ready his or her Spark Bible, and give him or her a flashlight to read in the dark.

Prepare your room to be pitch dark by shutting blinds and doors. Invite the smallest kid to stand on the floor in front of you in a giant stance. Get down low with a flashlight pointing up, and ask someone to turn off the lights. Turn the flashlight on, creating the effect of making the small kid's shadow look like a giant.

Today we're going to hear a story about a giant who looked pretty big and scary!
The volunteer now reads 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-33.

Whoa! A giant Philistine warrior! If you win, then your enemies will become your servants. But if you lose . . . you won't be around to see what happens next. What will you do?

Turn on the lights. **Open your Spark Story Bibles to page 130 and see what happens!** Invite buddies to read this together.

Bible Memory Verse

Saul said to David, ". . . you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth." 1 Samuel 17:33

Invite buddies to take turns pretending to be Saul and David. Even though David doesn't say anything, he can respond to Saul's words with facial expressions. Place a Spark Bible Sticker next to this verse.

Be Prepared!

Check out the word search on your leaflet. Get with your buddy and help each other find the words listed above it.

Invite kids to read and discuss the Bible Bits together.

Spark Resources

Spark NRSV Bibles
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Flashlights (2), dark space

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Checkerboard Challenge

Goliath was bigger, older, and stronger. But David was wise—he put his faith in God! We're going to play a game with our buddies, and the thing about this game is that once you know how to play, your size and your age don't matter!

Invite kids to check out the checkboard on the leaflet. Instead of checkers, they will each take ten sticky notes of distinct colors and cut them to fit the board. Older kids can write a "G" on their sticky note for "Goliath" and younger kids can write "D" for "David." Help older buddies teach younger buddies how to play. Pairs of buddies can also play against another pair to help instruct younger buddies. **I'm going to give you five minutes to play. You probably won't finish the game in that amount of time, but I hope you'll learn some strategy and have fun with your buddy.**

Directions:

Each buddy should place sticky notes on the twelve dark squares in the three rows closest to him or her. Each of these rows should have a total of four sticky notes.

The youngest player moves one sticky note diagonally to an empty dark square. Sticky notes may only move diagonally on the dark squares, either one square or by jumping an opponent's sticky note(s).

When an opponent's sticky note is jumped, the player who jumped it takes it.

When a player gets to the far side of the playing board, they are "crowned" with a second sticky note and may move that sticky note forward or backward diagonally. If all squares adjacent to your checker are occupied, that checker is trapped.

Ask for volunteers to read the Did You Know? items aloud. Invite kids to place a sticker or special mark next to the item they found the most interesting.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Sticky notes in two colors

Markers

Giant Problems

Hang several sheets of white paper in your classroom space with masking tape, and have markers at the ready.

Do you ever listen to the news with a parent or read about world events? Listen attentively to the different exposures kids have had to news media.

There are challenging things in our world, and some of them need our attention. As a kid, you might feel like you can't do anything about the giant problems in our world. But you can! Like David, small people can make a big difference.

Today, I'd like our class to think of things that are giant challenges in our church, community, or the world. You may wish to suggest topics like hunger, poverty, natural disasters, bullying, disease, or pollution. Help explain concepts to the youngest kids as needed.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

White paper, masking tape, markers

Write one of the giant problems at the top of a piece of paper with a marker. Add sheets of paper as kids identify additional problems. **With your buddy, I'd like each of you to go from sheet to sheet. Spend a few minutes at each one, and think of what you as kids could do to help solve the giant problems. Older buddies, please write down any ideas you have on the white sheet.**

Give kids time to go to each sheet. Add more paper below as needed.

When kids have finished, return to a circle and discuss what they have brainstormed and written down. **How do you feel about facing these giant problems?**

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

The David and Goliath story is pretty amazing! Which part do you like best?

Listen to kids' answers. **I hope you remember David the next time you are facing what seems like a really big problem or feel like you are in a no-win situation. Even when you feel small, God can use you to do big things!**

Let's look in your leaflet at the Faith on the Go options for this week. Which ones would you like to ask your family to do with you?

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Closing Prayer

Distribute Family Page to kids and encourage them to talk to their families, especially about the section on bullying.

Since we learned today about how little kids are capable of big things, I would like to ask one or more of you to have a David moment and lead us in prayer!

Invite kids to pray in any manner they wish. **You start and I'll end.**

When kids have finished leading the prayer, conclude with the following or similar words: **God, we thank you for these kids and for their big dreams, big ideas, and big faith! Amen.**

As you say goodbye to kids, make sure they take home their leaflets and Family Pages.

Spark Resources
Spark Family Pages

Supplies
None