

Bible Story 18: DAVID, A COURAGEOUS YOUTH

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 13:14; 16:1-13,23; 17:1-51; 18:1,3;
2 SAMUEL 2:4; 1 KINGS 2:10-11

MEMORY VERSE: PSALM 59:16

BIBLE STORY:

The youngest son of Jesse was called David. He was handsome, healthy and brave. He helped his father take care of their sheep in the field.

David liked music and played the harp. At different times he was called to the palace to play his harp for King Saul. David's music was soothing to the king during his illness.

While just a young youth, David's three older brothers went to fight a battle with King Saul. They were fighting against the Philistines, who were enemies of the Israelites. One day David's father asked him to take some food to his brothers and bring back news on how they were doing. The following morning David arose early, loaded up food, put someone in charge of taking care of the sheep and left. When he arrived at his brothers' campsite, he saw the Philistine enemies on the opposite hill. The leader of the Philistines was Goliath, a very large, strong warrior over nine feet tall. No Israelite soldier had courage to fight against him!

David went to King Saul and told him, *"No one should be afraid of Goliath, because I would fight him."* The king told him that he could not do this since he was young. David responded, *"King Saul, on different occasions I have protected my father's sheep by killing a lion and even a bear. Just as God has protected me from the fierce lion and bear, God will now protect me against the huge leader of the Philistine army."*

Saul answered, *"Go and may God help you."* He insisted that David use the king's

armor, David put on the bronze helmet on his head and the coat of armor. But David had trouble walking, because he was not used to wearing them. So David removed them and only took with him his slingshot and his staff, a long shepherd's stick. David went toward Goliath. When David arrived at the stream, he chose five smooth stones and put them into his shepherd's bag. David went closer to the Philistine leader.

When Goliath saw the youth, he made fun of him. However, David answered, *"You come against me with a javelin, spear and sword. But I come against you with the all powerful God of Israel. Today God will give me victory over you!"* Then David ran closer to Goliath, took a stone from his bag and put it in his slingshot. He slung his slingshot around, around, around and then finally let it go. The stone hit Goliath's forehead and he fell to the ground! David won the battle with God's help!

After this, King Saul sent David out to lead and fight against the Israelites' enemies. God continued to give David victories.

Through many years David had a deep friendship with Jonathan, the king's son.

God chose David to rule Israel, because he wanted a man after his own heart who would serve him and obey his commandments. David served as king of Israel for forty years. David wrote many songs that are in the book of Psalms in the Bible.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. David obeyed his father, taking care of their sheep and taking food to his brothers. Help one another in your family. Obey your parents.
2. David was courageous and trusted in God as he faced Goliath. Trust in God when you face your problems. You will not be alone, but God will be with you to help you face your problems.
3. David's music was soothing to the king during his illness. Music helps us in our different moods. How? (Examples: soothing when sad or ill; joyful when happy or animated; calming when angry or upset.)
4. David was a good friend to Jonathan. Be a good friend to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Jesse’s youngest son? Describe David.
2. How did David help king Saul in his illness? How can you help someone who is sick? Can you play an instrument? Which one? Which kind of music do you like to hear when you are sick? Happy? Sad?
3. What did Jesse ask his son David to do? Did David obey immediately? What did he do?
4. Should you obey your parents, a boss, an elder? When? Are there times when you should not obey? When? (Example: told you to steal.)
5. What happened when David arrived at his brothers’ campsite? Who were their enemies? Who was leading the enemy’s army? Describe Goliath.
6. Did David have courage to face Goliath and his army? What did David say to King Saul? What did the king tell him to do? What happened when David put the king’s helmet and armor on himself?
7. Tell what happened when he went toward the river and then met Goliath.
8. Why did David have courage to face Goliath? Who helped him have victory?
9. What are some problems, big or small, that you, your family and friends have faced or are facing now?
10. Who can you pray to and ask for help to face these problems?
11. Who are some people who can help you overcome these problems?
12. David was a friend to Jonathan. How can you be a friend to others? What are some things you can do to gain more friends? What hinders friendship?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Take a measuring tape or large ruler to the meeting. Measure the tallest person present. Now show the height of 9 feet. Ask: *“Would you like to fight against someone that tall? Why not? Today I am going to tell you a Bible story about a boy that had the courage to fight against a soldier who was 9 feet tall!”*
- Tell the Bible story.

FRIENDSHIP:

- **Option 1:** Do something special with your friend(s). Examples:
 ...Invite your friend(s) over for a special meal, such as pizza, barbecue hamburgers and/or hot dogs, etc.
 ...Go see a special event together, such as a movie, sports’ game, music concert, etc.
 ...Have a special Game Night.
- **Option 2:** Do something special for your friend(s). Example:
 ...Watch your friend’s children, so your friend can go shopping, take care of errands, etc.

SLINGSHOT:

- Practice hitting targets with a slingshot. Be careful and use safety procedures with this activity so that no one is hurt and no windows are broken!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

- Plan a Progressive Dinner with your group. Meal includes three courses.
- **Option 1:** Each course is at a different home. Examples of courses of the meal:
1st Home: Appetizer, salad or soup
2nd Home: Main dish (such as meat/chicken/fish with vegetables, casserole, spaghetti/pasta with or without meat or chicken, pizza, etc.)
3rd Home: Dessert
- **Option 2:** Have your group go to different restaurants instead of different homes to eat the Progressive Dinner.
- **Option 3:** Divide out the courses of the meal for members to prepare. Eat together at one place.

ACTIVITY: “Music”

- **Option 1:** As a group make up a song. If possible, make a tape or video of your group singing it.
- **Option 2:** With the group, play a variety of popular music and discuss the meaning of the words of the songs. Discuss the influence music has upon our lives.
- **Option 3:** Watch a DVD film about a musician. Then discuss the insights learned from the film.
- **Option 4:** Plan an outing to go to a music concert together. (Examples: church concert, school concert, community concert, etc.)

DAILY BIBLE READING - 1 Samuel 13:14; 16:1-13,23; 17:1-51; 18:1,3; 2 Samuel 2:4; 1 Kings 2:10-11

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
1 Samuel 13:14; 16:1-13,23	1 Samuel 17:1-11	1 Samuel 17:12-19	1 Samuel 17:20-30	1 Samuel 17:31-40	1 Samuel 17:41-51	1Sam. 18:1,3; 2 Samuel 2:4; 1 Kin. 2:10-11