

David Fights a Giant

Introduction

Scripture: I Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50

Key Verse: “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” – Hebrews 13:6

Make it stick: Before kidslot time, tape a line of masking tape high up on the wall out of reach of the children. Put it high enough that they would not be able to reach it even with jumping up. (You might want to tape small candies like Sweetarts or Tootsie Rolls with the tape just to make it more fun.) After children come in, tell them what story we are learning and the key verse. Explain that we all need help from time to time. Ask children to try touching the line of tape (or get a piece of candy from up high). They shouldn't be able to do it. Then pull a sturdy chair over under the line. Let children take turns stepping in the chair to touch the line. Be sure to have an adult standing close by the chair to guard against falls. You may even have to pick up little ones to reach the tape. Explain that with the help of a chair we could do what we couldn't do on our own. Remind children that the Bible verse says that God is our helper. He will help us do things that we cannot do by ourselves.

Bible Lesson

Lesson goal: The children will learn that they can do great things with God's help.

Scripture to read: I Samuel 17:4-11; 32-50.

You may want to have older children help with the reading. It may also be helpful to read from an easy to understand translation like the New Living or a Children's Bible. Be sure to let them see you reading from the Bible. It is important for them to know that what you are teaching is from God's Word.

Key Principle:

1. Goliath was a big, strong warrior (fighter) for the Philistine army (Israelites enemies).
2. God wanted the Israelites to win the battle against the Philistines.
3. All the Israelite soldiers were afraid of Goliath and would not fight him.
4. David was not afraid of fighting Goliath-even though he was a young boy. He knew that God would help him.
5. David did fight Goliath and won the fight with only one stone, and of course, God's help.
6. God helped David and God will help you.

Application:

Use the following questions to review the key principle. You may need to simplify questions for young children.

1. What was the bad giant's name? (Goliath)
2. Who fought with Goliath? (David)
3. What did David use to fight Goliath? (stones-he got 5 stones to take with him, but only used one)
4. Who was bigger, David or Goliath? (Goliath)
5. Who was stronger, David or Goliath? (Goliath)
6. Who had God helping him? (David)
7. Who won the fight? (David)
8. God helped David, and God will help you. Have you ever been afraid or have you ever had a hard job to do?
9. How can you ask God for help when you need Him to help you? (pray and ask Him to help you)

Activity

Let children act out the story of David and Goliath. They can take turns playing the parts of David, Goliath, and the Israelites. You can ball up a piece of paper or use a foam-type ball to be the stone.

Keep it simple! You can come up with your own role play details but a general plan would be as follows: The Israelites standing and Goliath comes up to them saying, "Who will fight me?" The Israelites run saying "we're scared!" David comes up and says "I will fight you Goliath!" Goliath laughs. David gathers the "stones", comes to Goliath and says, "I come at you in the name of the Lord who will help me defeat you!" David throws the "stone" (remind children to be careful). Goliath falls and Israelites cheer. If time allows, repeat the role play letting children switch roles.

Wrap-Up

Review the key principles of the lesson. Remind the children that God will help them.

Prayer Time: Ask for prayer requests. You could ask children if any of them have something coming up that will be hard for them to do or that they are scared to do. Maybe they even need help to be nice to their brother or sister or to obey their parents/teacher. Pray for these requests asking for God's help with these things and thank God for being our Helper.

Extension: The Bible says that God helps us. The Bible also says we should help one another (Acts 20:35). Think of some ways that you can help others. Trace your handprint on light colored construction paper and cut out. On each finger of your handprint, write one thing you can do to help someone else.

Toddler time: Young children should enjoy acting out the story. There is also a Veggie Tales Video about David and Goliath entitled "Dave and the Giant Pickle". Children of all ages should enjoy it.

