



LESSON 34

3rd and 4th Grade

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

Bible Character(s): David

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 17



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read through 1 Samuel 17. Notice how David worships God throughout this story. He remembers His faithfulness in the past; he trusts God completely and he steps out in courage. Think through a normal day; how often do you respond this way in the small areas of your life? It is often easy to recognize the big fears in our lives, but fail to see the small ways that we choose not to trust God. We think we don't have time to say "hello" to someone because we know it might lead to a long conversation and we don't have time for that. Are we trusting God with our time? What other small ways do we try to control things that might be rooted in a fear of giving up what we want? How much of our lives are we trying to control? Is that rooted in a fear of what could happen if we let go of these things? Are you really trusting God and stepping out in courage to follow Christ?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

David & Goliath Word Search

Supplies:

Word Search worksheet (1 per camper)

If the campers finish early, they can play Thumb Wars or Rock, Paper, Scissors. They will use the back of this worksheet later in the lesson.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting

them from their worship of God.
*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

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

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? What was the counselor preparing to do? (Fight the Hulk.) What did he learn after hearing about David's life? (Trust God, talk to Him about the problem, God will help him.)

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 are going to see David display his trust in God for his life. Saul and his army are at battle with the Philistines. David had just gone out to the battlefield and there was 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

4 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! 5 He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. 6 He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. 7 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.

How Big is Goliath?



The purpose is to illustrate how big Goliath was to help the campers identify with the fear of the Israelites.

Supplies:

Brick / something weighty in the classroom (1 per bin)

Give the campers an opportunity to pick up the brick (or another weighty object) to see how heavy it is. Explain that Goliath's armor alone weighed more than 20 of these objects.

Tie It Together



Goliath wore armor that weighed as much as 20 of these bricks. He was a huge person to wear something that weighed this much! The 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 see what the Bible says about how Israel's army responds to Goliath.

I Samuel 17:24

24 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 fear.

What Are My Fears?



The purpose is to help the campers identify what fears they may have.

Supplies:

White board

Write "FEARS" on the top of the white board. Ask campers to list some of their fears. Write them on the board as they share. (Depending on size of class and personalities, you could also have campers write the fears on the board to get them more involved in the conversation/activity.)

* Don't erase the board until the end of class. You'll refer to the fears in another activity.

Tie It Together



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 fear. When we fear things we are not trusting that God loves us, that He is all we need.

Let's continue reading the Bible and see if David fears Goliath or trusts in God.

I Samuel 17:32

32 "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

Saul thought David was too young to kill Goliath, but let's see what the Bible says.

I Samuel 17:34-37

34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion

and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!” Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the LORD be with you!”

David knew God had been faithful to him in the past and that God would continue to be faithful in the future. God had protected David many times in the past. David did not fear, he trusted God because he had seen how God had loved him in the past.

I Samuel 17:38–50

38 Then Saul gave David his own armor—a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. 39 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. 40 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.

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 “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. 44 “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled.

45 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. 46 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! 47 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!”

48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 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.

50 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 did not fear Goliath. He trusted in God. David had courage, but not because he had the strength to defeat Goliath. He had courage 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. David did not do this; He trusted God and knew that God would defeat Goliath. David gave God the credit and the glory for the victory. David knew God would be with Him and this gave him courage.

God's Power



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

Supplies:

Goliath poster (1 per bin)

Paper wads (2 per bin)

Show the campers the Goliath poster. Use a dry erase marker to draw an "X" on his forehead. As you hang the poster high on the wall or door frame, talk to the campers about Goliath's size and stature – he was over nine feet tall and a very intimidating (scary, strong, skilled...). Explain that the campers will stand on the other side of the room and will take turns trying to hit the "X" on Goliath's head using the paper wad as a "stone."

Tie It Together



How hard was it to actually hit the "X" on Goliath's forehead? (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.

Fear and Trust



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

Supplies:

White board (with fears from earlier)

Back of the word search (1 per camper)

Set of three verses (1 per camper)

Glue sticks

Talk through each fear on the board 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 campers to turn their paper over to the blank side and draw a picture of something they're afraid of. As they are drawing, hand out the sets of verses. Have them cut the verses out and glue each verse on top of the picture. Go over the verse and talk about how God can help them with their fear(s).

Tie It Together



God desires us to trust Him. What does this verse say that He has given us? The fears that we have drawn pictures of are not from God. How can we trust God with these fears? Does it help to read this verse and know that God has given us love, peace and power? Erase the fears on the board.

Stones



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

Supplies:

Stones (1 per camper)

Bag of Sharpies (1 per bin)

Have each camper write a verse reference from the previous activity on a stone.

Tie It Together



You can take this stone home with you 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.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. 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.



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