

FROM SHEPHERD TO KING

Timeless Truth: Total trust in God brings great courage.

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 17:1–50

Key Verse: I am coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. —1 Samuel 17:45 NIRV

Resource: *The Story for Children*, Chapter 11: "From Shepherd to King"

PARENT TIPS

Read the key point from the Sunday school class your child(ren) attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity will help your family understand how God's hand helped guide David's stone. The Extra Mile encourages your family to watch classic David versus Goliath moments.

GET THE POINT

David fought in God's strength. God gives me courage when I am afraid.

TABLE TALK

- **Goliath's enormous size (about nine feet tall) and strength intimidated Israel's army. Why wasn't David afraid of this big bully?**
- **Would you have been afraid?**
- **Are there any bullies at school that scare you? What's the best way to treat a bully?** (Note: The correct answer isn't to hit him in the head with a rock.)
- **Saul thought David should fight Goliath in the traditional way and dressed David in his armor. Why was that a problem?**
- **How did David show faith by facing Goliath wearing his regular clothes and using rocks as weapons?**

LIVING FAITH

How could a teenager defeat the greatest warrior of his era? Two words: God's power. David trusted God to give him the strength to defeat Goliath. He knew he couldn't defeat the ultimate soldier in his own power; David needed supernatural power, not to mention great aim.

Goliath was decked out in more than 125 pounds of armor. David probably weighed just a little more than that. Goliath had a 15-pound spear. David had five smooth stones. Odds were David would end up as a shish kabab. Instead, Goliath ended up on his back.

Have your family practice its aim by playing this game. Collect eight to ten 2-liter plastic bottles. Put a couple of inches of water in the bottom of each bottle for stability and set them up as bowling pins. If you're playing the game inside, take turns throwing a pillow at the pins. Each person gets one throw. Count how many pins are knocked down. If you play outside, take turns kicking a soccer ball at the pins. Play several rounds, keep a running score, and declare a winner.

When you're finished, talk about the difficulty of knocking down the pins. Now think about how difficult it would've been for David to sling a stone into Goliath's forehead. According to historians, military equipment was pretty advanced at this time. Goliath most likely wore a helmet with a thin slit or visor. The giant probably underestimated David and didn't lower his visor or failed to wear a helmet. With God's help, David made a perfect shot to give Israel the victory. Ask:

- **Do you think people still underestimate God's power today?**
- **What are some ways to show God's power to the people around you?**

EXTRA MILE

The contents of the Bible often make their way into the fabric of society. Nearly everyone knows the Golden Rule, which can be found in Luke 6:31. This week's story also has made it into the English lexicon, especially when it comes to sports. Announcers love to talk about a David versus Goliath scenario as an underdog team faces a seemingly unbeatable opponent. The NCAA men's basketball tournament, better known as March Madness, is famous for its upsets. Watch videos of two of the most well-known David-like victories.

The 1985 finals featured Georgetown and Villanova. Georgetown came into the game ranked No. 1 as the defending National Champion. Villanova was just an eight-seed and had already lost to Georgetown twice during the season. But the Wildcats shot an amazing 78.6 percent from the floor—missing just five shots all game—to win 66–64. Watch highlights at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=woDd5erJtbQ.

Perhaps an even more unlikely victory came in the 1983 finals when North Carolina State beat No. 1 Houston. With the game tied at 52–52, the Wolfpack wound down the clock and saw Dereck Whittenburg launch a shot into the air. If you haven't seen the result, check it out now at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNQ6JZpjdTY.

After watching these two videos, talk about what it took for a David to beat a Goliath. Ask members of your family if they still believe God gives Davids the ability to do the impossible today.