

# 26. Giants



## BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

### 1 Samuel 17:1-51

David fights  
against Goliath



## AIMS

To encourage the  
children that God is  
bigger and more powerful  
than any situation we face

To help them see that  
through his death on the  
cross, Jesus defeated the  
biggest giant of all – sin

**God is powerful. He provided a champion for the Israelites in David, and he provides a champion for us in Jesus.**



## PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passages  
for this session and reflect:

- What situations cause you fear or seem too big to face?
- What does this passage teach us about God's power in these situations?
- How does David's story point to Jesus?

Take some time to pray for your group.



## GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the  
following activities to  
introduce today's theme:

### ► Screaming Toes

Get everyone to stand in a circle. Tell them to look down at their toes and then on the count of three, everyone has to look up at the face of someone else in the circle. If two people find that they have both chosen one another, and so are making eye contact with one another, they have to scream. Then they sit down and are eliminated from the game. Keep playing until you have a winner. (If you begin with an even number of players you will end with two winners.)

### ► Goliath Game

For this game you will need a large space where the children can run about.

Choose one child to be Goliath and get them to stand in the middle of the hall. Everyone else gathers round Goliath – make sure that they are gathered closely. Goliath then calls out words at random. The rest of the children have to stay where they are until the word Goliath is called. When they hear the word Goliath, the rest of the children have to run away while Goliath tries to catch them. The first person who is caught by Goliath takes their place as Goliath for the next round.

### ► Minute To Win It Challenges

Choose volunteers to compete in one-minute challenges. Some examples

*(continued overleaf)*

are listed in Session 13 of One Big Story and you can find a longer list of ideas here: [birthdayinspire.com/minute-to-win-it-ideas](http://birthdayinspire.com/minute-to-win-it-ideas)



## EXPLORING THE BIBLE

### ► Recap

Last time we heard about David being chosen as king of the Israelites. He didn't become king right away, but he knew that one day he would. For the moment, David was still just a young boy, but all the time he was learning about God and learning things that would help him to live well as a leader. Today we're going to hear one of the most famous stories in the Bible.

### ► David's Story

*You will need: words for children to read (from additional document: David and Goliath words), plastic sword for Goliath*

Tell the story of David and Goliath. You could get the children to act it out.

*Choose children to be David, Goliath and Saul. You can give them words to read (from additional document: David and Goliath Words) if you have children who will be happy to read aloud, or alternatively you could include the characters' words as you tell the story and let the children mime. Divide the rest of the children into two groups to be the Israelites and the Philistines. Have the groups facing one another. Saul is with the Israelites and Goliath is with the Philistines. Have David standing off to the side for the moment.*

**The Israelites had a problem. The Philistine army had come against them and wanted to fight them. They were stuck in a situation where the Israelites were on one side of the valley**

**and the Philistines were on the other. The Philistines were really fierce, and the Israelites were really scared.** *(Get the children to do appropriate facial expressions.)*

**But the even bigger problem for the Israelites was that the Philistines had a champion fighter- a man called Goliath. He was massive. He was nine feet tall and he was extremely fierce and scary. He came out before the Israelites and set them a challenge.**

Goliath: **We don't all need to fight. Choose one man to come and fight me. If he wins, we will be your slaves, but if I win you will all be our slaves.**

**The Israelites were terrified, and no one was willing to fight Goliath, so they waited. This went on for forty days - every morning and every night Goliath strutted in front of the Israelites, making fun of them because no one was brave enough to fight him.**

**David was still a young boy - too young to be in the army - but some of his older brothers were in the army. One day David's dad sent David to take some food to his brothers.**

*(Get the child playing David to go and join the Israelites.)*

**He saw what was happening and he saw Goliath making fun of the people. David was furious.**

David: **Who is this man to make fun of God?**

**David's brothers weren't happy to see him. They said he should be at home looking after the sheep. But David went up to King Saul and spoke to him.**

David: **I'll do it. I'll fight the giant.**

**Saul laughed at David.**

Saul: **Don't be silly. You're just**

**a boy. Goliath has been fighting men for years. There's no way you can win.**

**David insisted that he would go and fight. He said that God had always kept him safe when he was out in the fields with his sheep and he had to fight off lions and bears, and he knew that God would keep him safe now.**

**Saul gave David his armour to put on to protect him, but it was far too big and heavy for David and he wasn't used to wearing armour. It wasn't helping him - it was holding him back - so he decided to go without. Instead he got his sling and went to the river and picked up five little stones. That was what he used to defend himself when he was out in the fields. He headed across to fight Goliath.**

**Goliath laughed when he saw David coming. How could this little boy think he stood a chance? But David spoke confidently to him.**

David: **You might come with a sword and a shield, but I come to you in the name of the Lord. He will help us win this battle.**

**They moved towards each other. David put a stone into his sling, swung it round and round and then launched it at Goliath. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead and he fell face down on the ground, unconscious. David ran over, took Goliath's own sword and used it to cut off his head. God had protected David and helped him to win the battle because he put his trust in him.**



## REFLECT & RESPOND

### ► Reflection

*You will need: 2 litre plastic bottle with a picture of Goliath*

stuck onto it (you could print out the picture found at slide 4 here: [freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-soldiers-guards](http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-soldiers-guards)), post-it notes, pens or pencils, newspaper rolled into balls

Place the bottle with the picture of Goliath in front of the children on the floor or on a table.

**In the passage from the Bible, the Israelites were facing a big threat. The challenge of facing Goliath seemed too big for them and it felt like there was nothing they could do, but God provided David to save them.**

**Sometimes there can be things in our lives, or that we see in the world around us, that can feel a bit like that. They just seem too big.**

**It could be illness or problems in our family; it could be things we see in the world like poverty or homelessness.** Think of some other examples together.

**One problem we all face is the problem of sin. That is a problem that is too big for us to fix by ourselves, but God sent Jesus to save us.**

Get the children to choose one of these things and to write or draw it on a post-it note. Then they can stick their post-it note onto the bottle representing Goliath.

**What was the difference in David's attitude compared to the rest of the Israelites?**

**Why was his attitude so different?**

**The rest of the Israelites were scared, but David was brave. The others were focusing on the size of the challenge, but David was focusing on God. He didn't like that Goliath was making fun of God and his people, and he knew that no matter how big and powerful**

**Goliath was, God's power was stronger.**

**Although we still face problems today that can be really hard and scary, Christians believe that God's power is still stronger than any of those things and that he can help us. That doesn't mean he always takes our problems away. Sometimes he does, but other times he is with us in the problems, helping us to face them and helping us to know what to do. The main thing God has done for us is sending Jesus to defeat the biggest giant of all – sin.**

Let the children take turns throwing balls of newspaper at the bottle to knock it down, encouraging them as they do so to think of the things they wrote or drew on their post-it notes, but also to remember that the Bible teaches that God is bigger than those things.

Lead the children in prayer, asking for God's help in facing difficult situation and thanking him for his power.

### ► Stone Painting

*You will need: stones, acrylic paints, paint pots/ palettes, paintbrushes, containers for water, wipes or paper towels for cleaning up. As an alternative to paint, you could use permanent markers such as Sharpies.*

Give each of the children a stone and let them paint something on it that will remind them that God is bigger than the problems we face. It could be a word, for example: God, power, Jesus, cross. It could be a picture of part of the story, or it could be a pattern or design – anything that will serve as a reminder for them. You could encourage them to keep the stone somewhere they will see it regularly to remind them that God is with them – for example, in their desk or pencil case at school, or in their room at

home. You may want to keep the stones until they dry and give them to the children the following week.



## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

### ► God's Story Video

*You will need: equipment to play video*

There are two versions of this video – one which includes the whole story including David cutting off Goliath's head, and one which misses out this part and may be more suitable for younger groups or children who are more sensitive.

[youtu.be/7zLAcUZkxHA](https://youtu.be/7zLAcUZkxHA)  
(full version)

[youtu.be/L5MPhNtGqwI](https://youtu.be/L5MPhNtGqwI)  
(most of the story)

### ► Songs

*You will need: equipment to play music*

These songs fit well with this session's theme.

Our God Is A Great Big God:  
[youtu.be/eSTfM8M2Md8](https://youtu.be/eSTfM8M2Md8)

Fully Rely On God:  
[youtu.be/b5fqK35DEiQ](https://youtu.be/b5fqK35DEiQ)