

Lesson 7: David & Goliath

Text: I Samuel 17



"Growing In The Word": Lesson Text & Discussion

Read I Samuel 17:1-7. As we studied in a previous lesson, Saul would be at war with the Philistines throughout his reign. As this chapter opens, the Philistines have gathered their armies together to go to war against Israel and have encamped between Sochoh and Azekah. Where was Israel encamped? (They were encamped in the Valley of Elah.) When they would face each other for battle, the Philistines would stand on a mountain, and the Israelites would stand on another mountain with a valley between the two armies. The Philistines didn't attack but used a different strategy this time. They only sent out their champion, a giant named Goliath. Where was Goliath from? (Gath) Describe his height and his armor: (His height was over six cubits. He wore a helmet of bronze and body armor of bronze. He carried a spear and had an armor-bearer with him.) Goliath was a huge man who stood over nine feet tall. (Try measuring that height somewhere in your house to get a sense of how tall he was.)

Read I Samuel 17:8-11. What challenge did Goliath issue to the Israelite army? (He challenged them to send forth one man to fight with him. If that man won by killing Goliath, the Philistines would be the servants of Israel, but if Goliath won by killing him, the Israelites would serve the Philistines.) What was the reaction of king Saul and the Israelite army to this challenge? (They were very afraid and distressed.) Who was the tallest man in Israel at this time? (King Saul) Remember that Saul stood head and shoulders above every other man in Israel. Even at that height, he would not be as tall as Goliath, but that would not matter if Saul had faced Goliath with the Lord on his side. Saul had rejected the Lord, and the Lord had rejected him from being king, so Saul stood there in fear instead of standing in faith in the Lord.

Read I Samuel 17:12-19. How many sons did Jesse have in all? (Eight) The oldest three sons had gone to serve under king Saul in the army, and David being the youngest had stayed home to tend his father's sheep. Why did David go to visit the Israelite encampment? (His father sent food for David's brothers as well as a present of food for their captain. His father also wanted news of how his three sons were doing and how things were going with the battle.)

Meanwhile, Goliath continued to issue his challenge to the Israelites. How many days did this go on? (Forty days)

Read I Samuel 17:20-27. David arrived at the Israelite encampment and went to greet his brothers. While he was speaking with them, Goliath came out to issue his daily challenge, and David heard every word he said. What did the men of Israel do when Goliath came out to speak? (They ran away because they were so afraid of him.) The men of Israel told David what king Saul was willing to reward the man who would face Goliath and kill him. What three things would the king give as a reward? (1-Great riches, 2-The king's daughter as a wife, 3-Tax

exemption for his family) David heard these things and was astounded. Not because of the reward offered, but that no one in Israel was willing to fight against a profane unholy man such as Goliath who was offending the army of the Lord which was offending the Lord God Himself.

Read I Samuel 17:28-31. Who was angry at David? (His oldest brother Eliab was angry at him.) Why do you think he was angry at David? (Allow answers.) David knew he had done nothing wrong. In fact, he asked, "Is there not a cause?" After hearing the words of Goliath, he knew that he must be faced and defeated. He was surprised that no man in Israel was willing to do this when it was the right thing to do. They were all afraid, but he was not.

Word spread around the camp about David, and king Saul was told. What did Saul do when he heard about David? (King Saul sent for David to be brought before him.)

Read I Samuel 17:32-37. David was just a keeper of sheep, but he was braver than any other man in Israel. He was ready and willing to face the giant. How did Saul respond to David? (Saul told him David he was too young while Goliath was an experienced warrior.) Saul was looking at the outward appearance when he looked at David. He saw a young man who kept sheep, not someone who had been in numerous battles, not someone who was tall and strong and brave. But Saul could not see David's heart. David had a heart of faith, a strong faith which was courageous and confident. It did not matter to him how tall Goliath was, or how strong, or how experienced in battle. What mattered to David was defending the honor of the Lord and His holy name. He knew that the Lord would be with him. I Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

David defended himself to Saul by telling him some of the things he had done as he kept his father's sheep. What "action" had David seen while being a shepherd? (He had killed both lion and bear.) Part of the job of a shepherd is to protect the sheep. Wild animals would try to steal sheep from the flock, especially little lambs. David showed his bravery and his strength as he went after and killed lions and bears to rescue the lambs. David wasn't bragging on himself, but he gave credit to God for keeping him safe from these dangerous beasts. He knew that God would also keep him safe against Goliath and give him victory. What did king Saul decide after hearing this? (He decided that David could go and face Goliath.)

Read I Samuel 17:38-40. What did king Saul give David to prepare to face Goliath? (King Saul clothed David in his own armor.) Did David accept it? (He couldn't wear the armor so he took it off.) The armor probably felt very awkward to David. For one thing, Saul was taller than any other man in Israel so the armor probably was too big on David. Also, David was not a soldier and was not used to wearing armor. What did he take with him as he prepared to meet Goliath? (David took his shepherd's staff, his sling, and five smooth stones.) The sling was a very effective weapon at that time. Slings were made with a patch of cloth or leather in the middle and two straps tied to each side of the cloth. The stone would be placed in the middle of the cloth, then the slinger would swing the sling in a circle several times until he built up enough speed. Then one of the straps would be released from his hand and the stone would be launched into the air toward the target. Someone (like David) who was experienced with using a sling could launch a stone at a speed of 90 miles per hour or greater.

Read I Samuel 17:41-51. What was Goliath's reaction when he saw David? (Goliath disdained him or despised him.) Goliath expected to face off against the best warrior in Israel, but instead, he saw a young man with no armor or battle weapons but a shepherd boy with a staff and sling. He felt insulted! He also felt extremely confident that he was going to kill this shepherd boy and threatened to do just that. He cursed David by his Philistine gods. How did David respond to him? (David said the Lord would give him the victory.) David was also confident. He was not relying on his own strength or his own size, or even his skill with a sling. He was relying on the Lord to give him victory over this enemy of Israel, and when He did, all the earth would know of the existence and power and might of the God of Israel. Even more importantly, the men of Israel would see that they needed to depend on God for the victory, not their own weapons or numbers of soldiers.

The talking was over and Goliath approached David. How did David approach Goliath? (He ran to meet him.) This shows us David's strong faith. He didn't approach Goliath in fear and trembling. He ran! He had five stones in his bag to use in his sling. How many stones did he have to use against Goliath? (One) David slung one stone, and it sank in Goliath's forehead and killed him. What did David do next? (He used Goliath's sword and cut off Goliath's head.) How did the Philistine army react when they saw their champion dead? (They turned and ran.)

Read I Samuel 17:52-58. What did the Israelite army do when they saw that David had killed Goliath and the Philistines were fleeing? (They chased the Philistines and attacked them.) The Israelites won a great victory over their enemies the Philistines that day, and after they had pursued them, they returned to the Philistine camp to plunder their tents. This means they would take things of value or use and keep them as spoils or trophies of war.

Saul asked his commander Abner whose son David was. Abner did not know since David was not a soldier in the army. He brought David before Saul. Saul wanted to know who David's father was, and David told him he was the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite. What did David bring with him when he came before Saul? (He carried the head of Goliath to the king.)

Review Questions: (Answers are provided in the Answer Key.)

1. How tall was Goliath?
2. What city was Goliath from?
3. What challenge did Goliath issue to the Israelites?
4. How did king Saul and the Israelite army react to this challenge?
5. How many sons of Jesse were in king Saul's army?
6. Why did David visit the Israelite encampment?
7. How many days did Goliath issue his challenge to the Israelites?

8. What three things was king Saul willing to give as a reward to the man who would face and kill Goliath?
9. Who was angry at David for asking what would be done for the man who would kill Goliath?
10. What did king Saul do when he heard what David had been saying?
11. How did king Saul respond when David said he was willing to go and fight Goliath?
12. What were some things David had done as a shepherd that showed he was brave?
13. To whom did David give credit for keeping him safe from dangerous predators?
14. What did king Saul try to give David to prepare him to face Goliath, and why did David have to refuse it?
15. What did David take with him to face Goliath?
16. What was Goliath's reaction when he saw David?
17. What did Goliath threaten to do to David?
18. How did David respond to Goliath's threat?
19. How did David approach Goliath?
20. How many stones did David use against Goliath?
21. What did David do after he killed Goliath?
22. How did the Philistine army react when they saw their dead champion?
23. What did the Israelite army do once they saw that David had killed Goliath?
24. What question did Saul ask David when he was brought to the king?
25. What did David bring with him when he appeared before king Saul?



"Putting Down Roots": Memory Work

- Memorize I Samuel 17:45
- Memorize Psalm 44:5



"Farther Afield": Map Work

Map

- Locate the city of Socoh
- Locate the city of Azekah
- Locate the Valley of Elah
- Locate the city of Gath
- Locate the city of Ekron



"Harvest Fun": Games & Activities

- **5 Stones** - For this game, a pile of stones is placed in the center of the table, enough so that each player can obtain 5 stones. They can be little pieces of gravel, marbles, or something else to represent stones. The five stones in this lesson were David's weapons to face a giant. This lesson teaches us the importance of having a strong faith in God, which is something we should never forget. There are numerous other things in the Bible that are important for us to remember as well, so this game will test the memory! The teacher may use Bible verses, review questions, lists, events, characters, etc. to challenge each player. A player gets one stone for each correct answer. The first player to acquire five stones wins.
- **Newspaper Activity** - Pretend you are a newspaper reporter living in the time of the reign of king Saul. The slaying of the giant Goliath and the routing of the Philistine army would have been front page news! Write a newspaper story of this event including the answers to the questions: "Who killed Goliath and how?"; "Who is David, son of Jesse?"; "What made David so brave?"; "Did the king reward his subject for such bravery?" Be sure to fact check with the scriptures. You can be as creative as you'd like with this, designing an actual newspaper that could include advertisements, local events, and/or interviews with other interesting Bible characters from this lesson.

- "Little Boy David" - You know you have to sing the song for this lesson!

There was a little boy David
Down by the babbling brook
There was a little boy David
Five little stones he took
One little stone went in the sling
And the sling went around and around
One little stone went in the sling
And the sling went around and around
Round and around and around and around
Round and around and around
One little stone went up in the air
And the giant came tumbling down!



"Digging Deeper": Research

- Jewish Weights/Measurements - There are some units of weight or measurement mentioned in this lesson that may not be familiar to us. Find a chart of Jewish weights and measurements to answer the following questions: How much did a shekel weigh? If Goliath's coat of armor weighed 5,000 shekels, what would be the equivalent in pounds? How long was a cubit? Goliath was a little over six cubits tall. What would be the equivalent in feet? David took an ephah of grain to his brothers. How much did an ephah weigh?
- Anakim - The Anakim were a race of giants that we read about in the earlier books of the Old Testament. Do some digging and see what you can uncover about these people. They were descended from Anak. Who was Anak's father, and what was he like according to Joshua 14:15? After Joshua routed the Anakim from the southern part of the land of Canaan, where did they settle? (Joshua 11:22) What people did those cities belong to? Which city was Goliath from? According to

II Samuel 21:15-22, how many brothers did Goliath have and who killed them? What two Hebrew words are used for the word "giant?"

- Sling - A sling was a very formidable ancient weapon. Cheap and easy to make, it was able to seriously injure or kill a wild animal or an enemy. Research how they were made and what they looked like. Which of the 12 tribes of Israel had men who were experts in using the sling according to Judges 20:15-16, and how accurate were they? How many references can you find in scripture of this weapon being used?



"Food For Thought": Puzzles

- Who Said It? - Read the following quotations from the lesson, then write the correct answer on the line as to who said it. (Some answers are used more than once.) Answers are provided in the Answer Key.
 1. "Let no man's heart fail because of him." _____
 2. "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp." _____
 3. "Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?" _____
 4. "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness?" _____
 5. "Inquire whose son this young man is." _____
 6. "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." _____
 7. "I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." _____
 8. "Have you seen this man who has come up?" _____
 9. "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him." _____
 10. "Go, and the Lord be with you!" _____

- **What's Wrong With This Picture?** - Read the following account of this lesson, but watch for any words or phrases that are wrong! Cross them out and write the correct word or phrase above them. Answers are provided in the Answer Key.

The Philistines gathered for battle against the Israelites. Their champion was Goliath of Gaza who stood six feet tall. David was the youngest son of a man named Jesse who had seven sons. David brought food to his brothers at the camp and saw Goliath. His brother, Abinidab, was angry that David had left the sheep. Saul tried to give David his armor, but he couldn't sit with it on. David took his staff, his sling, and six smooth stones. Goliath mocked David and cursed him by his mother. David faced Goliath in the name of the Lord then walked slowly to meet him. David slung one of his stones and hit Goliath squarely on the cheek. David defeated Goliath and carried his sword in his hand to king Saul.



"Fruits Of Our Labor": Crafts

- **Story Stones** - David chose five stones to take with him to face the giant. Try telling this story using five stones. To make story stones, you will need five stones with smooth surfaces, acrylic paint and paintbrushes. Think of different pictures or symbols you can paint to help you tell the story of David and Goliath. Read I Samuel 17 and think about the lesson, then decide on the five pictures you'd

like to paint, one per stone. Once your stones are painted and dried, use them as props to tell the events of this lesson to someone.

- Diorama - David facing down the giant Goliath and defeating him would make a great diorama! A diorama is simply a scene in miniature. For this diorama, you will probably want to build it on a large, flat surface such as a rectangular piece of wood. Read the account in the Bible to help you in your construction, and remember to include details in your diorama. Take your time with this and be creative! To see an example of a diorama that my son made with step-by-step instructions and photographs, visit this link (with permission): <http://pryorconvictions.com/crossing-the-red-sea-diorama/>. This is a diorama depicting the Israelites crossing the Red Sea on dry land. There are some great resources on the Internet and in library books on how to make a diorama and how to achieve different effects. Craft stores sell miniature items that are great to use for dioramas such as trees, grass, mountains, etc., or try making everything yourself.