

PART ONE /

There's a lot of things happening in the Bible account of David and Goliath and I'm going to talk about one part.

The Bible tells us that David was a shepherd which means he looked after "sheep." I've got my "David" here to help me out and as you can see, he's looking after his sheep. Now it was not an easy job being a shepherd in those days. There was lots of walking, making sure you find water and grass, looking for lost sheep and there were wild animals that tried to eat the sheep.

Now you're going to have to use your imagination here because, as you can see, my lion is soft and cuddly. Pretend he is a ferocious lion and he wants lamb for dinner. When a lion would come attack the sheep, David would grab it by its jaw and take the sheep out of its mouth and then use his club to kill the lion. That's a very scary thing to do! David protected his sheep this way from lions and bears.

We could say that David was brave but this small part of the David and Goliath story shows David's faith in God. David comes to Saul and says, "Don't worry about the Philistine, I'll fight him." Saul says, "Don't be ridiculous, you can't possibly fight him and win, you're only a boy." David tells Saul about fighting off bears and lions and he says, "The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine"

David had great faith in God and what we learn from the Bible story of David and Goliath is that *"Faith in God leads to Victory."*

I want all the kids to help me teach this sentence to the grownups. I'll say it one more time, Faith in God leads to victory. Now all the kids say it....ready... Faith in God leads to victory. Now everyone together, Faith in God leads to victory. Good!

The story of David and Goliath also helps us learn how to have the kind of faith that David had. When Saul said that David couldn't fight Goliath, David remembered how God helped him in the past to fight the lion and the bear. One way to strengthen your faith is to remember past victories. If you're in a situation where you are having a hard time trusting in God, one thing you can do is to remember past victories.

I remember a time when I was in the fourth grade. A friend and I were playing with a new puppet that our teacher was going to use as a mascot. I don't remember how it happened but the eye broke and fell out. We were scared because we had broken it and instead of telling the teacher what happened, we hid the puppet and the broken eye. I remember feeling scared to go to school the next day because I knew I had done something wrong. But I also knew that God could help me tell the truth and I remembered another time when I asked God to help me tell the truth. Remembering that past victory helped me to trust God to tell the truth to my teacher. Faith in God leads to victory! If you are having trouble trusting God, one thing you can do is Remember past victories!

PART TWO /

God has big plans for David's life. At this point David is a young Shepherd boy. It is through this event, God is going to transition David the Shepherd Boy into David "the Great Warrior." David was sent to the battlefield, by his father Jesse, to take some food and supplies to his older brothers.

Just as David arrived at the front lines, Goliath came out to taunt and make fun of God and His Army. As Goliath began to shout out his threats, filled with fear, the Israelites began to scatter and hide. Seeing what was taking place, David asked, "Who does this guy think he is? Does he really think that he can get away with defying the Army of the Lord?" Some of the soldiers told David that the King promised a great reward to anyone who kills him. They told him whoever kills the Giant will be given one of the King's daughters for a wife and his entire family will be exempt from paying taxes. Listening to the great reward that the King would give to the man who steps up to kill Goliath, I believe David's faith begins to rise! However his brother began to burned with anger!

Then came the voices: The Voices of Negativity. David's brother began to mock and make fun of him! Hey sheep boy! This is of no concern to you! What are you doing here anyway? Aren't you supposed to be in some field somewhere taking care of a few little sheep? I know why you are here. You just came here to see the fight! That's just like you, you are so arrogant! David snaps back at his brother, "What have I done now? I was only asking a question!" We can tell by David's response that this isn't the first time his brother has made fun of him.

Like David's Brother, there will always be those who try to point out the impossibilities of what God may be calling you to do. There will always be those who lack the faith in you! Or they lack the faith in the vision God has given you. There will always be negative voices around you telling you that "your dreams are impractical or impossible!" The truth is these voices don't always come at us from the "OUTSIDE." Many times negative voices of discouragement come from "INSIDE" us! Sometimes that voice is ours! Often, we can be overwhelmed by what's in front of us that we don't trust in the faithfulness of the God inside of us!

Gripped by their fear...I believe this is what has happened to King Saul and the entire Israelite Army. They have listened to Goliath's threats 2 times a day for the last 40 days. All of them feared the giant in front of them and didn't trust in God who was with them! BUT NOT DAVID! David chose not to listen to the negative voices outside of him. He choose not to listen to the put downs of his brother. He chose to not listen to the fear of the other soldiers or King Saul who stood by and did nothing! And if there were any negative voices in his own head, David decided that he was not going to listen to them either!

Remembering the faithfulness of God in the past and knowing God's faithfulness to Israel, David chose to trust that God would defeat Goliath and the Philistine army. David believed that the God of Israel who delivered him from the lion and delivered Him from the bear would deliver him from Goliath. David silenced the negative voices in his life and moved forward trusting in God. Faith in God leads to Victory!

PART THREE /

1 Sam. 17: 32-50 / Saul's armor and the battle of Goliath.

³² “Don’t worry about this Philistine,” David told Saul. “I’ll go fight him!” ³³ “Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “There’s no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a man of war since his youth.”

I will fight him! Saul replies that there is no way you can, you don’t have the skills. “David your not cut out for this kind of stuff.”

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!”

David persists and tells what he has done and what he’ll do to Goliath. David tells Saul, the God who rescued him before will rescue him again. David’s faith shines through.

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.

Saul allows David to fight with one condition, to use his armor. Saul doesn’t boost his confidence. Saul believes brute force will be met with brute force. David tries it, but, it’s not who he is. “I’m not used to them.” David picks up 5 smooth stones and heads out to meet Goliath. David was equipped with what he needed. A willing heart full of faith.

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.

Goliath approaches David and insults him. A stick for a dog. Something to play with, this is easy. David replies, You come with all this man made stuff, but I come in the name of the Lord.

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!"

David tells him today "The Lord will conquer you." Everyone will know that God will do this but not with man made weapons.

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.

David runs to meet Goliath, and attacks. As opposed to the army running away in verse 24, David's faith in God is what prepares him for battle, it propels him to victory. This was God's battle, he only had to be a willing instrument to be used. A shepherd boy's faith is what defeats Goliath, not the faith of a King.

REMEMBER /

David trusted in the skills God gave him.

Faith led him to face the Giant.

David relies on the power of God to battle the giant.

David's faith in God led him to victory.