

Bible Stories for Adults

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16 - 17

Opening

Gathering: What giant do you have in your life that you need to turn over to God?

Today's Focus: God can do the impossible in our lives when we let go and let God.

Key Verses: *From that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.* 1 Samuel 16:13

You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty. 1 Samuel 17:45

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Israel's Leadership (*Judges 2:10-19*)

What form of leadership did Israel have after Moses and Joshua?

Judges 2:16, 18

Who did Israel consider to be their supreme leader?

Judges 8:23

How well did this work for Israel?

Judges 2:19; 21:25

King Me! (*1 Samuel 8*)

What did the Israelites decide they needed when their last and greatest judge grew old?

1 Samuel 8:4-5

Did they want a king to help keep the people faithful?

1 Samuel 8:19-20

Why did this bother Samuel?

1 Samuel 12:12-15

How About This One? (*1 Samuel 10*)

How did Israel select its first king?

1 Samuel 9:15-16

Did Saul look like a king?

1 Samuel 9:2

Did Saul have the confidence of a king?

1 Samuel 10:21-23

Did Saul act like a king?

1 Samuel 11:5

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King Strike 1 (*1 Samuel 13*)

What prompted Saul to begin acting as a king?

1 Samuel 11:1a, 6, 8

Did he respond as a king later when the Philistines threatened to attack?

1 Samuel 13:7b-10

This sounds like an action of a faithful king. Why was it wrong?

1 Samuel 10:8

How would Saul be punished for this undiscerning disobedience?

1 Samuel 13:13-14

King Strike 2 (*1 Samuel 14*)

How did Saul next demonstrate poor leadership?

1 Samuel 14:24

Besides weakening his army, how did this become a problem?

1 Samuel 14:27

How did Saul make a difficult situation even worse?

1 Samuel 14:43-44

How did Saul show that he cared more about pleasing men than obeying God?

1 Samuel 14:45

King Strike 3 (*1 Samuel 15*)

What command did God give Saul that led to his third strike?

1 Samuel 15:2-3

With God on his side, how could Saul screw this up?

1 Samuel 15:8-9

How did Saul explain this disobedience to Samuel?

1 Samuel 15:20-21

How did Samuel respond to this rationalization?

1 Samuel 15:22

How would God respond to this third strike?

1 Samuel 15:28

Do You Take Trade-ins? (*1 Samuel 16:1-7*)

Did Samuel immediately go out and find a king to replace Saul?

1 Samuel 16:1

How did Samuel go to pick one of Jesse's sons without Saul finding out?

1 Samuel 16:2-5

What did Samuel think when he saw Jesse's oldest & strongest son, Eliab?

1 Samuel 16:6

What lesson did God have for Samuel?

1 Samuel 16:7

Which is more important, to appear faithful or to be faithful?

1 Chronicles 28:9

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God Chooses David (*1 Samuel 16:8-13*)

- Which one of Jesse's sons did God choose: the strongest? the oldest? the smartest?
1 Samuel 16:10-12 (8-12)
- How was David's anointing like our own baptism?
1 Samuel 16:13

Call In the Band (*1 Samuel 16:14-23*)

- How did the Holy Spirit's presence in David contrast with God's support of Saul?
1 Samuel 16:14
- What idea was suggested to calm Saul from his torment?
1 Samuel 16:15-17
- Who did they recruit to help Saul?
1 Samuel 16:18-20

- Did David's music do the job?
1 Samuel 16:23
- Did Saul appreciate David's presence?
1 Samuel 16:21-22
- Note: These verses speak ahead to Saul taking in David in Chapter 18
Saul paid limited attention to David at this time as evidenced in 1 Samuel 17:55-58

The Secret Weapon of Philistia (*1 Samuel 17:1-11*)

- What happened at Sucoth (a town 15 miles west of Bethlehem)?
1 Samuel 17:1a, 3 (1-3)
- What was the Philistine's secret weapon?
1 Samuel 17:4-7
- What was the challenge of this secret weapon?
1 Samuel 17:8-11
- What incentive had Saul promised for whoever killed Goliath?
1 Samuel 17:25
- How long did this taunting go on?
1 Samuel 17:16

The Errand Boy Visits (*1 Samuel 17:12-24*)

- Was David a soldier in the Israelite army at this time?
1 Samuel 17:13-15 (12-15)
- What caused David to show up in the army camp at this time?
1 Samuel 17:17-19
- What did David see when he arrived at the Israelite camp?
1 Samuel 17:22-24 (20-24)

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Armor of God (1 Samuel 17:26-40)

How did David respond to what he saw?

1 Samuel 17:26 (26-27)

How did Eliab react to his youngest brother's big talk while he cowered?

1 Samuel 17:28

Did David listen to his brother, shut up and leave?

1 Samuel 17:29-31

What did David offer to Saul?

1 Samuel 17:32-37

How well was David outfitted for this battle?

1 Samuel 17:38-40

Little Davy to the Rescue (1 Samuel 17:41-50)

What did Goliath say when he saw David coming to him?

1 Samuel 17:41-44

Did David agree the fight would be one-sided?

1 Samuel 17:45-47

When the fight was to begin, did David get scared and run from Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:48

Why was it important for David to win without a sword or armor?

1 Samuel 17:49-50

Results of David's Trust (1 Samuel 17:51-54)

How did the Philistines react when they saw what had happened?

1 Samuel 17:51

What was the result of David's trust in God?

1 Samuel 17:52-54

What other personal problem of Saul did this event bring out?

1 Samuel 18:6-9

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I thought highly of myself when my success was clearly only by the grace of God? (1 Samuel 15:12, 17; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10; Galatians 6:3-5, 14)
2. What sins have I committed that I have rationalized as okay? (1 Samuel 13:11-14; 15:13-23; Acts 26:9-18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; James 2:10; 1 John 1:8-10)
3. When have I experienced the Spirit of the Lord upon me? (1 Samuel 10:10-12; 16:13; Luke 11:11-13; 12:12; John 7:38-39; 14:15-17; 16:7-16)
4. What giants have I come up against where my only hope of victory has been through trusting God? (1 Samuel 17; Psalm 124; Jeremiah 32:17; Luke 18:27; Romans 4:18-25; Titus 3:3-7)
5. Do I have a faith like David's where I will run quickly towards battle lines in my life knowing God will give me victory? (1 Samuel 17:48; Matthew 7:7-11; 21:21-22; Romans 8:28-32)