

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 = God raised judges to deal with specific needs

Who did Israel consider the be their supreme leader?

Judges 8:23 = Yahweh - The Lord God

How well did this work for Israel? = *Everyone did as he saw fit*

Judges 2:19; 21:25 = Not well, People didn't follow God

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 = They wanted a king

Did they want a king to help keep the people faithful? = Didn't trust God to protect them as He promised

1 Samuel 8:19-20 = No, they wanted a military leader like the other nations

Why did this bother Samuel?

1 Samuel 12:12-15 = A king could lead them astray

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

How did Israel select its first king?

1 Samuel 9:15-16 = God chose him and led him to Samuel

Did Saul look like a king?

1 Samuel 9:2 = Yes, Physically impressive, Tall

Did Saul have the confidence of a king?

1 Samuel 10:21-23 = No, he hid when he was to be presented to the people

Did Saul act like a king?

1 Samuel 11:5 = No, he went home and back to work on the farm

Bible Stories for Adults

David and Goliath

Page 2

King Strike 1 (1 Samuel 13)

What prompted Saul to begin acting as a king? = Spirit of the Lord came upon him

1 Samuel 11:1a, 6, 8 = Ammonites besieged Jabesh Gilead, Saul mustered 330,000

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

1 Samuel 13:7b-10 = He sought the Lord with offerings

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

1 Samuel 10:8 = He had been told by God's prophet to wait 7 days for Samuel to do it

How would Saul be punished for this undiscerning disobedience?

1 Samuel 13:13-14 = His dynasty would end with him

King Strike 2 (1 Samuel 14)

How did Saul next demonstrate poor leadership?

1 Samuel 14:24 = Prevented soldiers from eating until evening

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

1 Samuel 14:27 = His son, Jonathan, didn't know about command and ate some honey

How did Saul make a difficult situation even worse?

1 Samuel 14:43-44 = Swore to God that he would kill Jonathan for his disobedience

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

1 Samuel 14:45 = Didn't execute Jonathan as he had sworn to God

King Strike 3 (1 Samuel 15)

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

1 Samuel 15:2-3 = Completely destroy the Amalekites and everything they had

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

1 Samuel 15:8-9 = Didn't kill king and saved the best of the livestock

How did Saul explain this disobedience to Samuel?

1 Samuel 15:20-21 = The soldiers kept the best of the animals to sacrifice to God

How did Samuel respond to this rationalization?

1 Samuel 15:22 = To obey is better than sacrifice

How would God respond to this third strike?

1 Samuel 15:28 = God would replace Saul with a more faithful king

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 = No, he mourned a good while, then God sent him

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

1 Samuel 16:2-5 = He said he was coming to Bethlehem to sacrifice

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

1 Samuel 16:6 = This is surely the one

What lesson did God have for Samuel?

1 Samuel 16:7 = *Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart*

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

1 Chronicles 28:9 = *The Lord searches every heart & understands every motive*

Bible Stories for Adults

David and Goliath

Page 3

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) = The youngest, childlike (ruddy) appearance

How was David's anointing like our own baptism?

1 Samuel 16:13 = *From that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David*

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 = The Spirit had departed from Saul, replaced by an evil spirit

What idea was suggested to calm Saul from his torment?

1 Samuel 16:15-17 = Find someone who can sooth him with music

Who did they recruit to help Saul?

1 Samuel 16:18-20 = David - His father Jesse agreed and sent him with gifts for the king

Did David's music do the job?

1 Samuel 16:23 = Yes, David's music drove evil spirit from Saul

Did Saul appreciate David's presence? = David got to experience issues of leading the nation of Israel

1 Samuel 16:21-22 = Yes, eventually appointed him armor-bearer, asked Jesse to let him stay

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) = The Philistines & Israelites camped on hills with valley between

What was the Philistine's secret weapon?

1 Samuel 17:4-7 = 9-ft giant named Goliath, 125-lb armor suit, 15-lb spear point

What was the challenge of this secret weapon? = The gods would decide, saving needless bloodshed

1 Samuel 17:8-11 = Pick your best to fight me, Winner takes all

What incentive had Saul promised for whoever killed Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:25 = Give great wealth, daughter & family tax exempt

How long did this taunting go on?

1 Samuel 17:16 = 40 days

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

Was David a soldier in the Israelite army at this time? = David kept sheep when not playing for Saul

1 Samuel 17:13-15 (12-15) = No, his oldest 3 brothers were

What caused David to show up in the army camp at this time?

1 Samuel 17:17-19 = Father sent him to find out how his brothers were

What did David see when he arrived at the Israelite camp?

1 Samuel 17:22-24 (20-24) = Israelites were afraid of the Philistine giant

Bible Stories for Adults

David and Goliath

Page 4

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

How did David respond to what he saw?

1 Samuel 17:26 (26-27) = How can you let this heathen defy God's armies?

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

1 Samuel 17:28 = He scolded David for coming to watch the bloodshed

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

1 Samuel 17:29-31 = No, he kept talking & Saul heard about it

What did David offer to Saul?

1 Samuel 17:32-37 = I'll go fight Goliath and God will give me victory

How well was David outfitted for this battle?

1 Samuel 17:38-40 = Poorly outfitted as man, Well outfitted with God

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 = *Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?*

Did David agree the fight would be one-sided?

1 Samuel 17:45-47 = It was one-sided because God was on his side

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

1 Samuel 17:48 = No, he ran quickly to meet him

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

1 Samuel 17:49-50 = To show God's power & build David's faith

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 = They turned and ran

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

1 Samuel 17:52-54 = Israelites slaughtered the Philistines

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

1 Samuel 18:6-9 = He became very jealous of David's success

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)