

David and Goliath

FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson helps the kids pick up on one of the major principles of the Bible: the one man whose fate affects everyone. If David wins his battle with Goliath then all of Israel will be safe, if he loses then Israel will be enslaved. The fate of David affects everyone. This principle is established in God's relationship with Israel so that later we will be able to understand that the fate of Jesus affects all of humanity. Because Jesus, the Son of God and Son of David, has conquered death everyone has been set free from slavery to the fear of death (Heb. 2:14-15).

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Play a game of Bible Quiz with small pieces of candy as the prizes. Let each kid take a turn being the "champion". The champion has to answer the question. If he or she gets it right then each kid gets a piece of candy. If he or she gets the question wrong then no one gets a piece of candy. Give each kid a chance to be the champion. The questions can come from the Trinitarian Catechism. Here are some suggested questions to use:

- *How many gods are there? One
- *How many persons does God have? Three
- *Who are the three persons of God? Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- *What word do we use to describe how God is three persons in one God? Trinity
- *What nationality is Jesus? He is Jewish, from the tribe of Judah in the nation of Israel.
- *What is the nation of Israel? A special group of people the Father gathered together to create a place where Jesus could be born.
- *Who was the ancestor of the Israelites? Abraham
- *Who did the Father send to tell Israel about himself? Moses
- *Where do we read the story of Israel? The Old Testament

Activity Lesson: What the champion does affects everyone.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Briefly explain to the kids that Israel and the Philistines were at war with each other. Goliath was the Philistine champion, he was a giant over 9 feet tall. He told the Israelites to send a champion to fight him, if he won then Israel would be enslaved to the Philistines. If Goliath lost then the Philistines would leave Israel alone. Whatever happened to Israel's champion would affect

everyone in Israel and whatever happened to Philistia's champion (Goliath) would affect everyone in Philistia. All the Israelites were afraid to fight Goliath.

Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to 1 Samuel 17:32-50. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

³² David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." ³³ Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

³⁸ Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. ⁴⁹ Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

⁵⁰ So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. (NIV)

PRIMARY LESSON: The Lord helped David win so that all of Israel would be safe.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Explain to the kids that in the same way David was the champion for Israel and kept them all safe by his victory over Goliath, Jesus is the champion for all of humanity and has kept all people safe by his victory over death. Explain that Jesus takes everyone up with him in his resurrection and ascension. To illustrate this, have all the kids hold hands in a line behind a line leader. Tell the line leader that he or she can lead the kids anywhere in the room he wants to go, but all the kids must stay together holding hands. Let each kid take turns being the line leader. Explain that Jesus leads us all into the Father's life in heaven the same way the line leader leads all the kids around the room.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for making Jesus our champion. Jesus, thank for defeating death so that we can all live with you forever in your resurrection. Holy Spirit, help us to know and believe that we are safe in Jesus and that he will protect us as he helped David protect Israel. In Jesus' name, Amen.