

Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Proper 7 (B)

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 17 (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49

BACKGROUND

This story shows David's courage but also his faith in God. It is not his ability as a warrior that defeats the enemy, it is his faith in and service to God. Goliath is made out to be some sort of beast - almost a monster. He then represents all our fears and needs for a powerful God. No mere mortal can defeat such a beast with their own power. We must call upon God to help us.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING

Be careful to make this more than a story about a small, young person winning. David won the battle only because of God's help. Although at first it appears to be a regular underdog story, with David, the underdog prevailing. In the end, the true underdog is Goliath when pitted against the powerful YHWH. The lesson is that with GOD all things are possible.

THEME

David and Goliath

BEFORE CLASS

Gather items for the art project. Decide which songs to sing and learn them.

BEGINNING

Gather in a circle and invite the children to share times when they needed courage.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we are so thankful that you are with us through everything. Even when we are scared, we can rest in the peace that comes from knowing you are with us. Amen.

THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 17:32-49

Consider using a children's bible or The Common English Bible to tell the share the story.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder why Goliath scared everyone so?
- I wonder whether David was afraid?
- I wonder how David knew that God was with him?

- I wonder how you know that God is with you?

ACTIVITIES

It might be fun to tell the story again, and have kids pantomime.

Recycle Art

Have each child choose some recyclables to work with to portray the story. Offer paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, pipe cleaners, paper, glue, yard, paper plates, play dough, Legos and anything else you desire. Allow the children ample time to make their creations.

GETTING CLOSURE

Bring the children back together to share their creations.

Sing: Halle, Halle, Halle (My Heart Sings Out); Every Time I Feel the Spirit (Wonder, Love and Praise); Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) Wonder, Love and Praise

CLOSING PRAYER

God, you are always with us. Grant us faith and courage to face our fears, and to rest in the peace that only you can bring. Amen.

1 SAMUEL 17:32-49

“Don’t let anyone lose courage because of this Philistine!” David told Saul. “I, your servant, will go out and fight him!” “You can’t go out and fight this Philistine,” Saul answered David. “You are still a boy. But he’s been a warrior since he was a boy!” “Your servant has kept his father’s sheep,” David replied to Saul, “and if ever a lion or a bear came and carried off one of the flock, I would go after it, strike it, and rescue the animal from its mouth. If it turned on me, I would grab it at its jaw, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has fought both lions and bears. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them because he has insulted the army of the living God.

“The Lord,” David added, “who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine.” “Go!” Saul replied to David. “And may the Lord be with you!” Then Saul dressed David in his own gear, putting a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David strapped his sword on over the armor, but he couldn’t walk around well because he’d never tried it before. “I can’t walk in this,” David told Saul, “because I’ve never tried it before.” So he took them off. He then grabbed his staff and chose five smooth stones from the streambed. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd’s bag and with sling in hand went out to the Philistine.

The Philistine got closer and closer to David, and his shield-bearer was in front of him. When the Philistine looked David over, he sneered at David because he was just a boy; reddish brown and good-looking. The Philistine asked David, “Am I some sort of dog that you come at me with sticks?” And he cursed David by his gods. “Come here,” he said to David, “and I’ll feed your flesh to the wild birds and the wild animals!”

But David told the Philistine, “You are coming against me with sword, spear, and scimitar, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel’s army, the one you’ve insulted. Today the Lord will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head! Today I will feed your dead body and the dead bodies of the entire Philistine camp to the wild birds and the wild animals. Then the whole world will know that there is a God on Israel’s side. And all those gathered here will know that the Lord doesn’t save by means of sword and spear. The Lord owns this war, and he will hand all of you over to us.”

The Philistine got up and moved closer to attack David, and David ran quickly to the front line to face him. David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone. He slung it, and it hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.