

date: **1/28/18****Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 16—17**
(David and Goliath)

God Is Victorious

REMEMBER VERSE

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Isaiah 40:29

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

I remember going through a period of time when I couldn't find joy, either in my daily life or while spending time with the Lord. I felt discouraged. I knew what it meant to listen for God's voice, but I couldn't hear it. So I brought my thoughts to God and asked Him to show me what it meant to experience His joy.

A week or so later, I was at a worship service with a friend. As we worshipped, I felt God's Spirit so intensely that I fell to my knees. The room seemed to go gray for a moment, and the singing voices dimmed around me as I saw an image of a horizon. As I watched this horizon, I heard the word "joy" and watched a light explode over the horizon like the sun. I stayed kneeling on the ground for a long time, praising God for the joy I felt.

In that moment, I sensed God's Spirit in ways I never had before. And the joy of that moment continued even after that experience. If I started to feel sad or discouraged again, His Spirit would comfort me. By giving me the gift of joy from His Holy Spirit, God had broken the stranglehold of disappointment and sadness. He was victorious in my heart.

Tori Funkhouser
TruStory Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

When the high priest, Samuel, grew old, the people of Israel said, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." But when they said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: 'Listen to all that the

people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king” (1 Samuel 8:5–7).

The people of God wanted to “be like all the other nations, with a king to lead [them] and to go out before [them] and fight [their] battles.” (1 Samuel 8:20). God had set up a system of leadership in which He led His people through the priests, prophets, and judges speaking on His behalf. But the people did not want the system God had set up. They wanted the system man had created, so they asked for a king.

By asking for a king, the nation of Israel showed their refusal to be set apart for God’s glory. They wanted a king so they could be like other nations. They also wanted a king to lead them into battle, even though God had led them victoriously through battle after battle. By asking for a king, the Israelites showed a disregard for the God who had led them, fought for them, taken care of them, chosen them, and loved them.

Ultimately, God provided for the people to have a king, but the people weren’t patient and complained against God. Even so, God would choose David, a humble shepherd, to be king. And through David, God would reveal His glory again through the life of a man surrendered to Him.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God’s Word

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. (1 Samuel 16:13)

David’s anointing wasn’t an empty ceremony. Though King David wouldn’t sit on the throne until many years after his anointing, the Holy Spirit came upon him in power from that day on. He became so advanced in courage and wisdom by the Spirit of God that even the king’s servants knew of him.

What is it like to have God’s Spirit empower you? What would it be like to lead your ministry, to love your children, and to live your life empowered by God’s Spirit? Pray God will fill you with His Spirit. Pray God will give you the assurance that you belong to Him and He will never, ever leave you.

Then pray God’s Spirit will fill the kids in your ministry. Pray the kids experience the confidence to know God can be victorious in the battles they face. Pray that they will know the mighty power of God in their lives.

SMALL GROUP

SECTION

EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day’s portion of The Big God Story.

In today’s portion of The Big God Story, your children will hear about how God allowed David to use his slingshot to take down what many considered an impossible enemy: Goliath. Have your children get started

thinking about hitting a target with the following activities.

Option 1: Table Hockey (for Younger Kids)

SUPPLIES

- Coins (3 for every 2 children)
- Table or smooth floor

RELATE

Invite the children to play a version of table hockey during which they'll try to shoot coins into a goal. Have children divide up into pairs, and give each pair three coins. Each pair of players will face each other either across a table or several feet apart on the floor. Then they'll arrange the coins in a triangle formation, with a point of the triangle facing the other player.

The goal is to use fingers to flick a coin so that it knocks another coin into the goal. The first player will flick one coin into the other player's coins, to separate them. At the same time, the other player will place her hands flat on the table and make a goal formation (palms flat, thumbs pointing inward and touching each other, making 90-degree angles). After the first player flicks, the other player will take a turn while the first player will make his hands into a goal. This will continue back and forth until someone scores a goal. Play as long as time allows. The child with the most goals at the end wins.

Option 2: Curling (for Older Kids)

SUPPLIES

- Stones (5 small, 1 medium-sized, all smooth)
- Masking tape
- Table

SET UP

On the table, use masking tape to create a square about a foot to a foot and a half wide. Place the medium-sized stone in the center of the square and place the small stones outside it.

RELATE

Invite the kids to play a version of curling during which they'll try to hit the big stone out of the square. Point out the square and the five small stones outside it, and ask one child to slide one of the small stones into the square and try to hit the big stone out of the square. She gets four more chances to do this using any small stones. Reset all the stones and let the next child have a turn. Allow children to play as long as time allows. The child who hits the big stone out of the square using the fewest stones wins the competition.

LARGE GROUP
SECTION

DISCOVER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse

memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

RELATE

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Isaiah 40:29

Connect

Encourage the members of your community to get to know one another through engaging questions, energizing games, and creative activities.

Question

What's the biggest animal you've ever seen?

The Big God Story

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 16—17

Storytelling Technique: Children Acting Out Narrative

God Is Victorious

SUPPLIES

- [Timeline image](#) (see Resources)
- Optional: **Storytelling video** (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Crown (homemade paper or plastic)
- Armor for Goliath (helmet or hat, spear or stick, boots; use costumes and/or household items)
- Armor for Saul (sword, hat, shield; use costumes and/or household items)
- Slingshot

SET UP

Before Storytelling begins, choose child volunteers to play the role of Samuel, Saul, David, and Goliath. Show them the props they will be using and instruct them on how to act out their parts. As the Storyteller mentions

each character, the children will act out what the Storyteller describes.

RELATE

Who knows what *victorious* means? Allow responses. **To be victorious means you've won or defeated something. Today we're going to hear about how God is victorious. Every time you hear the word "victorious," I want you to make a "V" sign with each hand (two peace signs) and raise them high in the air. Demonstrate making two "V" signs. Great job! Before we begin, let's pray together.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to **pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.**

We've all heard stories about how God is victorious. Make "V" signs. He won the battles for the Promised Land for His people, demonstrating His power. Then the Israelites moved into the Promised Land. They lived under the leadership of a judge and prophet named Samuel. Have child playing Samuel come onstage. When Samuel got old, the Israelites asked for a king because they wanted to be like all the other nations. Samuel became upset about this, but God told Samuel to give the people what they wanted. The people got a king named Saul. Have child playing Saul come onstage, and have Samuel put a crown on Saul's head. Saul didn't always listen to God, and eventually God rejected him as king. Have Samuel pull off Saul's crown. God wanted a king completely devoted to Him, so God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to find and anoint the new king. Have Samuel search for a new king. To anoint means to smear with oil. In Bible times, oil was used in a ceremony when a man became king.

God led Samuel to the home of Jesse, a man with eight sons. The youngest son was David. Have child playing David come onstage. When Samuel saw David, God told him David would be king. Invite children to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 16:13 and follow along as you read. Have Samuel pretend to anoint David with oil. God knew David would serve Him for His glory. But because King Saul was still in charge, God waited before placing David on the throne.

During this time, the Philistines gathered for war against the Israelites. The Philistines had a champion named Goliath who was over nine feet tall! Have child playing Goliath come onstage. Goliath was big and strong and wore bronze armor that weighed about 125 pounds! He carried a javelin, which was a large spear. Have Goliath put on his armor. Every day for 40 days Goliath asked the Israelites for someone to fight, but no one went forward. Everyone was too terrified! The Israelites shouldn't have been terrified—the God of the universe was on their side! They had seen over and over how God is victorious (make "V" signs) and should have trusted that God would be victorious (make "V" signs) again.

Meanwhile, David's father told him to go to the battlefield and deliver food to his brothers who were fighting in the army. David arrived as Goliath taunted the Israelite armies once again. David saw God's armies run away in fear and did not like it. Ask the kids to turn to 1 Samuel 17:20–26 and follow along as you or a volunteer reads it. God had put His Spirit on David, giving him more courage than all of the mighty warriors of Israel. David volunteered to fight Goliath! He knew that God would be with him and that God would be victorious (make "V" signs).

King Saul protested because David was only a young man and a lowly shepherd who had never been trained to serve in an army. But David wasn't afraid. He told the king that while he had been tending his father's sheep, both a lion and a bear had attacked the animals. But because God's Spirit was upon David, he had killed both the lion and the bear! David saw God be victorious (make "V" signs) in his life and knew God would be victorious (make "V" signs) again. Have someone read 1 Samuel 17:37 while the kids follow along.

Saul agreed to let David fight, and Saul dressed David in his armor. Have Saul help put armor on David. **But the armor was too heavy and bulky** (have David walk uncomfortably in the armor) **and David couldn't get used to it. So David decided to fight Goliath without any armor or weapons ... except for his slingshot and five smooth stones.** Have David take off his armor and pick up his slingshot.

When David and Goliath met on the battlefield, Goliath was offended that David, carrying only a slingshot, dared to approach him. But David wasn't afraid of Goliath. Read 1 Samuel 17:45–47 while the kids follow along. **David knew God would be victorious** (make “V” signs) **and wanted everyone to know that the battle belonged to God. David reached into his bag, took out a stone, put it in his slingshot, and slung it into the air. The stone hit Goliath in the forehead so hard that Goliath fell down!** Have David pretend to fling a stone at Goliath and Goliath fall to the floor. **Then David cut off Goliath's head with a sword. The Philistine army turned and ran for their lives. God was victorious** (make “V” signs) **once again!**

David surrendered his life to God. He chose to follow God even if it meant doing something really scary like fighting a giant. And as God won the victory over Goliath through David, God showed His glory to everyone there. God still glorifies Himself today as He brings victory in our lives too. Tell a personal story about a time God was victorious in your life.

SMALL GROUP

SECTION

RESPOND// 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

Reflect: God Is Victorious

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

Questions for Younger Kids

- **What does *victorious* mean?**
- **Why were the Israelites afraid to fight Goliath?** 1 Samuel 17:8, 11
- **Why wasn't David afraid of Goliath?** 1 Samuel 17:37
- **What did David use to fight Goliath?** 1 Samuel 17:40
- **Who defeated Goliath for David?** 1 Samuel 17:45–46
- **How have you seen God being victorious in your own life?**

Questions for Older Kids

- **Why did God want Samuel to find a new king?** 1 Samuel 16:1
- **How did God prepare David to fight Goliath?** 1 Samuel 17:34–36
- **Why wasn't David afraid of Goliath?** 1 Samuel 17:37
- **Who defeated Goliath?** 1 Samuel 17:45–46
- **How was God victorious in David's life?**

- Where do you see God's victory today in the world? In your own heart?

BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up, as a symbol of receiving whatever God might have for them today. Open a Bible and read Psalm 44:6–8:

I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame. In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever.

Invite the children to spend some time blessing one another. Have them break into pairs and take turns blessing each other with the following: "(Child's name), may you know that God is victorious (give 'V' sign) in your life."

Finally, have a leader read the following blessing over the entire group, making the "V" sign when saying, "Victorious."

May you trust in nothing but God to give you victory in your life. May He be victorious in your heart and give you peace and joy.