

INTRODUCTION

The story of David and Goliath is one of the great Old Testament pictures of God as the warrior champion, picturing what Jesus would do as the ultimate champion over sin and death. There is also a theme of boldness for God—to show God’s power to the nations. The victory over Goliath was a victory over the false gods and beliefs of the Philistines, showing the power and might of the one true God. David shouted to Goliath right before hurtling the stone toward him, “That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” The Philistines realized that truth on that day but so did the Israelites because one man trusted that his God was bigger and more powerful than a giant over nine feet tall called Goliath. God’s desire is for His name and glory to be known to the nations. As we step out boldly in faith, trusting God our champion, others will see that the one true God is alive!

The following concepts should be clearly conveyed during the club hour:

- **God:** Omnipotent—God is all powerful.
- **Bible:** The books of the Bible, OT/NT—The Old Testament looks forward to the coming Messiah. The New Testament talks about when Jesus was alive on earth.
- **Jesus:** Breaks the power of sin in my life—Jesus gives me freedom from the power of sin. Jesus changes me from the inside out.

Demonstrations of
the lessons and songs in
this series are available at:
cefonline.com/freedemos/gnc



SMALL GROUP TIME

“What Does God Care About?” (Optional discussion)

When people look at us, what do they see? The color of our hair, or eyes, what clothes we are wearing? Can they look inside and see what we think or how we feel? *(Allow responses.)* People tend to look at the outside, but God looks at what is in your heart. Last week in club we talked about God choosing David to be the next king of Israel. God called David “a man after My heart.” Why did God say that? *(Allow response.)* David was a man after God’s heart because he cared about the things God cares about. *(Have a picture of a heart for the group or hand out one to each child.)* What are some things God cares about? Let’s write them in the heart. *(Allow responses, discussing answers as you write them down.)* During the week did you show by your attitude and actions that you cared more about what God thinks than what you thought or wanted to do?

Would you like to share? *(Allow opportunity for sharing but do not pressure children to share. Be prepared to share something from your own life as an encouragement to the children.)* Let’s pray and ask God to help us care about the things He cares about. *(Ask for prayer requests and then close in prayer.)*

Materials
“Paper Heart” reproducible
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Lesson 3

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement: **"God is the champion!"** Tell them that anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!

If you want to add actions to the Word Up! point up with both hands when you say "God." Flex both muscles like a strong man when you say "champion."

Since the Gospel is condensed in a Christian Growth Bible lesson, you will want to reinforce the message of salvation elsewhere in the club hour. This can be done through a Gospel song. Emphasize the message of salvation truths as you explain the words and concepts. If using a growth song, share the Gospel when applying the song to the unsaved child.

Materials

10' measuring tape

Materials

Point to Philistia and then Judea on the Bible Map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)



WORD UP!

"God is the champion!"

If you had to walk somewhere dark and scary, would you feel better going by yourself or having someone tall and strong to walk with you and protect you? *(Allow response.)* You'd feel better if you had someone with you! That person would be your champion—stronger than you and able to defeat anyone who might try to hurt you. A champion is someone who wins or defeats an enemy. The greatest champion of all time is God! Today we're going to talk about how God is the ultimate champion. Say with me, **"God is the champion!"** *(Say with children.)*



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

(Bring a measuring tape to club that is at least 10 feet long.) Today we're going to measure a few things and see how tall they are. What should we measure first? *(Have children choose a few things to measure, choosing a taller thing each time. You may want to measure one or two of the children. Finally, choose the tallest teacher or helper to measure.)* Now let's see how tall *(teacher's name)* is. *(Tell height.)* But today we're going to hear about someone who was much taller than *(teacher's name)*!

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 1

Time had gone by since Samuel had anointed young David to be the next king of Israel. King Saul was still in power and David continued to care for his father's sheep, waiting on God's time for him to take his place as king of Israel. Do you remember why God chose David to be king and said no to David's seven older brothers? *(Allow response.)* God chose David because David was a man after God's heart. David loved God and cared about the things God cared about.

God was working in David's life. King Saul had learned David was very good at playing the harp. Sometimes he asked David to come to the palace and play the harp for him, especially when Saul felt tormented.

In the meantime, the Philistines wanted to start another war with Israel.

Slide 2

God had helped Israel defeat the Philistines in the past, but now the Philistines were determined to conquer Israel!

The two armies gathered on opposite mountains with a valley between them. Each army sent one soldier to fight for them. This soldier was their champion. The side whose champion lost would become slaves of the winning side.

Slide 3

The Philistine champion was a giant named Goliath (*goe- LIE-ahth*). The Bible says that he was over nine feet tall! Remember when we measured (*teacher's name*)? Goliath was (*say how many more feet and inches taller*) than (*teacher's name*)! His armor alone weighed about 125 pounds. He carried a heavy spear that weighed about 15 pounds. He was big and scary! Can you say, "BIG" and "SCARY" on the count of three? (*Say with children.*) When the men of Israel's army saw him, they stared in fear and amazement!

He stomped down into the valley with his heavy armor. With his big, booming voice he shouted, (*read 1 Samuel 17:8-9 in a booming voice*). Goliath did this every day, twice a day, for 40 days!

King Saul and the Israelite army were terrified by the threats of the giant Goliath. They had forgotten their God was bigger and more powerful than Goliath!



Sometimes things and people come into our lives that scare us or make us doubt God. When that happens, if you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **be bold for the glory of God!** To be bold is to stand up for what you know God says is right and true but to do it in a right way. Being bold doesn't mean you're extra loud, bossy, or angry. When you are bold for God, He gets glory—the honor and praise He deserves because He is the King! God may bring chances in your life for you to be bold for Him. Perhaps you are made fun of at your school or in your neighborhood for believing in God. Or maybe you are made fun of because you won't say bad words, listen to bad jokes or watch certain movies.

Slide 4

Say with me, "**God is the champion!**" (*Say with children.*) (*Read 1 John 4:4b.*) God is greater than any problem you might face. He is strong enough to help you each day. God the Holy Spirit will help you **be bold for the glory of God** even when you are afraid. Remember God is bigger and more powerful than any problem.

Slide 5

God's people had forgotten how big and powerful their God was! He is even stronger than a giant like Goliath.

Slide 6

While his brothers served in Israel's army, David was faithfully doing his job caring for his father's sheep in Bethlehem. One day David's father, Jesse, told him, "David, I want you to take this food to your brothers and the commander of the army. See how your brothers are doing and come back and tell me."

Preschool Activity

Help the children understand just how massive Goliath was by comparing his size to something they can see. You could show a string that is 9'9" long. Lay the string on the floor and let some of the children lay down next to it. Explain that this is how long Goliath was when He laid down. You can also explain that his armor was so heavy that it weighed much more than two of them put together!

Preschool Song

"Have You Any Fear?"

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

The children would enjoy pretending to play a harp and care for sheep. They could even make harp noises and sheep sounds!

Preschool Activity

Have the children pretend to shiver in fear like the Israelite army then stand up bold and tall like David.

Optional Skit

"David and Saul" skit reproducible
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

David: King Saul, don't let anybody be afraid because of this giant! I am your servant. I will go fight this Philistine.

Saul: You can't fight this giant! You're still pretty young. Goliath has been fighting his whole life. You've never had any training!

David: But I've been taking care of the sheep. A lion and a bear have attacked my sheep! God helped me kill them with my own hands. This Philistine giant will be just like that lion and bear. God is with me and will deliver me!

Saul: Go, and may the Lord be with you!

Preschool Activity

Have preschoolers boldly shout "God will help me!"

David got up early the next morning and made sure a servant took care of the sheep. Then he gathered the supplies and headed for the army camp. Can you pretend to pack food and carry it with David? (*Do with children.*) David arrived just as Israel's army was preparing for their daily meeting with the enemy. David delivered the food and joined his brothers.

Slide 7

Suddenly he heard a booming shout that terrified everyone around him!

David turned to see where the voice was coming from. Goliath's voice echoed through the valley. "Send me a man to fight! I dare you! Send me a man to fight!"

David looked around at his brothers and the other soldiers. Some of the men ran from Goliath in fear. "Who is this man?" David asked. One of the men told David how Goliath had been threatening them every day like this for many weeks. He said to David, "King Saul has offered a prize. He said he would give his daughter as a wife to the man who kills that giant. And no member of the man's family will have to pay taxes or be a servant."

David was very angry as he heard his country and his God being threatened. He couldn't believe the fear that seemed to paralyze the army of Israel.

"Who is this Philistine," David exclaimed, "that he should defy (insult) the armies of the living God?"

When David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David's comment, he was angry. "Why have you come down here? Who's at home taking care of the sheep?" He continued, "I know why you've come. You wanted to see the great battle. You were afraid you might miss something!"

"What have I done wrong?" David asked. Soon word began to spread about David. Before long, some of the men told King Saul about what David said. The king immediately sent for David.

Slide 8

David said to the king, "Don't let anybody be afraid because of this enemy. I am your servant, and I will go and fight this Philistine." King Saul tried to reason with David. "You can't fight this giant. You are hardly more than a boy. This man has been fighting all his life, but you've had no training."

David refused to be discouraged. "I have been tending sheep for my father," he explained. "There have been times when I have killed wild animals—a lion and a bear—with my own hands when they came into the flock. This Philistine who has dared to defy the armies of the living God shall be like those wild animals to me. God will deliver me from this Philistine!"

Why was David so confident? Not because he was strong but because he knew and trusted God. That is why David was so bold!



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **be bold for the glory of God!** (Read *Ephesians 6:10*.) You can be bold for God because of God's power. When you are bold for God, other people will see how amazing and wonderful God is.

Slide 9

Say with me, **"God is the champion!"** (Say with children.) God wants the nations (all people) to know He is the champion! When you are being made fun of, are afraid, or are facing other troubles, remember who God is and that you belong to Him. What is something you know about what God is like? (Allow response, encouraging children to name attributes of God, such as all powerful and all knowing.) You are precious to Him, and He loves you. You can remember that Jesus was made fun of and mistreated but He continued to follow and obey God. When you remember, then act, even when it's hard! The Holy Spirit will help you say "no" to things you shouldn't watch or listen to. He will help you continue to tell others you believe in God, even if they make fun of you. God will help you trust Him and be bold for Him!

Slide 10

David was boldly willing to fight Goliath. David knew and trusted God was the true champion of His people. This is another way David was a man after God's heart.

When King Saul heard David's confident words, he said, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" But Saul noticed David didn't have any armor, so he offered his own.

David struggled into the heavy suit of armor. He fastened on the sword, and Saul set the heavy bronze helmet on his head. But David was not used to the armor. David's muffled voice came from inside the large helmet, "I can't wear this armor! I would have to get used to it before wearing it." David took off the heavy armor.

Taking only his shepherd's staff and sling, David left to face Goliath. As he crossed a small stream, he stooped and picked up five smooth stones, dropping them into his bag. Let's pick up five stones while we count to five. (Do with children.)

Saul and all of his men were probably lined up along the mountain watching in amazement as this courageous young man approached Goliath.

Slide 11

The giant saw someone from Israel's camp coming toward him. As David came closer, Goliath was able to see his opponent more clearly.

Goliath yelled, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" He cursed and swore at David. "If you come to me I will kill you!" Both sides watched intently. How could David possibly have a chance against a giant like Goliath?

David shouted, (read *1 Samuel 17:45*). Then David said, "That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel!" David knew God was going to show the nations that the God of Israel is the one true God!

Preschool Song

"I Will Trust"

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Children would enjoy touching and trying on a piece of toy armor such as a plastic breastplate or shield. NOTE: For the children's safety, do not use any sort of weapon for this activity.

Preschool Activity

Let the children touch and count five smooth rocks.

Lesson 3

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible" vv. 4-5

Materials

Point to the red cross on Timeline.
Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack
and Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

The children would enjoy pretending to swing a sling in circles over their heads.

Teacher Help

Be sure the children understand that David fought Goliath as part of a war. The bullies they may face at school or on the playground are not the same type of bully as Goliath. God does not tell us to fight these bullies like David fought Goliath. God wants you to show love for these bullies by telling a trusted adult about how they are treating you. Let the children know they can come talk to you anytime if they need help dealing with a bully.



God is the Lord of the earth that He created. He is the one true God who loves you perfectly because He is perfect. He wants everyone to know Him, but all people are born not knowing God or being close to Him. (*Read Isaiah 59:2a.*) Your sin—things like lying, disobeying or being sneaky to get what you want—separates you far from the God who loves you. Because you were born with these sinful desires, you deserve to be separated from God forever. But God's plan is that the whole world would know that He is the one true God. That's why Jesus came to earth. He lived a perfect life and allowed men to nail Him to a cross where He bled and died. (*Read Colossians 1:13-14.*) Jesus has won against sin (the power of darkness)! He makes it possible for you to have your sins forgiven. He can bring you into God's Kingdom. On the third day after Jesus died, He came alive again! Jesus defeated sin by His life, death, and resurrection. He is God's perfect champion.

Slide 12

Say with me, "**God is the champion!**" (*Say with children.*) Jesus is now alive in heaven ruling as the King. That is the greatest way God showed the nations that He is the Lord!

Slide 13

God wanted the nations, including the Philistines and Goliath, to know He is the one true God!

David ran toward Goliath. Reaching into his shepherd bag, he took out one of the stones and placed it in his sling. David raised the sling over his head and began to swing it around and around.

It spun faster than the eye could see. Then with a z-z-z-zing, the stone flew through the air at lightning speed. It sank deep into Goliath's forehead.

CLIMAX

God won the victory through David as the mighty Goliath crashed to the ground. David rushed over and made sure he was dead! The powerful giant lost the battle! The enemy of Israel was dead!

CONCLUSION

When the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they were afraid! They turned and ran for their lives. The army of Israel, now filled with joy and confidence, chased the enemy and won a great victory. God was their champion and had won the battle!

CHALLENGE



If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, **be bold for the glory of God!** God wants everyone to come to know Him. When you are bold for God others will see He is the champion! This brings God glory. When others make fun of you because you believe in Jesus, remember how great God is and that you belong to Him! You can also remember Jesus was made fun of but still did everything God the Father asked Him to do. (*Read Ephesians 6:10.*) You can be strong in God's power because He is your champion!

Slide 14

Say with me, **"God is the champion!"** (*Say with children.*) This week will you ask God the Holy Spirit to help you be bold for His glory? Will you continue to tell others about God even if they tease you? Will you do what's right even when others don't because you know it pleases God? When you do these things, you are being bold for God and showing others He is the one true God. Next week you can tell us how God helped you be bold for Him.

INVITATION



You do not have God's power to be bold until you know Jesus as your Savior. Your sin separates you from God. But **God is the champion who sent His Son, Jesus, to defeat sin so you can believe in Him as your Savior!** Jesus died and came alive again so you can be saved from sin and have life with God. (*Read John 3:15.*) This verse is talking to you. It says if you will believe (put your trust) in Jesus as the one who died and rose again for you, that you will have eternal life. Eternal life means you will be close to God here on earth—He will be with you and help you! God will be your champion and help you be bold. Then one day you will live forever with God in heaven. Will you believe in Jesus as your Savior today? Please bow your heads and close your eyes. If you want to believe in Jesus as your Savior, show me by raising your hand. (*Acknowledge responses.*) You may all open your eyes. If you raised your hand to show that you want to believe in Jesus as your Savior, please meet me (*designate time and location*) and we will look more at what God's Word says about how to have eternal life.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:36a and "believe on" terminology. Ask those who have questions about believing on Jesus to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child's expression of that belief to God. (See "Guiding a Child to the Savior" on the inside front cover.)