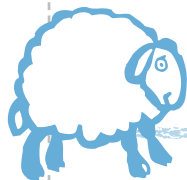




Lesson One

David Relies on God



Nourishing Your Heart

Scripture

1 Samuel 17

Bible Truth

David was ready and willing to be God's servant because he trusted the faithfulness of God.

Lesson Aim

To know that God is faithful and that we should learn to trust and serve him.

Why did young David so eagerly confront mighty Goliath of Gath? King Saul and the Israelites were clearly afraid of the fierce warrior, yet the young shepherd—who from time to time also served as King Saul's armor-bearer and personal musician—seemed to jump at the opportunity to take on the enemy soldier and his army.

David was offended that Goliath would dare oppose God's covenant people, and he asked out loud, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Samuel 17:26b). David's brothers misunderstood David's courageous spirit and were angry that he spoke out boldly. But their response did not cause David to turn aside; instead, he became even more determined to deal with Goliath. Unlike his brothers, King Saul, and the Israelite army, David trusted in the power of the God of Israel.

Indeed, he had learned to rely on the Lord because he had found him to be faithful. Alone with his father's sheep in the hills, David had trusted God to protect him from the attacks of wild animals, and he knew that God would deliver him from the Philistines in the same way.

Even though the tall Philistine champion was dressed in a heavy coat of armor and carried a sword and javelin, David confidently approached him in ordinary shepherd's clothing, armed only with a sling and five smooth stones taken from a nearby stream. The young shepherd had confidence in his simple weapon, for he was used to hitting his prey with deadly accuracy.

More important, David knew that God had promised to be faithful to Israel. Therefore, he challenged Goliath with these words: "I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel. ... The battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:45b–47). Then, taking aim, David whirled his sling, and a well-placed stone brought the Philistine crashing to the ground.

Pray that your children will learn from this lesson that, like David, we can trust our heavenly Father, who gives us what we need to serve him. No matter what fearful giants we face as we serve the Lord, we can approach them with confidence, trusting God's promises and faithfulness.

We can trust our heavenly Father, who gives us what we need to serve him.

Memory Verse

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:16