

Bible background

1 Samuel 17

Aim of lesson

To teach that the one who is on God's side is the strongest.

Preparation required

For this lesson you will require cereal boxes and cardboard tubes, scissors and string, paint, felt tip pens or gummed coloured paper, to make a model giant.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children if any of them have met a bully. Discuss with them how nasty a bully can be.
2. Tell them about the bully Goliath, a giant nine feet tall (about 3 metres), who with his army had invaded David's country and wanted David's people to be their slaves.
3. Make a giant out of cereal boxes. Allow the class to choose a box for his head. (An ice cream tub makes a good helmet.) Use string through punched holes to tie boxes together at the neck and shoulders etc. If you feel this would be too chaotic to make during class, you could make one beforehand or omit it altogether.
4. Tell how David's father sent him with some food to his brothers who were in the army, and were waiting to fight Goliath's army. Tell how David heard the giant's boasts and volunteered to fight the giant. Bring out his confidence in God.
5. Teach the chorus of the song 'O Goliath'. Use this song to teach the rest of the story. You will probably have to sing the verses as the words may well be too much for infants to learn during the lesson. It is a good idea to explain what happened next, amplifying and clarifying the story, and tell actions to the song and knock down your model of Goliath at the end.
6. Use the activity sheet to go through the story with them again.

Alternative activities

1. Cut out a cardboard figure for each child to stick some armour on to. The armour could be made from foil or metallic card. Give each figure a spear and shield. You could also add some woolly hair, a beard and a foil helmet.
2. Draw round one of the children (the back of an old roll of wallpaper works well) and get everyone to help paint or print armour on the body shape. Cut out and paint a cardboard shield and spear.
3. Of course, this story lends itself to some drama - perhaps the children could act it out as you read. You can focus on how the people would be feeling in this way, too.

Relevance to the children's lives

God's way is not for us to be bullies and fight each other, but to trust in him.

Prayer

Ask what David might have prayed after killing Goliath.

Verse

'We trust in the living God.' 1 Timothy 4:10.

Song

O Goliath (Tune: Clementine)



Chorus: O Goliath, O Goliath

You're a giant, very tall

But if God is not beside you

Then you have no strength at all.

- v.1 Here comes David, here comes David
With his sling held in his hand (*swing a sling round and round*)
He has chosen five round pebbles
From the water, from the sand.
- v.2 See the giant, see the champion
With his armour and his sword (*beat chest*)
'Who will fight me? Who can kill me?'
Hear him bellow, hear him call.
- v.3 Down the valley, comes the champion
Watches David, stone in hand (*mime, firing sling or catapult*)
Hits him squarely in the forehead
Falls down dead, just where he stands.

Music: Traditional. Words: Domini Lowe