

Bible Story 18: DAVID, A COURAGEOUS YOUTH

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13,23; 17:1-51; 18:1,3;
2 SAMUEL 2:4; 1 KINGS 2.10-11

MEMORY VERSE: "I WILL SING OF YOUR STRENGTH, IN THE MORNING I WILL SING OF YOUR LOVE; FOR YOU ARE MY FORTRESS, MY REFUGE (PROTECTION) IN TIMES OF TROUBLE." PSALM 59:16 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

David was handsome, healthy and brave. He liked music and sometimes he went to the palace to play his harp for King Saul. His music was soothing to the king when he was sick. David was a very good friend to Jonathan, the king's son.

David helped his father take care of their sheep in the field. One day, his father asked him to take some food to his three older brothers and find out how they were doing. They were helping King Saul fight against their enemies, the Philistines.

Early the next morning David left. When he arrived at his brothers' campsite, he saw on the hillside their enemies, the great Philistine army. The leader of the Philistines was Goliath, who was very strong and large. He was over nine feet tall. No Israelite soldier had courage to fight against him!

David told King Saul that with God's help he would fight Goliath. The king insisted that David wear his personal helmet and coat of armor. David put these on, but he was not used to wearing them. So he took them off. With only his slingshot and his staff, a long shepherd's stick, David went towards Goliath. When he arrived at the stream, he chose one, two, three, four, five smooth stones and put them into his shepherd's bag.

When David was close to Goliath, he took a stone from his bag and put it in his slingshot. He slung his slingshot around, around and around, and then he finally let it go. The stone hit Goliath's forehead and the great warrior fell to the ground! David won the battle with God's help!

Later David became the king of Israel, seeking to serve God. David wrote many songs that are in the book of Psalms in the Bible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.