

Dave and the Giant Pickle



What is the STORY about?

Ever felt like you were too little to do anything big? That's how a little shepherd boy named Dave feels when his big brothers head off to defend their country, leaving him behind with the sheep. "Big people do big things, and little people do little things," they tell him. They're in for a surprise, though, when they find out their foe is much bigger than they thought! In this hilarious re-telling of the classic Bible story of David and Goliath, kids learn that with God's help, even little guys can do big things!

- *A Lesson in Self-Esteem*
- *Key Passage: 1 Samuel 17*
- *Running time: 16 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Since Dave was the smallest and youngest of the shepherd brothers, what did his older brothers always make him do? (Pick up the sheep that were tipped over)*
- *Why couldn't Dave go fight the Philistines with his brothers? (He was too little)*
- *How did Dave get the chance to fight the giant pickle? (Everyone else was afraid)*
- *With God's help, how did Dave defeat the giant? (With a stone in a slingshot)*
- *Why was Dave brave when he faced Goliath? (Because he was a child of God, and he knew that God would help him)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The Bible story of David and Goliath can be found in 1 Samuel 17. Read the story to the children in a translation that is easy for them to understand OR tell it in this condensed version.

The Philistines gathered their army together to fight God's people, the Israelites. Three of Jesse's eight sons went to fight in this war. The Philistines had a champion in their army named Goliath who stood over nine feet tall. He wore a helmet on his head, a heavy suit of armor, and carried a large spear. He was very big and scary. Every day for forty days, Goliath came forward to take a stand. The Israelites were afraid of him and ran away. One day Jesse sent his youngest son, David, to the warriors' camp with food for his older brothers. He saw Goliath as he was shouting and coming forward. Goliath shouted bad things to the young Israelite, and David replied, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty." As Goliath moved to attack, David ran forward to the battle line. He threw the stone he had placed in his sling and struck the Philistine. The stone sank into his forehead, and Goliath fell face down on the ground. With only a stone... and God's help... David defeated the great champion Philistine!

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **MARK 9:23** "Everything is possible for him who believes."
- **MARK 10:27** "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
- **LUKE 1:37** "For nothing is impossible with God."

The Story of David and Goliath



ACTIVITY

Have each child think of one or two words that would describe how they are special. (Examples: freckles, good friend, big sister, tall, funny, brave, good runner) Give each child a slip of paper and pencil to write their word/words and place them all in a container. Take turns pulling out the slips of paper and guessing who wrote each description.

Option: Place a piece of masking tape on the wall from the floor upwards so the children can visualize the height of Goliath (9 ft.) Collect a pile of small stones, and emphasize that one small stone brought down the big giant. Let each child select one stone and have them write (with permanent marker) the “special” word/words they selected to describe themselves. Encourage them to keep the stone as a reminder of the story of David and as a reminder that they are special.



What can we DO?

Remind the children that each one of them is special, they can do anything God wants them to do, and they can be anything God wants them to be!

Ask volunteers to complete the following sentences. (Encourage the children to be honest with their answers and understanding of the answers of others.)

- *I am brave when...*
- *When I am scared, I...*
- *The thing I like most about myself is...*
- *Someday I would like to...*
- *I am special because...*
- *My favorite thing to do is...*

3 Things to remember about David

1. The Philistine giant, **GOLIATH**, did not frighten David
2. A **STONE** in his sling brought down the giant
3. David was **BRAVE** because God was on his side

KEY VERSE

(Matthew 19:26) “... with God all things are possible.”

KEY NUGGET

With God’s help, you can do anything!

