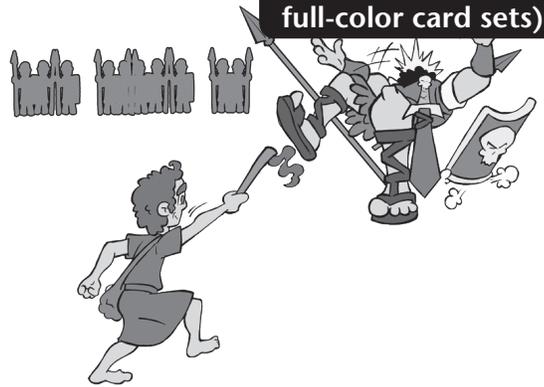


YOU ARE THERE DAVID & GOLIATH

Original illustration
(also available in
full-color card sets)



Introduction, through the eyes of someone who was there

You are David, of Judah, the eighth (and youngest) son of Jesse. You live in Bethlehem, but you spend a lot of your time on the nearby hillsides, herding sheep. You sometimes have to deal with predators — lions and bears — and you've gotten expert with your sling.

Just recently, the famous prophet and judge, Samuel, came to town and anointed you, and shortly after that, your three oldest brothers went to war with Saul against the Philistines.

After more than a month of no fighting, your father sends you to see your brothers with a bundle of bread, roasted grain and cheese, both as food for them and as a gift for their commander. The battlelines are about 15 miles west of Bethlehem, and you make it in a day. You arrive and are talking with your brothers, when you hear something strange — one of the Philistines is challenging anyone who dares fight him to single combat to settle the battle.

To you, this is simple — the giant Goliath stands tall, but God stands even taller. You wonder out loud why no one has taken up his challenge and gotten rid of the Philistine army. Your brothers and the other nearby soldiers point out the obvious negatives — Goliath easily outweighs and outmuscles anyone in the Israelite army. But does that matter ...?

Basic verses and other related passages

THE BASIC STORY

1 Samuel 16; 17 (Samuel anoints David; David and Goliath fight)

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE ...

Genesis 6:4, Numbers 13:33 (Are Nephilim the giants the spies feared?)
2 Samuel 21:16-22, 1 Chronicles 20:4-8 (Goliath's relatives)

More depth and detail

Even before Samuel anoints David and God's Spirit fills him, David has a great deal of confidence in himself and in God. He has fought dangerous animals, at least once hand to hand, where a slip would cost him his life. When given armor to protect himself, he discards it to fight the way he's used to fighting. When Saul's entire army is afraid of Goliath, David sees only God's might.

David is usually pictured with a simple leather strap sling, but Goliath describes it as a stick (17:43). David probably has a sling stick, which has the strap at the end of a short stick. Adding the length of the stick to his swing gives him much more torque — the stone flies much faster than from a simple sling, and is very deadly.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DAVID?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

"Summing up" time (if needed)

DID YOU KNOW? ANOINTING

Related facts about Bible life & times

The basic meaning of "anointing" is simply to apply oil to an object or person. In the Bible, anointing is used in three different ways:

- (1) **As a sign of favor from God.** The king is anointed by a priest or prophet as a sign for the people that he is God's royal representative on the earth (1 Kings 1:39; 2 Kings 23:30). Anointing also reminds the king that it is God Who placed him on his throne. When Samuel pours the oil on David (1 Samuel 16:13) David is set aside for God's own purposes. Both priests and prophets are also anointed as God's representative among the people (1 Kings 19:16; Numbers 35:25). The Tabernacle and its furniture are anointed, and thus set apart for God's work. The word "Messiah" means "anointed one," as Jesus was prophet, priest and king — all three.
- (2) **As a sign of respect for God.** For example, in Genesis 35:13-14 Jacob anoints an altar commemorating a place where he met God. The oil used for this type of anointing is of the highest quality, usually pure olive oil or olive oil mixed with expensive spices and perfumes, as nothing but the best will do as a gift for God. When Mary anoints the feet of Jesus (John 12:1-3) she uses anointing oil so expensive it is worth a year's wages!
- (3) **As part of everyday life.** Gracious hosts anoint their guests with oil (Luke 7:46). Anointing oil is even used for medicinal purposes. (James 5:14; Luke 10:30-34)

1 As has been taught in countless children’s classes, David defeats Goliath because he trusts in God. He doesn’t even stop to think about it; he knows immediately that Goliath doesn’t stand a chance. Can you think of a time that you should have had more trust in God, but didn’t?

How can we have that same trust? How can we have it instinctively and immediately, without stopping to think? What can we do to be more like David?

2 To the Israelite and Philistine armies, it is obvious that fighting Goliath will almost certainly end in death. They see the world very differently from David. List two or three other examples (from the Bible or from your experience) where the perspective of a godly person is radically different from that of other people around him or her.

**The heart of the lesson:
What can we learn from David?
How can we use his
experiences to make us better?**

3 Nearly all of the poetry in Job is uninspired conversation — God makes it very clear in at the end of the book that what they’ve said isn’t His Word (42:7-9). What is the purpose of these chapters? Why is it useful to study them?

**Teacher notes with ways to discuss
and develop each question
are available (at no cost)**

4 What can you learn from David?

**A second
“summing up” time**

THE BIBLE’S POETRY JOB

These articles will focus on the books of poetry — Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs. We don’t know who wrote Job, but David wrote many of the psalms, and Solomon wrote the other three books.

Job begins and ends with three chapters of prose narration, but in between are 39 chapters of poetry, as he and his friends discuss his situation.

The book of Job wrestles with the age-old question: Why do righteous people suffer when there is a God supposedly in control? Job is a man, blameless and upright, who loses his children, wealth and health for what seems to be no good reason at all. His three friends — Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar — argue that all suffering is due to sin, and urge Job to repent, even though Job contends that he is innocent. A fourth friend, Elihu, wonders if God is punishing Job for his self-righteousness. The argument is settled when God Himself speaks, declaring His right as Creator of the universe to do with it as He pleases. Why do we suffer? We won’t fully understand until we reach Heaven, but God never abandons us, even when we are suffering most greatly.

**Sidebar for
each lesson,
on a related
theme**

