

Lesson 39

David anointed as king; David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Samuel 17:1-52



Teacher, please remember that the commentary below is intended to help you in your study, not to be read to your students. Make your own list of applications, using the help from the commentary, but don't necessarily try to cover everything! Think of the students in your class, then be prayerfully selective.

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1. Preparation

- 1) Choose memory verse
- 2) Select attention grabber to start off lesson / break the ice - optional, recommended for younger classes. (see point 7)
- 3) Suggested activities- optional, recommended for younger children (see point 8)

2. Memory verse

1 Samuel 16:7

“For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

3. Theme

God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

4. Lesson introduction

How many of us have looked at someone else and formed an opinion about them (good or bad) without really knowing them? Maybe you've seen someone and thought, “They look like a doctor or a musician.” But you never really met them or got to know them--you only saw them. God sees and judges a person differently. God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

In our lesson today, we are going to study David, one of the important characters in the Bible. As a young, seemingly insignificant, boy David was chosen by God to be the future king of Israel. Later, David stood before a mighty and scary giant by the name of Goliath. He stood to fight Goliath for his nation and for the honor of the Lord. The stakes were high, because the victor would not only win his life, but victory over a whole nation.

In a great demonstration of faith, David moves to stand before the giant, risking his own life and the welfare of his nation. David was much smaller and without the same weapons and armor; yet his confidence was not in his ability but in the Lord—he knew the Lord would be with him. God fights our battles for us. Let’s see how our story unfolds.

5. Verse by Verse Commentary

1 Samuel 16:1

Samuel was mourning (being sad) over the Lord’s rejection of Saul as king over Israel. The Lord spoke to Samuel and said to him, “How long will you mourn for Saul?” God tells Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to the House of Israel, for he has provided a king among the sons of Jesse.

God had rejected Saul as king because he refused to repent; he would not confess his sin and turn back to God, though Samuel, as God’s messenger, had warned him. Samuel was grieved at seeing Saul fail. Saul was a leader chosen by God; yet he had hardened his heart against the Lord. God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

In the midst of Samuel’s mourning over Saul, the Lord gave Samuel an assignment. In essence, God was saying, “Samuel, I’ve rejected Saul but I’m not through yet.” The Lord wanted to keep Samuel busy serving Him and focused on what He was going to do next.

1 Samuel 16:2-3

Samuel asks, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” Notice that Samuel does not respond right away in obedience to go. He was concerned with the danger or risk involved if Saul were to find out; but, the Lord promised to lead Samuel through the difficult situation—He would show him what to do.

God never asks us to do something that He will not enable us for and lead us through. Sometimes it may seem like what He is asking us to do is really difficult (as it did for Samuel), but God promises Samuel and us that He will be with us and show us what to do. We can rest in the Bible promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

1 Samuel 16:4-5

Samuel did what the Lord said. He went to Bethlehem. The elders trembled at the coming of this well-known prophet. The Lord gave Samuel a legitimate reason for going so that he would not attract attention. He told Samuel to go and make a sacrifice and invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and the Lord would show Samuel whom to anoint.

1 Samuel 16:6-7

When Samuel looked at Eliab (David’s older brother), he thought to himself, “Surely this must be the Lord’s anointed one.” Samuel’s judgment was based on outward appearance—he must have thought he was “kingly looking.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature because I have refused him.” God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

Suggested Activity: Inside the Heart

1 Samuel 16:8-11

After Eliab was rejected, Jesse called each of his sons to pass before Samuel and each time one passed by Samuel said, "neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel but none of them was the one that God had chosen. Then Samuel asked Jesse "Are these all of your sons?" Jesse answered Samuel by telling him that there still remained his youngest son who was out keeping his sheep. Samuel asked Jesse to send for him and he even said, "We will not sit down until he comes." You would think that after all of Jesse's sons had passed by Samuel and he had not anointed any of them, Jesse would speak up and say, "Oh, well it must be David"; but, he does not. In fact, it is Samuel who breaks the silence and asks Jesse if there is another son. Perhaps, Jesse never thought his son David could be a king. Perhaps, he thought he was too young or not talented enough.

It is interesting to study the people that God chooses. He rarely chooses the powerful, the beautiful, or the naturally talented ones. He often chooses the weak and the outcast to do amazing things for Him. In 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 we read, "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence." God can even use young boys and girls who have a heart to serve Him and are willing to obey Him. God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

1 Samuel 16:12-13

When David was brought before Samuel, the Lord told Samuel "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" So, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day on.

David is often referred to as "a man after God's own heart." God did not choose David to be a king because he looked like a king or even acted "kingly." David was a lowly shepherd. God chose David because of his heart--a heart that longed for God and desired to serve Him. God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

Let us see others as God sees them. We should not make up our minds about other people based on whether they look good on the outside or not. What God esteems as important should be what we esteem as important. God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance.

May we examine our own hearts and be found to be as David, boys and girls, men and women, who are after God's own heart—longing to know God more intimately and to serve Him.

Suggested Activity: Pasta People

1 Samuel 17:1-11

Because the Israelites were not obedient to the Lord when they first came into the land, the Philistines would be a problem for them through many years. Once again, the Philistines have gathered their army against Israel. How important that we learn to obey the Lord.

The Israelites were at a standstill. They were just holding their ground, too fearful to attack. Meanwhile the Philistines sent out their champion, Goliath. Goliath was a giant and was probably very scary to the Israelites. He carried a big sword and wore heavy armor. Not one of the soldiers from Israel wanted to go and fight Goliath.

War is not a game; it is a matter of life and death. In Bible days, battle with an enemy meant hand-to-hand combat and the best man won. It was bloody, violent, and ruthless. The winner walked away with not only his life, but with all the spoils of victory. And the survivors of the losing side would become slaves to the victors, only to be oppressed. The loss of family and loved ones would be a sorrowful reminder of the battle's outcome.

Occasionally, an army would avoid the high cost of battle by matching its strongest warrior against the strongest warrior of the enemy, thus avoiding great bloodshed. This was the case in this Israeli/Philistine encounter. Goliath, the Philistine champion, challenged the Israeli army to send out a man to fight for Israel.

In the days of the Exodus, most of the Israelites were afraid to enter the Promised Land because of the giants living there (See Numbers 13:32-33). Goliath, a towering nine feet, nine inches tall, laughed and mocked Israel's soldiers and King Saul. Who would stand up to this monster of a man and risk his life?

1 Samuel 17:12-25

David, the youngest, had been chosen by God to be the next king of Israel; but at this time, he was running errands for his dad (bringing food to his brothers) and tending sheep at home in Bethlehem. Though still a young man, he also served as a personal musician to Saul.

David, sent to deliver food to his brothers, now witnesses the dilemma of the Israeli army. Goliath makes his appearance and again challenges Israel to send a man to fight against him. David learned that whoever defeated this giant would be richly rewarded.

1 Samuel 17:26-30

The mocking words of Goliath, not only towards Israel, but also towards God, set a fire in the heart of David. It was not so much the reward and freedom that was offered by King Saul that caught David's attention, but the boastful words of the giant against God's people. David replied, "Who is the uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"

David had a different perspective than that of King Saul and his army. When David looked at Goliath, he saw a mortal man defying almighty God. King Saul was afraid and perplexed. David must have been disappointed as he saw the army of Israel scared and hopeless, but David knew that God fights our battles for us.

Eliab, his oldest brother, was not very happy to see David's interest in this standoff and harshly expresses his discontent with him. Eliab may have been dealing with some jealousy and resentment towards David. After all, his little brother had been anointed as king; perhaps his position as a musician playing the harp for Saul also brought jealousy. David gracefully avoided conflict with Eliab.

Though negative comments were hurled at David, David could not be easily discouraged. He knew the importance of taking action. With God there to fight for him, there was no reason to wait.

People may try to discourage you with negative comments or mockery, but like David you must continue to do what you know is right. By doing what is right, you will be pleasing God, whose opinion matters most.

Suggested Activity: Walking in David's steps

1 Samuel 17:31-40

King Saul soon heard about David's desire to fight Goliath and summoned him. David came before him with words of encouragement. At first King Saul told David, "you are just a kid, what can you do?" Has anyone ever told you that? God can do some pretty amazing things through the lives of children. He can do some pretty amazing things through your life if you will let Him.

With boldness and faith, David assured King Saul that he could indeed slay this giant of a man. As a shepherd he slew a lion and a bear--it was the Lord who delivered him. "This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

To King Saul, his consent to send little David out to fight this giant was like sending a lamb to the slaughter. Unfortunately for King Saul, he had no other options; no one would stand up to this monster. Saul thought that maybe a soldier's armor would make the difference--at least David would look like a warrior.

King Saul tried to make a warrior out of a shepherd, but David knew armor would not help. God would use him as he was and in God's care, he would have all the protection he needed. God fights our battles for us. We do not have to rely on gadgets or schemes to accomplish a task that God wants us to do. We need simple faith in a great God who will enable us to carry out His will, no matter how great the challenge.

1 Samuel 17:41-52

When David went out to the valley to meet Goliath's challenge, Goliath is not impressed with David at all. He looked at the ruddy young boy and despised him with a great hatred. Goliath felt insulted that the great nation of Israel would send out a young boy to fight against him.

David went quickly out to him with only his shepherd's staff, his sling, and some stones. As the newly appointed shepherd of his people, David went to defend the Lord's threatened and frightened flock. God used David to protect his father's flock; now He would use David to protect His flock. Though David's weapons were no match for a warrior like Goliath, God would make the difference in David's battle. God fights our battles for us. David's strength was his reliance on the Lord (Psalm 9:10).

David had no doubt that he was not alone, because he knew that His God would be faithful. Often times, we as Christians, face impossible circumstances that seem like giants to us; and we feel overwhelmed. Facing the problem on our own would mean certain defeat. But, as Christians, like David, we can be confident that God is on our side; and because the Lord is on our side, our enemies will be defeated. God will see us through. God fights our battles for us.

David responded confidently to Goliath that Goliath was no match—though he came with a sword, spear, and javelin (David had only five small stones); for David came "in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel," the one Goliath had defied." David boldly announced that God would indeed give Israel victory so that "all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" and "...the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." God fights our battles for us.

With the challenge made, the giant arose and came down to meet David. David ran down quickly to meet Goliath in battle. There must have been quite a bit of tension in the air as all of Israel watched this match, praying and hoping for a miracle. David knew that this battle would be quickly over. Without any hesitation, David slung a stone; the stone embedded into the forehead of Goliath. Goliath fell to the ground, on his face.

When David used Goliath's sword to cut off his head, the Philistines fled in fear; for they knew they would suffer the same fate as their champion. The Philistine army was defeated. A young shepherd boy, with only five small stones and a sling, led the way to victory because God was with him.

Let us, as Christians, exhibit the same confidence as David when faced with seemingly insurmountable difficulties; for "the battle is the Lord's." The enemy is certainly no match for us when God is on our side. God fights our battles for us.

Suggested activity: David's sling shot

6. Prayer

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to search their own hearts to make sure that they are right before the Lord and to have eyes to see others as God does, looking at the heart and not at the outward appearance. Thank the Lord that He fights all of our battles for us. We can trust in Him in every situation. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them the opportunity.

7. Attention Grabbers

What you will need:

1) Yarn (enough for several strips) and a bag (not see-through). As many small prizes as the number of children in your class.

2) Masking tape and markers.

Carrying out the attention grabber:

1) The Chance Game

People come up with many ways of choosing what or who is the best for something. But God does things very differently than we do. He goes beyond guessing and is personal in the lives of those He chooses to do great things for Him. God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearance.

For this activity you will need yarn and a bag. Cut the yarn into several different sizes. Cut enough pieces so that there is one for each child. Make sure that there is only one of the longest pieces of yarn. Place all of the pieces into a bag and have each child pick one string. The one with the longest string wins. Give them a small prize.

Explain to the children that this person was selected by "chance." No one looked at whether he deserved to be the winner, it simply happened. God does not choose this way. He will always look at our hearts to determine if we are a person He can use. Next, pass out small prizes to the rest of the class for participating.

2) How Big is the Giant?

To get an idea of how big Goliath was in comparison to David, use a tape measure to measure out 9' 9" in the center of the room. Mark off the size using masking tape.

Have each child lay on the floor next to the measurements with their feet at the line where you began your “Goliath” measurement. Mark the child’s height using a piece of masking tape. Write the child’s name on the piece of masking tape.

Have all of the children mark their height and then as a class compare their height with Goliath’s height. Why do they think it was so important for David to trust in the Lord? It’s a good thing that God fights our battles for us!!!

8. Activities:

What you will need:

- 1) Red construction paper, brads (paper fasteners), markers and scissors.
- 2) Construction paper, crayons, dry pasta in a variety of shapes and glue.
- 3) Construction paper, “Walking in David’s Steps” template, crayons or markers and a paper bag.
- 4) Small square pieces of leather or suede (approximately 3” x 3”), leather lace or string (4 pieces per child approximately 12” long), a hole punch, ping pong balls and markers.

How to carry out the activities:

1) Inside the Heart

Allow each child to do the following. Fold two pieces of red construction paper in half. Cut out 2 large hearts. Take one heart, fold and cut in half. On the whole heart, write the memory verse. Take the heart that is cut in half and set the two halves on top of the whole heart. Punch a hole at the bottom and use a brad (paper fastener) to hold the pieces in place. Have the children write their name on the outside pieces. Explain that God can see inside of our hearts. Talk about some things that they would like the Lord to see inside of their heart. What kinds of things do they think was in David’s heart? Remind the children that God looks at our hearts. No matter how we or someone else acts on the outside, the most important thing is what is in our hearts.

2) Pasta People

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Allow the children to draw a person on their paper. Then glue different shapes of pasta on his figure to make clothes, hair, arms, legs, feet and so on. After each child has made their “Pasta Person” talk about the following. Who made people? Who were the people in our story? What happened? Tell some ways in which people look different. Sometimes we decide what a person is like by looking at the outside. What does God look at? How are you like other people in your family? How are you different?

3) Walking in David’s Steps

Can you walk in obedience and do what God has asked you to do? This activity will help illustrate what it means to walk in someone else’s footsteps.

For the younger children: Cut out 20-foot prints using construction paper (a template is provided). Make a path in your room using the footprints. You can tape the prints down using a loop made out of masking tape. Weave the footprints under tables, around toy boxes and between chairs. Be creative with your "obstacle course." Have the children each step on the footprints, but make sure that they stay on the steps.

For the older children: Choose a variety of colors of construction paper. Cut out one-foot print for each child. Using crayons or markers, have them print one big word on each foot (use the theme or the memory verse). Take a large paper bag and mix all of the feet. Have the children pick a "foot" and see if they can set them in the right order (according to memory verse or theme) in front of the classroom.

4) David's Sling Shot

Using the square pieces of leather or suede, punch a hole in each of the 4 corners. Tie one end of each of the 4 leather cords to the ends of the piece of suede. Next give each child a ping pong ball and allow them to color it with markers gray, brown, or black to resemble a stone. They now have a sling and a stone that resembles David's in our story.

On the piece of leather or suede, allow the children to write, "God fights our battles for us," along with the scripture reference or memory verse.

9. Bible text (NIV):

1 Samuel 16 :1-13

Samuel Anoints David

16 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." 2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

4 Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord."

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

12 So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 17 :1-52

David and Goliath

17 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." 10 Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." 11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was very old. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand. 17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

20 Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. 21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. 22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. 23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. 24 Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

25 Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel."

26 David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. 31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine. "Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So, he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. 52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

