

12-13-09

**The EGCC Middle School Sunday Morning Class
David & Goliath/Facing the Giants**

TELL

- Before we watch our movie today, we're going to read a story that parallels in different ways, the story we're going to watch.
- The story we're going to read is the story of David and Goliath. Or at least we are going to read part of the story.

READ

1 Samuel 17:1-40; 41 – 50 (from the Message and edited for length)

1 The Philistines drew up their troops for battle. They deployed them at Socoh in Judah, and set up camp between Socoh and Azekah at Ephes Dammim. 2 Saul and the Israelites came together, camped at Oak Valley, and spread out their troops in battle readiness for the Philistines. 3 The Philistines were on one hill, the Israelites on the opposing hill, with the valley between them. 4 A giant nearly ten feet tall stepped out from the Philistine line into the open, Goliath from Gath. 8 Goliath stood there and called out to the Israelite troops, "Why bother using your whole army? Am I not Philistine enough for you? And you're all committed to Saul, aren't you? So pick your best fighter and pit him against me. 9 If he gets the upper hand and kills me, the Philistines will all become your slaves. But if I get the upper hand and kill him, you'll all become our slaves and serve us. 10 I challenge the troops of Israel this day. Give me a man. Let us fight it out together!" 11 When Saul and his troops heard the Philistine's challenge, they were terrified and lost all hope.

16 Each morning and evening for forty days, Goliath took his stand and made his speech.

17 One day, David was checking in on his older brothers, who were in the army, for his father 23 when the Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath, stepped out from the front lines of the Philistines, and gave his usual challenge. 24 The Israelites, to a man, fell back the moment they saw the giant - totally frightened. 25 The talk among the troops was, "Have you ever seen anything like this, this man openly and defiantly challenging Israel?"

26 David, who was talking to the men standing around him, asked, "What's in it for the man who kills that Philistine and gets rid of this ugly blot on Israel's honor?" 27 They told him what everyone was saying about what the king would do for the man who killed the Philistine.

31 The news that someone was considering fighting Goliath reached King Saul. Saul sent for David. 32 "Master," said David, "don't give up hope. I'm ready to go and fight this Philistine." 33 Saul answered David, "You can't go and fight this Philistine. You're too young and inexperienced - and Goliath has been at this fighting business since before you were born." 34 David said, "I've been a shepherd, tending sheep for my father. Whenever a lion or bear came and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I'd go after it, knock it down, and rescue the lamb. If it turned on me, I'd grab it by the throat, wring its neck, and kill it. 36 Lion or bear, it made no difference - I killed it. And I'll do the same to this Philistine pig who is taunting the troops of God-Alive. 37 God, who delivered me from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear, will deliver me from this Philistine." Saul said, "Go. And God help you!" 38 Then

Saul outfitted David as a soldier in armor. He put his bronze helmet on his head and belted his sword on him over the armor. 39 David tried to walk but he could hardly budge. David told Saul, "I can't even move with all this stuff on me. I'm not used to this." And he took it all off. 40 Then David took his shepherd's staff, selected five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the pocket of his shepherd's pack, and with his sling in his hand approached Goliath.

ASK

- In verse 11 and 24, why do you think the Israelite men were afraid?
- Using verse 37, why do you think David is not afraid?

TELL

- The movie we're going to watch is called, "Facing the Giants." In it, there are many challenges and obstacles the characters have to face.
- When facing challenges and obstacles, we can either do it on our own, in our own way, and more often than not, we'll be acting/living in fear, like the men of Israel.
- Or, we can choose to invite God into our lives and into our circumstances, and seek God's guidance to help us maneuver through the challenges and obstacles before us. When we do that, then more often than not, we'll be living in trust, like David in this story.
- Let's see what choices are made in the movie and how the characters choose to face the giant obstacles before them.

WATCH MOVIE

ASK

- What were some of the Giants (obstacles) that were faced in this movie?
- How did inviting God into their lives and situations help the characters?
- What were some of your favorite parts?
- Were there any parts of the story that seemed similar to the story we read earlier in class?
- If so, what were those parts?

TELL

- We didn't read the rest of the bible story of David defeating Goliath because in some ways, that part isn't important.
- Just like, even though it is good to see the football team win, that's not the important part.
- What is the important part in both the David story and the Facing the Giants movie is when the characters choose to trust that God's Way is better than their own way, then they are not frozen with fear. They can move on.
- So the football team chooses to praise God even when they lose, because they know that God's Way is better.
- And the wife chooses to love God even when she doesn't think she'll ever get what she wants.
- Those choices lead to a freedom much more lasting than winning. It allows the characters to keep moving forward.
- The Israelites were fearful and therefore they were stuck for 40 days, being ridiculed by one person.
- The coach was stuck for six years doing the same thing and nothing was working, he wasn't going anywhere.

- David trusting God and the coach trusting God allowed for movement, allowed for something new.
- Trusting God is not easy, but when we do it, there is a freedom available for us to experience. That is the Good News for today.
- If for whatever reason the teachers or students DO want to read the rest of the David and Goliath story, it is below:

READ

41 As Goliath the Philistine paced back and forth, his shield bearer in front of him, he noticed David. 42 He took one look down on him and sneered. 43 The Philistine ridiculed David. "Am I a dog that you come after me with a stick?" And he cursed him by his gods. 44 "Come on," said the Philistine. "I'll make roadkill of you for the buzzards. I'll turn you into a tasty morsel for the field mice."

45 David answered, "You come at me with sword and spear and battle-ax. I come at you in the name of God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel's troops, whom you curse and mock. 46 This very day God is handing you over to me. I'm about to kill you, cut off your head, and serve up your body and the bodies of your Philistine buddies to the crows and coyotes. The whole earth will know that there's an extraordinary God in Israel. 47 And everyone gathered here will learn that God doesn't save by means of sword or spear. The battle belongs to God - he's handing you to us on a platter!"

48 That roused the Philistine, and he started toward David. David took off from the front line, running toward the Philistine. 49 David reached into his pocket for a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine hard in the forehead, embedding the stone deeply. The Philistine crashed, facedown in the dirt. 50 That's how David beat the Philistine - with a sling and a stone. He hit him and killed him. No sword for David!