

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 9 • Week 4

FAITH

OBJECTIVE:

To teach about faith by using the story of David and Goliath.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Prepare: Before the class begins, stack three books on top of a flat airtight plastic bag (one from the grocery produce department works well). Extend the opening of the bag out over the edge of the table.

Ask: Who thinks they can move these books just by blowing? [Let the children try. It's okay if they catch on to the idea of using the bag. Just adjust your response accordingly.]

Say: Now that you've all had a turn, I think I'll give it a try.

Do: Hold the opening of the bag together, and leave a hole as small as possible. Blow into the bag. When you need to catch a breath, tighten your hand around the opening. Then continue blowing until the books have moved.

Ask: When we tried blowing straight at the books, they didn't budge, did they?

Say: In fact, it seemed impossible that air alone could move such heavy objects sitting on the table. But sometimes things that do not seem possible can really happen. The books were not impossible to move with air, as they first appeared to be. They were moved with air and with some help from a plastic bag.

In the Bible, there are many examples of people who have been in a bad situation that seem to have no solution. But when the people had faith in God, the whole situation changed. Just as the plastic bag helped us do what we thought could not be done, faith in God makes seemingly impossible situations...POSSIBLE!

One such example is about a shepherd boy from long ago that the Old Testament tells us about. His name was David. He did what everyone else thought was impossible—because he had faith in God.

BIBLE LESSON:

Do: Make extra copies of the story and assign children to act out the roles in the poem below. The characters are Goliath, David and David's brothers. Their quotes are in italics.

Act as narrator and read all the parts that aren't shown as quotations in italics.

Say: Listen to this poem so you can tell me how this was a story about faith.

"The Boy Who Fought the Giant"
by Ramona Wood

Two armies stood upon two hills
A valley in between
The Israelites faced their foe—
Goliath, the Philistine.

Goliath the giant was broad and tall
And taunted teasingly,
*"We'll be your servants one and all,
When one of you kills me."*

Goliath had massive armor on
And a man to hold his shield.
This giant was very confident
That he could not be killed.

The Israelites were fearful as
They looked from side to side.
They didn't see among themselves
A man who'd fight with pride.

Until a brave young shepherd boy
Who brought his brothers food
Said, *"Who insults our God this way?
I'll kill this wicked dude."*

David's brothers frowned and said,
"You've got no business here."
King Saul took note and asked him why
Young David had no fear.

*"In my job as shepherd I have
Fought both lion and bear.
With God Almighty on my side
This man had best beware!"*

Saul gave him armor, helmet, sword,
But David turned them down.
He then walked over to a brook
And took five stones he found.

Goliath cursed by pagan gods,
His threats grew very loud.
"I represent my God above,"
Said David, brave and proud.

The giant with his large foul mouth
Used lots of hateful words:
*"I'll kill you right away and then
I'll feed you to the birds."*

"Not so," the young man David said,
*"The fact is God's with me.
So all may know He's on our side,
He'll give us victory."*

Then David ran toward the giant;
In faith, he slung his rock.
It struck Goliath in the head;
Both armies watched in shock.

The large man with his armor strong
Staggered, and then fell dead.
The Philistines saw him fall down,
And then they turned and fled.

Ask: What do you think made David volunteer to fight against Goliath? What traits did he show when he did this?

Say: I think he had courage and faith to know God would help him win.

Ask: What is faith, anyway?

Say: "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." This definition is found in the New Testament Book of Hebrews, chapter 11 and verse 1 (from *The Good News Bible*).

Ask: Do you think David was sure he would be the winner in the fight with Goliath?

Say: Yes, he probably wouldn't have tried it if he wasn't certain he would win.

Ask: What made him sure that he would win?

Say: He was close to God and knew that God would help him like He had in the past.

Ask: How did God help him in the past?

Say: David said in 1 Samuel 17:37 that God had saved him from lions and bears and that He would save him from this Philistine. David had a lot of faith.

Ask: Can we have faith that God will help us in times of trouble, too?

Say: Yes, and as we become closer to God, our faith gets stronger.

Ask: What are some ways to get close to God?

Say: If we pray and talk to Him, read and obey His word, and include Him in our everyday lives, we can be close to God.

Ask: How does reading the Bible help our faith in God to grow?

Say: We learn how He has saved His people in the past. He saved David, so He can protect us too. But please don't imitate David by throwing a rock at the biggest bully at school!

In Old Testament times God used warfare to help His people. Things are different now. God doesn't want His people killing others because Jesus taught a new way. He tells us to love our enemies. Faith in God helps us to handle situations in nonviolent ways. His wisdom helps us to avoid many problems in the first place.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Giant outline

"Stone" (paper ball with masking tape on one side)

Napkins

Teddy Grahams crackers

Gingerbread men (Little Debbie brand works well)

Prepare: Use a large black felt marker to make an outline of a human figure on a large piece of paper. (If you are not a good artist, it may help to have a child lay on a piece of paper and trace a large quick outline around the child's body.) Make a 2-inch "stone" out of paper and put a piece of rolled masking tape on the back. Tape this drawing to the wall where the lesson will be given.

Do: Bring napkins, Teddy Grahams (to represent soldiers) and gingerbread men (to represent giants) to the class.

Ask: Would you like to see if your aim with this "stone" is as good as David's was with his stone? Okay. I will blindfold you, turn you around once and let you see if you can stick this stone onto the forehead of this paper giant. Who would like to go first?

Do: Trace around the child's "stone" to record its position. Give the first snack to the child who comes closest to the "giant's" forehead.

Then give snacks to everybody. Compare the sizes of the gingerbread men with the Teddy Grahams and discuss how it would be easy to be afraid when your enemy is so much larger.

Say: These Teddy Grahams are smiling, so they must have faith that everything is okay!

Music:

Sing the last verse of "Faith of Our Fathers" or teacher's selection from the United Church of God hymnal.

Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife.
And preach thee too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life.

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death!

MEMORY VERSE:

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

family activity

THE POINT:

To remember that David had faith in his fight against Goliath. We can have faith in God as well.

ASK ME...

- What happened in the story of David and Goliath?
- Did David's brothers have much faith in him?
- Who was the king of Israel at that time?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss faith as a family. Even though we can't see God, we know He is there. Even though we can't see air we know it is there. What is our proof that air is there? Have your child place hands on his/her chest. Take a deep breath. Air causes the lungs to fill and expand the chest. Blow up a balloon. Without air, it would still be flat. Toss the balloon back and forth among family members. Drop a feather above your head. Have your child blow it and watch it dance. Air causes it to move. The movement is our proof that the air is there.

How do we have faith that God is there? We can look at the beauty of creation as evidence of a wonderful Creator. Study a flower, with a magnifying glass if possible. Such intricacies didn't just happen. Discuss God's presence in your life and how He has blessed your family, giving you faith that everything will turn out all right—with His help.

MEMORY VERSE:

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."