

saint mary's press

The
Catholic Children's Bible

David and Goliath

Big Book



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See 1 Samuel 17:1-54 in **The Catholic Children's Bible** for the full story.

An illustration of a group of Israelite soldiers in a battle formation. They are wearing yellow helmets with circular patterns and brown tunics with gold belts. Some are holding spears. The scene is framed by a white banner at the top and a white banner at the bottom. The number '2' is in a white circle at the top center.

The Israelites Prepare for Battle against the Philistines

King Saul led the army of Israelites. Their enemies were called the **Philistines**. The Philistines had a giant in their army who was as tall as the trees, and his arms were like thick tree trunks.



The giant stood up and said with a loud shout, "I am **Goliath** the giant. You Israelites are nothing but King Saul's little **servants**."

Goliath was strong and mean.

King Saul's army started to shake with fear.



Glossary

armor - metal body covering that soldiers wore in battle to protect them

courage - the ability to face fear, to be brave

defeat - to win against another in a game, a battle, or a fight

faith - belief in God

forehead - the part of the face above the eyes

Goliath - a Philistine giant who fought David

javelin - a spear that is thrown

Philistines - a people who were enemies of the Israelites for a long time

servants - people who perform duties to help others

skull - the bony case inside a human or animal head that protects the brain

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Level: 2.7

Word Count: 513

Reading Level Correlations:

Guide Reading: K

DRA: 24

Lexile®: 760L

2 3

The Israelites Prepare for Battle against the Philistines



King Saul led the army of Israelites. Their enemies were called the **Philistines**. The Philistines had a giant in their army who was as tall as the trees, and his arms were like thick tree trunks.


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Goliath was strong and mean.

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4 5

Goliath Challenges the Israelites



Goliath challenged the Israelites to fight him. He dared, "Pick a man to fight me and we will fight for freedom." He roared once more, "The loser of the fight will let all their people become slaves to the other's army."

King Saul and his army were scared to battle the giant.


Boom! Boom! Boom! The giant walked up to Saul's army each morning and roared, "Who will fight me today?" He did the same in the evening.

"Not me! I am not brave enough," said each of King Saul's men.

For forty days, Goliath dared the Israelites to fight him.

6 7

David in Saul's Camp




King Saul and his army trembled in fear. They were afraid to battle the giant and did not know what to do. David's three brothers were fighting in King Saul's army. David was the youngest son. He was not a soldier. At this time he was just a shepherd boy taking care of the sheep.

David's father, Jesse, called for him. His father said, "Take some food to your brothers in the camp."

David did as his father told him and went into King Saul's army camp. He heard the roar of the giant as Goliath shouted once again, "Who will fight me today? Who is brave?"

8 9



David asked, "Who is this giant who comes against the army of God?"


David saw the fear in all the Israelites. He said to King Saul, "I will fight the giant. I am brave!"

King Saul answered David, "But you are just a boy! How can you kill the giant?"

David knew God was on his side. God had always helped him. David told King Saul, "I am a shepherd. God has helped me kill lions and bears to save my sheep. I know God will help me kill the giant to save my people."


10 11

David Defeats Goliath



King Saul had no one else brave enough to fight the giant. He saw David's **courage** and **faith**. King Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you." Saul put his own **armor** on the boy. David tried to walk but he could not. He took it off. He picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them into his bag. David stepped up to fight the giant with his sling in his hand.

David said to the giant, "You may have a sword, spear, and **javelin**, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty. God is on our side." David took a stone out of his bag and slung it at the giant. It hit Goliath's **forehead** and broke his **skull**. Without a sword, but with God, David **defeated** Goliath with a sling and a stone!



12 13

Glossary

armor - metal body covering that soldiers wore in battle to protect them

courage - the ability to face fear, to be brave

duel - to win against another in a game, a battle, or a fight

helm - helmet on head

forehead - the part of the face above the eyes

Goliath - a Philistine giant who fought David

javelin - a spear that is thrown

Philistines - a people who were enemies of the Israelites for a long time

servants - people who perform duties to help others

skull - the bony case inside a human or animal head that protects the brain

Guiding Comprehension Questions

Literal Questions

- How many days did Goliath challenge the Philistines?
- What did Goliath plan to fight David with in the battle?
- What did David take out of his bag at the battle line?

Inferred Questions

- Why did David take off King Saul's armor?
- Why were King Saul and his army afraid?
- Why was David not afraid of Goliath?

Applied Questions

- What happens when we think we do not need God?
- When was a time you trusted God?
- What is a good way to deal with your fears?

