Preventing Lesson 12

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17

Key Point

As David struck down the giant Goliath, so David’s greater Son—Jesus—struck down the Goliaths of sin, Satan, and death through His own death on the cross.

Law/Gospel

Left to fight sin, death, and the devil myself, I would perish. Jesus fights triumphantly for me against my adversaries of sin, death, and the devil because they are too great for me. His victory is my victory.

Context

The Philistines, who lived along the coast of the Mediterranean, had been Israel’s archenemy for generations before David. Gradually moving eastward, they presented more and more of a challenge to God’s people—a challenge met by such men as Samson and Saul. Their threat was not only geographical (they took Israelite land) but also religious. Wooed by the sensuality of the Philistine religion, many would fall prey to its seductive charms.

Goliath challenges the Israelite army to send out someone to fight him. This practice of two warriors from opposing sides going head-to-head against each other was not unknown in the ancient world. Each soldier embodied the army he represented. Should Goliath win, all Philistia would win. Should an Israelite win, all Israel would win. At this point in the story, David is known by Saul (16:14–23), but David’s lineage is evidently not known (17:55–58). He has also already been secretly anointed by Samuel as the successor to Saul (16:1–13).

Commentary

In this classic story of the underdog, we see a premier example of the theology of the cross. That means that God does things in very ungodlike ways—ways we ourselves deem ungodlike. He who is all-powerful chooses something weak with which to fight. He who is all-wise acts in a way that makes the world double over in laughter. God works in a way that is hidden, behind masks, so that only those who see Him through His Word really see Him at work.

Goliath, armed to the teeth and a pro at warfare, is the embodiment of everything the world considers a sure bet. Worldly experience and rational knowledge both say, “David doesn’t have a snowball’s chance in you-know-where against this Philistine Hercules.”

David describes the real weapon he wields against this ungodly giant: “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied” (17:45). His weapon is not the sling but the divine name. Just as Moses’ staff was really “the staff of God” (Exodus 4:20; 17:9), so this sling is really the sling of the Lord. It bears His name.

This event in David’s life serves as a preview of the deeds of the Son of David. As David defeated Goliath, so Jesus, the Son of David, defeated the jeering huge Goliaths of sin, Satan, and death. With what did He defeat them? His own death! What a weapon! By taking on our sin, He slew sin. By letting Satan slay Him, Christ slew him. By dying, He killed death. In the same way as David used Goliath’s own sword, so Jesus used the very stuff of His (and our) enemies against them.
Lesson 12

David and Goliath
1 Samuel 17

Connections

Bible Words
Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

Faith Word
victory

Hymn
Praise and Thanksgiving (LSB 789; CD 5)

Catechism
Lord’s Prayer: Seventh Petition

Liturgy
This Is the Feast of Victory

1 Opening (10 minutes)

Begin

To Prepare: You will need Lily the puppet. Display the attendance chart and stickers (Student Stuff). Set out an offering basket.

As the children arrive, greet them and invite them to mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

Lily: (Shivering or shaking) I’m scared! I’m really scared!

Teacher: What happened?

Lily: Last night, I saw a scary movie. Then I had bad dreams.

Teacher: Aw! Let me give you a hug. I’ve had bad dreams too. How about you, boys and girls? Have you ever had bad dreams?

Lily: It was so scary. It seemed real! I can’t stop thinking about it!

Teacher: Well, Lily, as Christians, we know that we can always pray to God about anything—even about the things we fear.

Lily: Oh, yes. When I pray, I feel better. Could you say a prayer right now?

Ask the children to fold their hands. Say a prayer asking God to grant us trust in His presence and asking Him to calm our fears.

Teacher: In our story today, Lily, God shows the Israelites that they can trust in His power to save them.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1 Opening
Teacher Tools
Attendance chart
CD

Student Stuff
Stickers

Other Supplies
Lily puppet
Resource Page 1 (TG, optional)

2 God Speaks
Teacher Tools
Poster E
Glue stick
CD

Student Stuff
Lesson Leaflet 12

Other Supplies
Resource Pages 2, 7 (TG)
Activity Page 12 (TG)

3 We Live
Student Stuff
Craft Page 12
Stickers

Other Supplies
Resource Page 7 (TG)
Drinking straws
Small stones, acrylic paint and paintbrushes, permanent markers (optional)

4 Closing
Teacher Tools
CD
Worship

To Prepare: If your class gathers with others for the Opening, begin the lesson with part 2. If you prefer to develop your own opening, a suggested outline follows. For an extended opening, use Resource Page 1 (TG). Use a green cloth on your classroom altar.

Gathering Song: “Jesus, Friend of Little Children” (SGL, p. 47; CD 12)
Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Offering
Prayers
Celebrations: Birthdays and Baptism birthdays

Introducing God’s Word

To Prepare: You will need the Faith Words Poster (Poster E), the Faith Word victory cut from Resource Page 2, and the glue stick.

Post the Faith Word with the glue stick.

Say  Today’s Faith Word is victory. What do you think the word means? Allow responses. Right! It means that you have defeated an enemy or won a battle. Winning a game or defeating an enemy is a reason to rejoice. It makes us want to cheer. Let’s use the letters of the word victory and do a cheer right now to help us get started with our exciting story today.

Ask the children to stand. Tell them to echo each letter. Then yell, “Victory!” Proceed to call out the letters victory and cheer at the end. Today’s Bible story tells the story of God’s victory for some people long ago who were very afraid of their enemy.

Faith Word

victory—winning over enemies or opponents
Lesson 12

Telling God’s Word

To Prepare: Make a copy of Resource Page 7 (TG) for each student to use with the CD storytelling. Set out crayons or markers.

Hand out Resource Page 7. Open a Bible. Tell the children that today’s Bible story is found in the Book of 1 (First) Samuel.

Say  Today’s story is from the Bible, but we will hear it on the CD. While you listen, color in the spaces where you find written the names of the characters you are hearing about. Note: There will be more than one space to color for most characters.

Before you begin, read all of the words out loud. If you have beginning readers, pause the CD to allow children time to find the words. The children will color in the letters and punctuation with the words Goliath, Jesse, David, and Saul.

Narrator:  King Saul gathered his men for battle. On a hill not far away from his troops was the enemy—the Philistine army. The Philistines had a soldier who was a giant and stood over nine feet tall. He wore armor and a helmet to protect his body. He carried a big spear and shield. This man was Goliath—the Philistines’ champion. Each day, he called across the valley to King Saul’s army. He yelled, “Choose a man, and let him fight me. If he is able to kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I win, then all of you shall be our servants and serve us.”

God did send someone. He sent a boy. Here is how it happened. A man named Jesse had many sons. Some of his sons were fighting with Saul. Jesse asked his youngest son, David, to take some grain, bread, and cheese to his brothers and other soldiers who were part of Saul’s army.

When David came to the camp, Israel and the Philistines were ready for battle, army against army. David greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, Goliath challenged Saul’s soldiers once again. David heard him. When the men of Israel saw Goliath, they ran away with fear. But David said,

David:  Who is this Philistine, that he dares the armies of the living God?

Narrator:  Then David said to Saul,

David:  I am your servant. I will fight this Philistine.

Narrator:  Saul wondered how this small boy could fight a giant. But David explained,

David:  I watched my father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear took a lamb from the flock, I went after him. I have killed lions and bears. This Philistine will be like one of them. God delivered me from the lion and the bear. He will save me from this Philistine too.

Narrator:  Finally, Saul agreed and clothed David with his armor. But David didn’t want to wear the armor. He said,

David:  I cannot wear these things. I have never used them.

Narrator:  So David took off Saul’s armor. Instead, he picked up five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s pouch. Then he took his slingshot and walked toward Goliath. When the Philistine saw David, he said, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” David replied,
David: You come to me with a sword and with a spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have challenged. This day, God will give me a victory over you. I will strike you down. All the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, the Lord, who saves His people without a sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give me a victory over you.

Narrator: David put his hand in his bag. He took out a stone and hurled it. The stone struck the Philistine on his forehead and killed him. So David won a victory over the Philistine with a slingshot and with a stone. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they ran away. The people of Israel didn’t need to be afraid any longer. God used a boy, a slingshot, and a stone to win a great victory.

Once the children have finished coloring the page, talk about the word that shows up in the cross: victory. Set the pages aside while you use the Lesson Leaflet.

Lesson Leaflet Review

To Prepare: You will need Lesson Leaflet 12 and Activity Page 12.

Hand out Lesson Leaflet 12. After looking at the picture of today’s story, do the review activity. Draw a line to identify which person pictured said each sentence. Then number the boxes to show the order of events in the story.

When the story has been retold,

Say God saved the people of Israel from their enemies, from Goliath and the Philistines. God saves us from the enemies that taunt us too.

Option: Play the CD again and let the children act out the scenes. When finished, sing “I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus” (SGL, p. 56).

Bible Words

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

To Prepare: Make copies of Activity Page 12 at the end of this lesson.

Hand out Activity Page 12. Tell the children to start in the center of the wheel and circle every second letter. The first two letters have been circled for them. Use the circled letters to find the words that complete the Bible Words. After filling the blanks, read the Bible Words.

Locate the Bible Words on the Lesson Leaflet and identify the cues: Lily with her arms raised in praise, the word God written inside a cloud, a victory flag, a picture of Jesus on the cross.

Say This victory showed the people of Israel that God was with them and is all powerful. That same all-powerful God sent Jesus to win the battle over sin, death, and the devil. In Baptism and through His Word, God gives us that victory. Thanks be to God.
3 We Live (15 minutes)

Growing through God’s Word

Pass out Resource Page 7 with crayons or markers.

Say
Look at your paper again. Let’s look for words that tell about sin in our lives. Work with a partner and find the words.

Assist the children in reading the words and explaining their meanings. Give examples. Tell the children to color the sections that contain the words that name sinful actions. Once the children finish, the center cross will stand out.

Ask
Now that you’ve finished coloring, what do you see? (A cross) How did our sinful actions and sinfulness lead to Jesus’ death on the cross? Let the children tell. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, it didn’t look like He was winning a victory, did it? It looked like our giant enemies—sin, death, and the devil—had won. But on Easter morning, Jesus arose from the dead. His resurrection was proof that He defeated our enemies. He won the victory for us. Alleluia!

Craft Page

To Prepare: You will need Craft Page 12, scissors, tape, and the stickers. Drinking straws are optional.

Say
When David killed the enemy giant named Goliath, he won a great victory. What do you think happened after that battle? Do you think people talked about that battle? Accept answers. People are still talking about how God used a little boy to defeat a giant. It’s a story recorded in God’s Word.

The Bible also tells us about an even greater victory. That’s the victory of Jesus over our enemies. In Baptism, the Holy Spirit gave us faith to believe in Jesus’ victory and to receive His victory as our own. Isn’t that wonderful?

Each week in church, we remember Jesus’ victory. Sometimes we sing the words of the hymn “This Is the Feast of Victory.” This hymn has a wonderful word, alleluia, in it. Each day, we can remember our Baptism by making the sign of the cross and saying “Alleluia!” Today, we’ll make flags to remember Jesus’ victory each day.

Have the children cut out the colored triangle from Craft Page 12. Decorate the project with “alleluia” stickers and the cutout baptismal fonts. Attach the triangle to a drinking straw to make a flag, or hang the triangles as pennants around your classroom. After you have made the flags, sing “This Is the Feast of Victory” (SGL, p. 26). While singing, the children can wave their flags and march around the room. If you are sending the flags home,

Ask
Where can you put your flag? Let the children tell. Next week, you can tell me where you put it and how looking at it reminded you that Jesus has defeated your enemies.

Option: Paint small stones with acrylic paint; when dry, add crosses with permanent markers. Collect these “victory rocks” on your altar.
**4 Closing (5 minutes)**

**To Prepare:** Make sure you have all materials ready to send home.

Gather the children for the Closing. Each week, follow the same routine.

**Say**  
Through God’s power, David defeated the giant Goliath.

**Sing**  
“Praise and Thanksgiving” (*LSB* 789; CD 5) or “Children of the Heavenly Father” (*SGL*, p. 62)

**Say**  
Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
(1 Corinthians 15:57)

**Pray**  
Dear God, when I am afraid because my sins taunt me like giant enemies,  
comfort me with the joy of knowing that You have defeated all my enemies.  
In Jesus’ victorious name, I pray. Amen.  
As the children leave, ask them to wave their flags.

**Say**  
Rejoice! Jesus has defeated your giant enemies.

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**Teacher Tip**  
In groups of children, there is often a power structure or pecking order. Do you notice any student who has influence or power over others? Make time to teach all the children how to show kindness and respect.
Start in the center of the wheel, and circle every other letter. Then write the letters in order on the blanks below. When you are finished, stand up. Be prepared to say the Bible Words.

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ be to God, who gives us the
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ through our Lord _ _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ . 1 Corinthians 15:57