



God anointed David as the future King of Israel. While David waited to take the throne, God remained with him and trained him in the ways of a king. Because David abided in God, he trusted God completely. God used David to kill the enemies of His people.



Day #1: Forgotten Promise

Many people record their children's growth by making a mark on a doorway in their home. If you don't do this, take a minute to do this with a piece of tape. Stand with your back to the doorframe and have your mom or dad put tape just above your head to show how tall you are. Can you guess how tall you are? In 1 Samuel 17, we meet a giant whose name is Goliath. Have your mom or dad put a piece of tape to represent how tall he was. The Bible says he was 9 feet tall! Actually, you may not be able to put tape that high. It would go 2 feet above a standard door!

Goliath was a Philistine warrior. The Philistines were enemies of God and of His people. The Philistines were at war with the Israelites who were led by King Saul. David's oldest three brothers were fighting in Saul's army. The Philistine army was on one hill and the Israelite army was on another. The giant Goliath shouted to the Israelites:

+ *Choose one of your men. Have him come down and face me. If he's able to fight and kill me, we'll become your slaves. But if I win and kill him, you will become our slaves and serve us." Goliath continued, "This very day I dare the soldiers of Israel to send a man down to fight against me." - 1 Samuel 17:8b-10*

King Saul and his entire army were terrified! Goliath kept teasing the Israelite army. He shouted insults at them for 40 days. In an ordinary battle, we could understand why the Israelites were afraid of such a fierce enemy. But this was no ordinary battle. God had already promised victory to the Israelites over their enemies several generations before.

Don't be afraid of them. The Lord your God Himself will fight for you. - Deuteronomy 3:22

So why were the soldiers afraid? Either they had forgotten God's promise, or they didn't trust that God

Day #1 continued:

would keep His promise. These men were not abiding in, or relying on, God. Those who hid in fear would miss out on the blessings God had in store for anyone who trusted Him.



Given the choice, would you rather live in God's blessings or miss out on them? There are always abundant blessings when we abide in the Lord!

Day #2: Abiding Daily

David was too young to be a soldier. He was at home taking care of his family's sheep. One day, David's father, Jesse, sent him to check on his brothers. When David arrived, he heard Goliath shouting out threats to the Israelites.



David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone lose hope because of that Philistine. I'll go out and fight him."

Saul replied, "You aren't able to go out there and fight that Philistine. You are too young. He's been a fighting man ever since he was a boy." - 1 Samuel 17:32-33

Saul liked David very much. He was worried about letting David go up against a fighting monster like Goliath. But David explained that many times while he was out in the fields, wild animals tried to attack his sheep. Each time, David killed the animal. David was sure that he could kill this man who dared to fight against God's army.

If David stopped here, we would almost think he was bragging about himself. But what he said next was SO important! Don't miss these words:

"The Lord saved me from the paw of the lion. He saved me from the paw of the bear. And He'll save me from the powerful hand of this Philistine too."

Saul said to David, "Go. And may the Lord be with you." - 1 Samuel 17:37

David was actually bragging about the Lord! (Galatians 6:14) Because David relied on God every day, he knew the heart of God. David had come to trust the Lord. He knew that God ALWAYS keeps His promises. So when he was faced with a giant who was 9 feet tall, he was not afraid. He knew that God was much more powerful than ANY enemy.



Abiding in God leads us to trust God. If we rely on Him every day, we will not stumble when we face something really difficult.

Day #3: The Lord's Battle

When Goliath saw David, he must have laughed out loud. He made fun of David because he was so young. Goliath called down **curse**s on David (1 Samuel 17:43). This leads us back to another promise that God had made long ago. The promise was to Abraham, and it was about his BIG family, the Israelites. God said:

 *I will bless those who bless you. I will put a curse on anyone who calls down a curse on you. - Genesis 12:3a*

Goliath may have thought he was about to fight a young man half his size, but really, he was about to fight against the Creator of the universe! David knew God, he knew God's promises, and he knew that Goliath didn't stand a chance! David was so sure God would fight the battle that he didn't even wear any armor to the fight. He took only a sling and 5 smooth stones.

*David said to Goliath, "You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He's the One you have dared to fight against... **The battle belongs to the Lord.** He will hand all of you over to us." - 1 Samuel 17:45, 47b*

David was able to hand his big problem over to the Lord, and the Lord certainly took care of it.

 When you have a big problem, hand it over to the Lord. Is there anything in your life right now that is troubling you? Take it to God in prayer. Know that no problem is a match for our all-powerful God.

Day #4: Unfair Fight

You might hear a sports announcer say that one team is an underdog in a game. What does this mean? We're not sure where this expression came from, but it means that team is expected to lose the game. They are smaller or weaker and most people don't think they can win.

There was definitely an underdog in the fight between David and Goliath. Everyone could see that it wasn't a fair fight. Of course, everyone watching thought that *David* was the underdog because Goliath was way too big and strong to fight against David. Actually, *Goliath* was the underdog. He was way too small and weak to fight against the Lord!

Both men rushed into the fight - Goliath with his massive sword and shield, David with his sling and stones. David put a stone into his sling and slung it at Goliath. The stone hit Goliath right on the forehead and he crashed to the ground.

Day #4 continued:

 *So David won the fight against Goliath with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine down and killed him. He did it without even using a sword. - 1 Samuel 17:50*

The rest of the Philistines ran in fear. The Israelites chased after them and destroyed them. God handed His people complete victory that day.

Sometimes God allows His people to look like the underdog, so that when He helps them, He will get all the glory. David put it this way:

*This very day the Lord will hand you over to me... **Then the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.** - 1 Samuel 17:46*

 When you feel like the underdog, remember that God is NEVER the underdog! When He is on your side you have nothing to fear. And when God helps you, be sure to give Him all the glory, just as David did.

Day #5: Example

There are two ways to teach. You can tell someone how to do something, or you can show someone how to do something. Most people would agree that showing someone how to do something is a much better way to teach. For example, if you wanted to teach your sister how to make a paper airplane, you could try to explain it with words. But it would be SO much easier to have your own paper and make one along with her. You would be teaching by your example.

David was a fine example for his brothers, King Saul, the Israelite army, and all the Israelites. By his example, those watching could see that His trust in God led to great blessings. Certainly, he was the youngest person on the battlefield that day, but he was the best example that most had ever seen.

The Bible talks specifically to young people (like you!) about being an example.

 *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure. - 1 Timothy 4:12*

 No matter how young you are, live your life in a way that is a godly example to everyone around you. Abide in the Lord. Encourage others with kind words. Make decisions based on God's word. Hide His word in your heart.

Living in this way, you will be blessed with peace and joy and all the other fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). A life like that is so attractive. When those around you see your example, they will want to copy it.