

David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

David was out in the fields looking after his dad's sheep – it could be a dangerous job. Sometimes wolves would come and attack the sheep and he would have to use his sling and stones to protect them.

Three of David's big brothers were soldiers in King Saul's army. One day, David's dad, Jesse, called for David to speak to him. So, David left the sheep in the care of another shepherd and went home to see Jesse, who told David to go to his brothers and take food for them. David put some bread and cheese in a big bag and he set off to where the soldiers were camped. He had to remember not to eat the food meant for his brothers on the way. It was a long walk.

The Philistines were the enemies of the Israelites and they had picked a fight with King Saul and his soldiers.

David arrived at the camp and ran to find his brothers – but as he was talking to them, he heard a loud noise like a roar. From out of the Philistines' camp stepped a huge man – the giant Goliath.

Goliath shouted at King Saul and his soldiers, "I dare you, I dare you to fight me!" They were absolutely terrified of him. Goliath was enormous. He was very tall and also very strong – surely no-one could ever win if they fought him! He stomped backwards and forwards to look even more frightening.

"I dare you, I dare you to fight me!" shouted Goliath at King Saul's soldiers but not one of them moved. They were all too frightened.

David turned and talked to the soldiers, including his brothers.

"That giant's too big for his boots! We shouldn't let him get away with it. This is God's army!"

David's big brothers heard what he said and they were angry with him. They said, "Shut up David, you're the one who's too big for your boots".

King Saul heard what David had said and he sent for him.

David went to King Saul and told him, "I'm not scared of Goliath and I'll fight him".

King Saul said to David, "But you're only a kid".

David replied, "At home I look after the sheep and sometimes lions and bears come and attack the sheep and I have to protect them. God has rescued me from lions and bears, so I know that God will rescue me from Goliath".

Saul looked at David again and said, "Well, if you are going to fight Goliath you will need some armour".

So David was dressed up as a soldier but everything was far too big and David could not move because it was too heavy. He said, "I can't wear all this to fight Goliath". So he took it all off and put on his own clothes again. David took his stick with him and went off down to the stream. He chose five smooth stones to fit into his shepherd's sling. Then he went to fight Goliath.

When he saw David approaching, Goliath roared, "You've sent a little kid with a stick to fight me?"

David shouted back, "God doesn't need big men with swords to rescue his people".

He took one of the five smooth stones from his bag and put it in his sling. He swung the sling around his head. The stone hit Goliath right in the middle of his forehead and knocked him flat. Goliath was dead – God had rescued his people from their enemies.

The Israelite army cheered and the Philistines all ran away. God chose David to be the king of his people and God used David to rescue his people from Goliath. What a great God!!