

## Bible Point

# God Is With Us

## Bible Verse

God is with us (adapted from Joshua 1:9c).

Bonus Verse: 'For the battle is the Lord's' 1 Samuel 17:47b

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- hear the story of David and Goliath,
  - learn that God is powerful, and
  - realize that God is with us all the time.

## Bible Basis

### ■ God is with us.

The saddest part of the story of David and Goliath is that none of the soldiers in the Israelite army were willing to stand up to Goliath, who was defying "the armies of the living God." Not even the mighty warrior, King Saul, would stand up for God and his kingdom to fight the giant. It took a young shepherd who knew little of armor and swords and spears to go out and face this fearsome 9-foot-tall champion of the Philistines.

Notice that David faced Goliath with only his shepherd's staff, a slingshot, five smooth stones—and the power of his God. David knew that God had helped him kill a lion and a bear to protect his sheep, and he knew that God would be with him to protect God's own name and free the people of Israel from the oppression of Goliath and the Philistines. And we all know how David came out!

God can be with us in the same way he was with David, if we'll only rely fully on him. Be sure to let that truth soak into your own life as you teach it to your toddlers.

## Prayer

- Read Jeremiah 1:8.
- What "Goliath" are you afraid to face in your life?
- How can trusting that God is with you help you defeat that giant?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for being with me. Help my child to understand that you'll be with them when they...

Sing the B-I-B-L-E or Jesus Loves Me

## Bible Story: God Is With Us

**SUPPLIES:** knee-high stocking, one or two socks, 5 small rocks, stuffed animal, Printout of David and Goliath, a sheep made from index card folded in ½ (glue cotton balls and add face and legs).

Before the Lesson, make "David's sling" by using one or two socks to make a ball, and then stuffing the sock ball into a knee-high stocking. Tie a knot to close the ball. You will use this sling in the next few lessons.

Place the figures of David and Goliath, the sling you made and five stones beside you.

**Say:** We're going to hear an exciting Bible story today and learn that God is with us. Stand on your tiptoes and stretch up tall. Pause for children to respond. Oh, look how big you are! Now squat down. Pause. You're so much smaller now! This story is about two people—one who was big and growly (make a "growly" face) and one who was small and very nice (smile and pat your heart). Place the figure of David in front of you.

**Say:** This is David. Can you tell him "hello"? Lead children in saying, "Hello, David." David loved God, and God loved David very much, too. David had seven brothers, but he was the youngest and smallest. Scrunch down and show me how small you can be. Pause. My, you're small. Oh look, here's something else that's small—a sheep! Set out the fluffy sheep. What does a sheep sound like? Lead children in saying, "Baa, baa." David was a shepherd boy. He took good care of his father's sheep.

**Then ask:** How does the sheep feel? (Soft; warm; nice.) • What does a sheep say? (Baa, baa.)

**Say:** David loved his family, and he loved the sheep. But most of all, David loved God. He loved God more than anything! But there was someone who didn't love God. Let's see who that mean man was. Place the figure of Goliath in front of the children.

**Say:** Ooo, look at this big man. His name is Goliath. Can you say that? Go-li-ath. Let's stand up big and tall like Goliath. Stretch way up—Goliath was very, very tall! And Goliath was growly and mean. Show me a growly face. Pause for children to respond.

**Say:** Goliath didn't love God. He said bad things about God and about God's people. God's people and Goliath's people were fighting each other. Every day Goliath made fun of God's people and shouted, "Send someone to fight me!" But God's people were afraid of Goliath. No one wanted to fight him. No one, that is, except David. Goliath's words made David angry. David wanted to stop Goliath from making fun of God's people, but David wasn't big—he was much smaller than Goliath.

Point to the figure of David. Let's play a game. When I point to David, you squat down and say "small." When I point to Goliath, stretch up and say "tall."

Lead children in playing the "Small and Tall" game a few times.

**Then say:** Let's sit down and hear how David stopped Goliath from being mean and saying bad things about God. Hold up the figure of David. **Say:** David knew that Goliath was big, but David knew that God is bigger than anything or anyone! And David knew that God is with us.

David picked up five smooth stones from a little stream. Let's see if we can count some stones. Scatter the stones on the floor, and let children pick them up. Help children count the stones aloud a few times. Make sure to scatter the stones near you so you can prevent children from putting the stones in their mouths.

**Say:** David had the stones and his sling. Here's a pretend sling. Let's take turns swinging it. Have children take turns swinging the sling in a circle above their heads. Then hold the sling and say: David walked up to Goliath. Place the figure of David in front of the figure of Goliath. When Goliath saw how little David was, he laughed "ha!" But David knew that God is with us. Hold the figure of David as if it's talking. "Goliath, you think you're big and powerful with that shiny sword. But God is bigger than you or anyone else! God is with us, and he will win this fight!"

Then David put a stone in his sling (PRETEND to put stone in the sling) and threw it at Goliath. Guess what happened? Tip Goliath over face-first. The stone hit Goliath in the head, and he fell facedown on the ground! God helped David win the battle!

Even though David was small, David's love for God was this big! Stretch your arms out wide. And David knew that God is with us.

Before David met Goliath, he was a shepherd. That means that he had some sheep that he took care of.

**Ask:** • What do you think David did to take care of his sheep? (He fed them; he made sure they were safe; he watched out for them.)

**Say:** David watched out for his sheep, just like God watches out for us! Let's play a game to remind us that God is with us.

God chose David to be a special shepherd. He had a very important job. He had to keep his sheep safe! Just like David took good care of his sheep, God takes good care of us. Let's practice taking good care of this 'stuffed animal'. Hold the *small stuffed animal* in your lap. Let's pretend this animal is sick. Let's pass it around, and we can take turns patting it and giving it gentle hugs to make it feel better.

Pass around the 'stuffed animal' for child to comfort it. When the animal comes back to you, say: I think our 'stuffed animal' feels much better! You took very good care of it, just as David took care of his sheep.

**Ask:** • What was David's important job? (He took care of the sheep; he made sure the sheep were safe.)

• How does God take care of us? (He helps us when we're sick; he gives us good things; he gives us moms and dads.)

**Say:** Just like David was with his sheep, God is with us. Let's sing a song to help us remember our Bible story!

## ■ "God Is With Us" Song

*SUPPLIES: Bible*

Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9c, and show children that today's Bible verse, God is with us, comes from God's Word.

Lead the children in singing "God Is With Us" (adapted from Joshua 1:9c) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.

Goliath stood so tall. (*Stand on your tiptoes.*)

David was so small. (*Squat down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

David trusted God. (*Cross your arms over your chest.*)

He made Goliath fall. (*Crouch down.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

God is with us all! (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

God is with us all. (*March in place.*)

Clap your hands and turn around (*clap twice; then turn around*)—

**Memory Verse:** 'For the battle is the Lord's' 1 Samuel 17:47b

## **CRAFT: Goliath and the Paper Cup Slingshot**

**Supplies:** Goliath figure, Balloon, Plastic or Sturdy Paper cup, Marshmallows (or substitute the marshmallows with crushed paper balls, ping pong balls, or anything light and small enough to fit in the paper cups (and that is safe to shoot)).

1. Tie a knot at the end of the balloon.
2. Cut off the tip of the balloon (the cut-out portion should be around half the size of the bottom of your paper cup)
3. Cut away the bottom of a sturdy paper cup.
4. Gently stretch the balloon over the bottom of the paper cup. Pull up the balloon as far as possible.
5. Print Goliath, color and form into a 'tube' around an empty TP roll.

### **Tips:**

1. If your balloon does not fit the paper cup very well, you may need to secure it with sticky tape.
2. The more upright you hold the cup, the higher the marshmallow will fly.
3. If you prefer not to play with food items, substitute the marshmallows with crushed paper balls, ping pong balls, or anything light and small enough to fit in the paper cups (and that is safe to shoot).

The effectiveness of these paper cup slingshots varies with different sizes of paper cups and balloons. To shoot, simply place a marshmallow in the cup and hold it up; pull the knotted end of the balloon and release. The marshmallow should fly out of the cup.

### **Play the Game**

Place one "Goliath" on the center of table.

Place a coin (alternatively a small piece of masking tape) on the floor, around 3 feet away from the table – this is to mark the position where players must stand while shooting at "Goliath".

Keep increasing the distance for each round, until no one can strike down "Goliath". On "go", players take turns to shoot once at Goliath while standing just behind the marker.

If "Goliath" falls, set it up right again for the next player.

Pick up your marshmallows and wait for your next turn.

