

MY FIRST MESSAGE



AMAZING STORIES OF THE BIBLE

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DAVID AND GOLIATH

King Saul and the Israelites spread out their troops ready for battle against the Philistines. The Philistines were on one hill, the Israelites on the opposing hill, with the valley between them.



A giant nearly ten feet tall stepped out from the Philistine line into the open, Goliath from Gath. He had a bronze helmet on his head and was dressed in armor—126 pounds of it! He wore bronze shin guards and carried a bronze sword. His spear was like a fence rail—the spear tip alone weighed over fifteen pounds.

Goliath stood there and called out to the Israelite troops, “Why bother using your whole army? Pick your best fighter and pit him against me. If he gets the upper hand and kills me, the Philistines will all become your slaves. But if I get the upper hand and kill him, you’ll all become our slaves and serve us. I challenge the troops of Israel this day. Give me a man. Let us fight it out together!”

When Saul and his troops heard the Philistine’s challenge, they were terrified and lost all hope.

**How much
taller than you
was Goliath?**

Now David was the youngest son of Jesse from Bethlehem in Judah. While his three older brothers went to war with Saul, David went back and forth from attending to Saul to tending his father's sheep in Bethlehem.

One day, Jesse told David his son, "Check in on your brothers to see whether they are getting along all right, and let me know how they're doing."

David arrived at the camp just as the army was moving into battle formation, shouting the war cry. The Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath, stepped out from the front lines of the Philistines, and gave his usual challenge. David heard him.

"Master," said David to King Saul, "don't give up hope. I'm ready to go and fight this Philistine."

Saul answered David, "You can't go and fight this Philistine. You're too young and inexperienced."

David said, "I've been a shepherd, tending sheep for my father. Whenever a lion or bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I'd go after it, knock it down, and rescue the lamb. And I'll do the same to this Philistine pig who is taunting the troops of God-Alive. GOD, who delivered me from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear, will deliver me from this Philistine."

Saul said, "Go. And GOD help you!"



**Why wasn't
David afraid of
the giant?**



David didn't want to use armor to protect himself. What did David think would protect him?

Then Saul outfitted David as a soldier in armor. He put his bronze helmet on his head and belted his sword on him over the armor. David tried to walk but he could hardly budge.

David told Saul, "I can't even move with all this stuff on me. I'm not used to this." And he took it all off.

Then David took his shepherd's staff, selected five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the pocket of his shepherd's pack, and with his sling in his hand approached Goliath.

"Come on," said the Philistine.

"I'll make roadkill of you for the buzzards. I'll turn you into a tasty morsel for the field mice."



David answered, “ You come at me with sword and spear and battle-ax. I come at you in the name of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel’s troops, whom you curse and mock. This very day GOD is handing you over to me. The whole earth will know that there’s an extraordinary GOD in Israel. And everyone gathered here will learn that God doesn’t save by means of sword or spear. The battle belongs to GOD—he’s handing you to us on a platter!”

That angered the Philistine, and he started toward David. David took off from the front line, running toward the Philistine. David reached into his pocket for a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine hard in the forehead, embedding the stone deeply. The Philistine crashed, facedown in the dirt.

Then David ran up to the Philistine and stood over him, pulled the giant’s sword from its sheath. When the Philistines saw that their great champion was dead, they scattered, running for their lives.



PRAY

Tell God about some of the things you are afraid of. Ask God to be with you whenever you are afraid. Ask him to give you courage to be brave and to stand up for what is right.



LIVE

Act out the story using scrunched up paper or a foam ball as stones.

Take turns acting out each part.

Talk about heroes.

What is a hero?

Can you name any heroes?

Memorize Philippians 4:6:

“Instead of worrying, pray.”