** BIBLE 101**

Unit 6: Trusting in God

*David Defeats Goliath*

**A Note to the Teacher:** The story of David and his victory over Goliath is one of the most widely known in the Old Testament. It is the story of a young boy who faced a seemingly impossible challenge. When others would have written themselves off, David placed his faith in God. By doing so, he was able to defeat a 9-foot giant with a single rock, and demonstrated for generations to come what it means to trust in the Lord.

This lesson invites students to consider what might be the “giants” in their own lives and how trusting God can help them to overcome those giants. Emphasize that not everyone has the same giants and that what might seem like *nothing* to one person may seem like an impossible challenge to another. God helps us to overcome whatever giant we are fighting, no matter what others think of it.

**Gathering**

As students enter the space, gather them in a seated circle. In the center of the circle, place a variety of paper bags filled with textured items. **Say, “I am going to pass these bags around, and without peaking inside I want you to reach your hand in and feel whatever is in there. What do you think it is?”** Pass the bags around. As you do, students will shout out what they think is in each one. DO NOT REVEAL THE ANSWERS YET, even if someone guesses correctly.

When everyone has had a chance to reach in to every bag, gather them back in the center of the circle.

**Say, “I asked you to reach your hands in to these bags without looking – and you did it! That sure was brave! What if the bags had been filled with snakes, or moldy bananas, or rabbit droppings?!? Why did you reach in?”** Give a few moments for students to respond.

**Say, “When I asked you to reach in to the bags, you did so without knowing what you were going to find. When you did that, you trusted me. Maybe it is because we know each other, or maybe you did it because I am a teacher. Maybe it is because you know that Sunday School is always a safe place. Whatever the reason, your trust allowed you to be brave enough to reach in to the bags.**

**Today, we are going to talk about a man who also put his trust in the one giving him directions, and was brave enough to do what he was asked to do. In this story, God asks a man named David to trust God as he goes in to a very scary battle against a BIG enemy.”**

Open to 1 Samuel. Remind students that this story comes from the Old Testament, which means it happened before Jesus was born.

*Read, or invite a volunteer to read, 1 Samuel 17:2-11, 16, 40, 45-50.*

**Ask, “David tells Saul that he will go out and fight Goliath. What does he take with him when he goes?”** Give more students a chance to respond. **Say, “David went out to fight Goliath with nothing but a wooden staff, five stones, and a slingshot. That doesn’t sound like much! But David wasn’t scared. He knew that he could win! What gave him his confidence?”**

**Say, “In the end, David only needed a single stone to defeat Goliath. David trusted that God would care for him in his battle against Goliath, and God saw to it that David easily won. God gave David the courage that he needed to win the battle!”**

**Facing Our Giants**

Roll out a LARGE piece of paper. Using a measuring tape, work together to measure 9 feet.

**Say, “The word “Goliath” means huge. The giant that David fought was 9 feet tall. That is much taller than any human that has ever lived. Let’s see if we can work together to make a 9’ giant.”**

On the large paper, draw the outline of a person that is 9’ tall. Students may wish to give the giant a face or other features. When they have finished, hang the giant on the wall, with its feet on the floor and its head reaching 9’ tall.

**Say, “Wow, can you imagine how David must have felt when he saw Goliath standing over him THAT tall? What do you think was going through David’s head?”** Give time for answers.

**Say, “David fought an actual giant. None of us have ever met an actual giant, but we battle “giants” in our own lives all the time. What are some things that scare us or seem impossible for us to to do or overcome?”** Spend a few moments talking about the giants in our lives. As students say what scares them, invite them to add their giants to the giant poster (the teacher may need to help in younger classes). **Say, “Our giants all look different, but we all have things that scare or worry us. And we all have the ability to find comfort and confidence and strength by TRUSTING IN GOD to help us through!”**

**A Single Stone**

David’s trust in God allowed him to defeat Goliath with a single stone. To help students remember this story, and the importance of trusting in God when facing their own giants, they will create painted rocks as a reminder of the single stone that defeated the giant.

**Say, “David knocked out the 9’ giant with a single stone. Today, we are going to make our own special stones that remind us to TRUST IN GOD.”**

Set out paints, brushes, and water. Give each child a rock. Invite students to paint the rocks however they like. When the rocks are dry, you will use a permanent marker to write the word “TRUST” on them.

As students work, continue the conversation about giants. What are some giants in our community? In the world? How can we trust in God and help to defeat those giants? (Examples could include poverty, racism, hunger, discrimination, etc).

**Closing**

When everyone has finished, collect the rocks on paper plates to dry. Students will be able to take them home next week.

Corrie arrives to teach music at 11:20am. At that time, students gather in a seated circle near the classroom couch. If time allows, have students help cleanup before heading to choir practice.