



# The Giant and the Rock

**GRACE**

God offers Himself for us.

## Power Text

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" (Psalm 18:2, NIV).

## Key Text and References

1 Samuel 17; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 643-648; *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 539; student story on page 24 of this guide.

## Objectives

### The students will:

**Know** that God is their champion; He wins the victory for them.

**Feel** victorious because God wins the battle against sin.

**Respond** by rejoicing that God gives them victory.

## Power Point



**God is our champion; He wins the victory for us.**

## Getting Ready to Teach

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The Philistines have a champion named Goliath, a giant, who continually taunts the Israelite camp. David, a shepherd boy who has come to the encampment to bring provisions to his older brothers, is amazed that no one responds to Goliath's insults against God. He offers to fight the giant. The king and others protest, but David recites how

God has taught him that the battle belongs to Him. Refusing the king's armor, David faces the giant in the name of the Lord. Goliath is defeated, and all the army of Israel cheer.

### ***This is a lesson about grace.***

God offers Himself to us through Jesus, our champion. He fights our enemy and wins the battle of salvation in

Program Notes			
Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
<b>Welcome</b>	Ongoing	Greet students at door Hear pleased/troubled	
<b>1</b> <b>Readiness</b>	10-15	A. <i>Giant Balloons</i> B. <i>Rock Solid</i>	Balloons, markers, Large rock, written verse
<b>*</b> <b>Prayer and Praise*</b>	15-20	See page 21. <b>*Prayer and Praise</b> may be used at any time during the program.	Small rock and circle of fabric for each student
<b>2</b> <b>Bible Lesson</b>	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	Six copies of <i>Net Kids</i> script
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Paper and pencils
<b>3</b> <b>Applying the Lesson</b>	10-15	<i>Scenario</i>	
<b>4</b> <b>Sharing the Lesson</b>	10-15	<i>Prayer Rocks</i>	Rocks, cloth circles, ribbon, paper, pens/markers

our behalf. When we realize that the battle has been won, we shout victory, just as the soldiers in Saul's army did.

### Teacher Enrichment

The word *champion* has different shades of meaning. The meaning in this lesson is not the winner of first prize or first place. *Champion* in this lesson means one who does battle for another's rights or honor. Synonyms are *defender, protector, upholder, advocate, guardian*.

"Operating a sling like David's required both a strong arm and an expert aim. A

slinger first tied one end of the leather sling around his wrist. With the other hand he held a stone in the side strip of leather or cloth which formed the middle section of the sling. Then gathering up the loose end, he whirled the sling in the air above his head. When he reached the proper momentum, he released the loose end and sent the stone hurtling at the mark. With practice, a slinger could become a deadly shot" (V. Gilbert Beers, *The Book of Life*, vol. 9, p. 172).

*What victories have you experienced? How has God been your champion?*

## Teaching the Lesson

### Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Ask if they have a grace acrostic to share from their Bible study during the week. Start making a list of the Bible references to lambs, sheep, or rams that students found. Try not to write any duplicates on the list.

Direct the students immediately to the Readiness Activity you have prepared.

# 1

## Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

### A. Giant Balloons

#### You Need:

- balloons
- markers

Provide each student with two nine to 12-inch balloons and a permanent marker. Ask them to write GOD on one balloon and FEARS & GIANTS on the other. Ask the class to begin to blow up the "fears" balloon first. Invite the class to call out things in their lives that are scary, or feel like big overwhelming giants. As each "giant" is mentioned, everyone should blow two breaths into their balloon. Continue until the balloons are filled and the words are large and expanded. Ask: **What happened to the fears and giants as we talked about them and focused on each one?** (They got larger and larger.) Ask the class to quickly let the balloons go; they'll fly around the room. Then pick up the "God" balloons. Do the same thing, inflating the "God" balloon with two breaths each time someone calls out something specific that God has done to save, rescue or win victories for them. When the "God" balloons are inflated, ask: **What happened to "God" as we talked about His power and abilities?** (It got larger.)

#### Debriefing

Invite them to join you by saying: **If you want to join me in spending time thinking about and praising God rather than being afraid of your "giants," tie a knot like this.** When everyone has tied off their balloon, have them toss their balloons into the air and say loudly: **Yes. God is our Champion.**



**God is our champion; He wins the victory for us.**

### B. Rock Solid

You will need a large rock and a paper with the text 2 Samuel 22:2, 3 writ-

ten on it. Before class, fold the paper and hide it under the rock so the students do not know what is there. Ask the students to guess what is under the rock, but do not let anyone look there yet.

#### You Need:

- large rock
- paper
- marker

#### Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you were guessing?** (unsure, uncertain, silly, hopeful, etc.) **How is this guessing game like the way some people try to find God?** (They don't really look, they keep guessing. They don't really try, they just keep talking about it.) **What would be the best way to find out what is under the rock?** (Pick up the rock and look.)

Ask a student to look under the rock. When they find the paper, have them read the text written on it. Ask: **How is God like a rock for us?** (Allow time for discussion.) Summarize the discussion and end with the power point.



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## Prayer and Praise



#### Fellowship

Summarize the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

#### Suggested Songs

"It's About Grace" (See page 139.)

"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 85)

#### Mission

Use *Teen Mission* or other mission report available.

#### Offering

Collect the offering in the container used last week to symbolize grace.

#### Prayer

Find a small rock for each student. Wrap the rock in a circle of fabric, then copy and attach the following message.

#### The Prayer Rock

I place it on my pillow while I study, work, and play.  
Then when I come to go to sleep I know I've prayers to say.

Have prayer after distributing the rocks.

\*Prayer and praise may be used any time during the program.

#### You Need:

- small rock for each student
- piece of fabric for each

2

**Bible Lesson**

**Introducing the Bible Story**

*The Net Kids*

**You Need:**

- six scripts

(Refer to Lesson 1 for background and setup information.) Make the appropriate number of copies of the *Net Kids* script found at the back of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

**Debriefing**

Ask: **Whom do you know that was rescued by an unlikely hero? The hero rescued Ivan. How does God rescue us?**

**Experiencing the Story**

**You Need:**

- Bibles

Ask students to turn in their Bibles to 1 Samuel 17. Say: **Today we are going to review a familiar story, one that you know well, found in verses 1-50 of this chapter.**

**To do this we need a narrator and several people to read the parts of the people involved.**

Select people to read the following parts:

Narrator—Reads all nonspeaking parts (you may want to do this yourself)

Goliath—the giant who challenges Israel

Jesse—father of David, Eliab, and other brothers

Four Israelites—each to read a sentence from verse 25

Another Israelite—to read from verse 27

Eliab—David’s older brother

King Saul—commander of the Israelite army

Conclude the reading at the end of verse 50. Then ask: **Who won this bat-**

**tle?** Allow time for discussion. Carefully lead students to understand that God led David and gave him the victory over Goliath. To conclude, say: **The thing we want to remember is that . . .**



**God is our champion; He wins the victory for us.**

**Exploring the Bible**

**You Need:**

- large sheets of paper
- pencils

Divide the following verses among the students and have them read them aloud as a praise to God—Psalm 18:1-19, 46-50. (Don’t force any who may be reluctant.)

Have the students form small groups. Give each group a large piece of paper and pencils. Ask them to draw a representation of their champion, God, as He is described, winning the victory in Psalm 18.

**Debriefing**

When students are ready, have them share their pictures and tell which specific verses they used for inspiration. Say: **God was a protector and a fortress for David, and through him the entire army of Israel. Our power text, Psalm 18:2, says that God is our rock and fortress. And that reminds us of the point of today’s lesson:**



**God is our champion; He wins the victory for us.**

Have students post the pictures of a time they were afraid, from Readiness Activity A, around the picture their group drew for this exercise.

## 3

## Applying the Lesson

### Scenario

Give your students the following scenario:

**Jon has been a Sabbath School member all his life. But lately he's been having a hard time believing God loves him. Earlier this year Jon's family moved to a new city. Jon had prayed that he wouldn't have to move and leave his friends. Since he doesn't feel God listens to his prayers, he has quit praying. Jon is confused.**

Ask: **What would you say are Jon's "giants"?** (loneliness, doubt, feeling separated from God and friends)

**What would Jon do if he acted like the army of Israel?** (feel defeated/depressed) **What would he do if he acted like David?** (Believe God could overcome the problems.) **What do you think Jon should do?** (Tell God exactly how he feels, ask God to defeat the "giants" of loneliness and doubt for him.) **Do you think God could bring about victory in this case? Have you ever had similar problems? How did you or can you turn them over to God?**



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## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

### Prayer Rocks

#### You Need:

- rocks
- cloth circles
- ribbon
- paper
- pens/markers

Use the "prayer rock" in the Prayer and Praise section. Have students make a prayer rock for a friend. Supply rocks, cloth, ribbon, paper, and

pens. Have students copy the verse that is on their own rock, or create a new verse relating to today's power point.

When they are finished, ask each one to share with whom they plan to share the rock, and the message they have placed on it.

### Closing

Pray that each student will accept the victory of Jesus, our champion, and share the good news with someone else this week.

## STUDENT LESSON

# The Giant and the Rock

## Key Text

1 Samuel 17

## Power Text

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" (Psalm 18:2, NIV).

## Power Point

**God is our champion; He wins the victory for us.**

*Think of a time when you were sent on a special errand. Was it something you really wanted to do, or did you dread doing it? Did the experience turn out very different from what you had expected? In today's story, a young man was sent on an errand that turned into a battle!*

The young man, David, reached the top of the last hill he had to climb and looked down at the camp of the army of Israel spread out before him. His father had sent him with supplies for his three older brothers, who had been camped here with the army for several weeks. Father wanted to know how things were going.

"What's happening?" David called to one of the soldiers.

"There's movement from the Philistines' battle lines. Our men are lining up to fight."

David, looking anxious, hurried to his brothers.

"What are you doing here?" Eliab greeted him with irritation.

"I've brought . . ." David began, but suddenly there was silence all around him. From the lines of the Philistines an enormous man swaggered forward. Rays of sunlight bounced off his bronze helmet and battle vest. Hanging from his back was the biggest javelin David had ever seen. A soldier walked in front of him, carrying his huge shield.

"Who is that?" David asked. He could hardly believe what he saw.

"Shhh. It's Goliath," someone whispered in fright.

"Send a man over to fight me, you cowards!" Goliath thundered. "If your man wins, the Philistines will be your servants. But if I win, the Israelites will be our servants."

David waited for someone to accept the challenge. But no one moved. The silence made Goliath shout louder. Shaking his huge spear, Goliath raged, "You cowards! I curse the God of Saul and of Israel!"

"Why are we letting him talk to us

like that?" David exclaimed. Shocked, he turned to his brothers. "We can't let him defy our God! What's wrong with everybody? Are you all afraid of the giant?"

The men around David slipped quietly away. They discussed his questions and comments among themselves, and passed them along to others. Someone reported David's comments to King Saul, and it wasn't long before David was summoned before the king.

"What's this I'm hearing from my men?" Saul asked.

"I don't understand," David responded. "Why don't we have the courage to fight this Philistine?"

"Well, you see . . ." Saul began to explain.

Suddenly David knew what had to be done. "If no one else will fight him, I will," he said.

"You? Why, you're just a boy," the king responded. "You know nothing of battle techniques. Goliath has been trained to fight since he was a child."

David faced the king. "You're right, sir, but God will win the battle for me. Once a bear and then a lion attacked my sheep. I was afraid, but God gave me the strength to defeat them. I know He'll do the same thing now."

The king considered. "I will give you my permission, but you must wear my personal armor."

David tried the armor on. He could hardly move in it.

"Sir, thank you, but I can't wear this. It's too heavy, too awkward. Let me go without it."

The king nodded his agreement.

David shrugged out of the heavy armor. Picking up his shepherd's walking stick, he marched past the front lines and down into the valley.

"God, this battle is Yours," David prayed.

As he crossed a small stream, David grabbed five smooth stones and put them in the bag he carried around his waist.

He could see Goliath now—and he was *huge!* Much bigger than he'd seemed from afar.

Goliath watched David approach, and he suddenly realized that this wasn't some important soldier coming to fight him; it was just a boy!

"Do you think I'm a dog that you come over here to fight me with a stick?" he sneered, throwing back the visor on his helmet.

David's voice rang out clear and strong. "You've come to fight me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I'm coming in the name of the Lord of Israel." Quickly he took a stone from his bag and put it in his sling.

In a fit of rage, Goliath lunged toward David. As if by instinct, David whipped the sling around his head. Then the stone whistled through the air, straight for the giant's forehead.

Goliath staggered forward and collapsed facedown on the ground. Silence engulfed the valley. David could feel all eyes on him.

Terrified, the Philistines began to run. Goliath, their hero, had been struck down.

A shout of victory sounded from Israel's army. The soldiers were no longer afraid. The battle was over. Israel had a bigger champion than Goliath. God had won the victory for them.

### Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 11.

### Sunday

- Read "The Giant and the Rock."
- In your Bible study journal, make a list of things that, like fearsome "giants," make you afraid or overpower you.
- Ask God to take control of these things. Then thank Him for defeating your "giants."

### Monday

- Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11.
- In your Bible study journal, draw Goliath's picture, including his armor. Label the pieces of armor as people or things that could overpower you.
- Write the power text on a smooth rock. Begin to learn it.

### Tuesday

- Read 1 Samuel 17:12-19.
- How do you think David felt about being left behind to tend the sheep?
- Have you ever been "left behind"? In your Bible study journal, write or draw about your feelings.
- Thank God that He knows and loves you.

### Wednesday

- Read 1 Samuel 17:20-37.
- Do you ever feel put down or not listened to? Think of someone you can listen to today, someone you usually don't spend much time with.
- Plan how and when you are going to spend the time, and do it.

### Thursday

- Read 1 Samuel 17:38-40. Saul wanted David to wear his armor. David knew he could never win the battle if he did. He knew that God didn't need anything human! The victory was already won.
- What human weapons do we sometimes rely on?
- Talk with an adult about this.
- Read Ephesians 6:19, 20. Make this your prayer.

### Friday

- Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47.
- Look for a phrase that claims God as your champion, who will lead you to victory over the "giants" in your life.
- Draw a picture of a shield in your Bible study journal and write this phrase on it.
- Tell God that you accept Him as your champion, and thank Him for winning life's battles for you.