

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of November 26, 2017

Timeless Truth: God's strength is enough.

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 17

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 10 From Shepherd to King

Memory Verse: From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came on David with power. 1 Samuel 16:13



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- **What is something you fear?**
- **There are healthy fears (ie for safety) and unhealthy fears (When we fear something that isn't dangerous at all. A perceived, but unreal danger.) How can we tell the difference?**
- **Fear is an emotion given us by God. How we react says much about who we trust. How can we respond to both types of fear? Pray! Rely on God's strength.**
- **Satan uses our fears to paralyze us so that we won't do what God wants us to do. We can defeat Satan by remembering the words in 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Lord has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." In fact, self-control is one of the fruit of the Spirit. How can we exercise self-control to help us remember God's power when we are afraid?**
- **When is a time you felt scared? How did you respond? How could you respond differently next time?**
- **As a family pray and give your fears to God. Ask Him to strengthen you in times of fear and to remind you that His power is over all things.**

EXTRA MILE

David relied on God's strength and protection to help him fend off lions and bears when he was a shepherd. David needed to have self-discipline (or self-control) to remember to rely on God and not try to fight the animals on his own strength. Play a game of freeze dance. Choose some of your favorite dance songs ("Happy" by Pharrell Williams, "Can't Stop the Feeling" by Justin Timberlake, "Try Everything" by Shakira). An adult will turn the music off at different times and everyone must freeze. Let each person choose a song – great for expending some energy!

When you're done dancing grab a glass of water, ask:

- Which did you enjoy more, the dancing or the freezing?
- As we danced, did you find that you were paying closer attention to when the music would go off? That's called anticipation which means to expect something. When we anticipate or expect something will happen, we can prepare for it. Just like David knew there would always be animals wanting to take his little sheep, he anticipated them coming and prepared by praying for God's strength and protection. We can do the same! When we get up in the morning we know we might have challenges during the day. We can pray and ask God for his strength and protection to get through our challenges.
- What is a challenge you would like God's strength and protection to get through? (Might be a test, a game, a physical ailment, difficulty with a friend.) Stop now and pray as a family.

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, thank you for giving us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. Remind us when we are afraid to come to you in prayer, hand you our fears, and rest assured that your love is more powerful than anything we fear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *One Big Bully*, pg 77 - break on pg 79 (blue—pg 92 – 1st break pg 95) (5 mins)

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 16-17

Summary: God's people are afraid of the giant.

Do together: Play a flashlight game. When it is dark, herd everyone into a bedroom and sit on the floor together. Turn the lights off and the flashlight on. Shine the flashlight toward the ceiling and while everyone is watching the ceiling, stretch your arm high in the air and just into the light of the flashlight. Pull your hand slowly closer to the light and see how big and scary your hand looks on the ceiling. Let the children try it too.

Think about: Goliath was a big man with big hands. He stood very tall and strong and large. He was not afraid of anything, but all his enemies were afraid of him. God's people were his enemies. All of King Saul's army was frightened of Goliath. Even David's brothers who were fighting the army were afraid of him. Was David afraid of that bully, Goliath? Why wasn't David afraid?

Also read: Psalm 56:3. This verse will be referred to every day during this chapter for emphasis. It is a simple and powerful to remember.

DAY 2

Reading: *The Giant Falls*, break on page 79 – pg 81 (blue- break on pg 95 – blue paragraph on pg 97) (3 mins)

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 17

Summary: By trusting in and fighting for God, David defeats Goliath.

Do together: Look up Philippians 4:13. Read it aloud and then think of a short cheer to say as a family that reminds you all of this verse. Something like, "God can do it all!" or "It's God who gives me strength!" Whenever something difficult comes up in the family, use the little cheer to remind one another where your strength lies.

Think about: God gave David a big job to fight Goliath. David knew that God would help him and that God can do everything because he is bigger and more powerful than anyone. So David trusted God, and did what God asked him to do. We can also do anything that God wants us to do because God is on our side.

Also read: Psalm 56:3 again.

Prayer: God, you are mighty and strong and powerful. You give us your power to do everything that you want us to do. We never have to be afraid to do your will. Please give us your courage and help us to follow you in all things. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *God is My Strength*—pg 82 - end (97-end) (2 mins)

This reading covers: Psalm 59

Summary: David prays and expresses faith that God will protect him.

Do together: Listen to a worship song that your family enjoys. Talk about the words, what they mean, and when you might sing that song to God. If you don't have a favorite worship song, listen to some on YouTube. You might find a great new song!

Think about: David loved God so much that he often made his prayers into songs. Many of the Psalms in the Bible are songs that David wrote to praise God and to thank God for protecting him. Most of the songs we sing at church are songs made up from Bible words. If you have a Bible concordance, you might see if you can find any scripture that matches your family's song today. Singing praise music is a wonderful way to get actual scripture into our hearts! Read also: Psalm 56:3 once more. Perhaps the children have memorized this by now. Try putting these words to music.

Prayer: Dear God, we love you so much. We trust you for all that we need. We trust you for our food and our home and our safety. We know you will always take care of us, because you love us even more than we love each other. Thank you for your love and care for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.