



# David Defends God's Honor

1 Samuel 17



## LESSON GOAL

Students will live for the Lord's glory and depend on the Lord's strength.

## BIBLE TRUTHS

- The Israelites and the Philistines were enemies.
- Goliath insulted God and His people.
- David defended God's honor and killed Goliath.

## KEY VERSE

"Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:47).

## APPLICATION

- Honor God with your life.
- Obey God in all you do.
- Depend on God's help to obey.

## NEXT WEEK

God Is Sovereign over Friendships  
Read 1 Samuel 18:1–11; 20:1–42.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

When Israel demanded that God give them a king like the other nations, God gave them Saul. Saul quickly demonstrated that he was more concerned with his own plans than with glorifying God. Because Saul did not honor God's commands, God rejected him as king over Israel. In his place, God chose David. Unlike Saul, who was quick to disobey and slow to repent, David was a man after God's heart. Even Saul appreciated David's character. When David played the harp for troubled Saul, Saul "loved him greatly" and made him his armorbearer (1 Sam. 16:21). Although Saul loved David, there was an integral difference between David and Saul. David was concerned for God's glory, and Saul was not. When confronted by a deadly foe who dishonored God, only David was willing to bring glory to God.

#### **Goliath Assaults God's Honor (1 Sam. 17:1–11).**

First Samuel 17 begins abruptly with a dangerous situation. God's honor was being assaulted. After an unmentioned amount of time, the Philistines had gathered their armies for a dramatic showdown with Israel at Sochoh, located in Judah about 15 miles from Bethlehem (1 Sam. 17:1). Saul responded by gathering Israel to war. Like the pieces on a chessboard, the two sides positioned themselves across from each other. On the slopes of one mountain were the Philistines, and on the slopes of another mountain were the Israelites. The valley between them was all that separated the two armies (17:2–3).

The two armies opposed each other for 40 days without doing battle (1 Sam. 17:16). Every morning and evening, a Philistine champion named Goliath came and challenged Israel to send a single Israelite to fight him (17:8–9). The nation whose representative lost would serve the other nation (17:9–10). The thought of fighting Goliath sent Israel into terror and dismay (17:11). Because they refused to depend on God, Saul and Israel were right to be terrified at the thought of fighting Goliath. Goliath was six cubits and a span tall (about 9 feet 9 inches; 17:4). His head was protected by a bronze helmet, his shins and knees by bronze armor, and his torso by a coat of mail weighing 5,000 shekels (about 125 pounds; 17:5)! Not only well-protected, Goliath was also well-armed. He carried a "bronze javelin" on his back (17:6), a sword (17:45), and a spear with an iron head weighing nearly 15 pounds (17:7). As if his armor were not enough, Goliath also was preceded by a soldier carrying his shield (17:7).

Israel's unwillingness to fight Goliath would have been understandable if it were not for the force behind Goliath's taunts. Each time he came out, Goliath said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day" (17:10). The armies of Israel represented the true God. Every time Goliath assaulted Israel, he assaulted the honor of Israel's God. David would soon say, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (17:26). Unlike other Israelites, David understood that the reputation of the Lord was at stake.

### **David Is Jealous for God's Honor (1 Sam. 17:12–30)**

Even while serving as Saul's armorbearer (1 Sam. 16:21), David occasionally returned to shepherd his father's sheep (17:15). With the onset of war, only David's three oldest brothers (Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah) accompanied Saul's troops (17:13–14). As the standoff continued, Jesse became curious about his sons and sent David to bring food to his brothers and to report on their welfare (17:17–18). David arrived in time to see the Israelite troops assemble for battle and to hear them again be challenged and scorned by Goliath (17:20–23). The troops reported to David that the situation had gotten so bad that Saul had promised riches, tax exemption, and even his daughter in marriage to the man who killed Goliath (17:25). Saul was unwilling to fight Goliath himself, but he would reward the man who did.

When David asked if the rumors were true, his oldest brother was insulted by David's interest. Unlike the Lord, who knows men's hearts, Eliab misjudged David. He accused David of negligence in shepherding, of a proud and insolent heart, and of eagerness to see battle (1 Sam. 17:28). Perhaps Eliab was jealous that his "baby" brother (whom he had seen anointed) was showing interest in doing what he was unwilling to do. David justified his curiosity (17:29).

### **David Prepares to Defend God's Honor (1 Sam. 17:31–40)**

On hearing of David's interest, Saul sent for him (1 Sam. 17:31). David announced his willingness to go and fight Goliath (17:32). Quite expectedly, Saul turned down his offer because David was only a youth, whereas Goliath had been fighting since his youth (17:33). David responded that since God had already delivered him "from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of the Philistine" (17:37). David's confidence was in the Lord and not in his own abilities. If the Lord had rescued him from a lion and a bear while he was shepherding (17:34–35), then surely He would allow him to kill the Philistine, "seeing he has defied the armies of the living God" (17:36). Israel represented the Lord to the nations. While Israel was defied by the idolatrous Philistine, it was the "living God" who was being dishonored. David was confident that the Lord would grant victory because his motive was the Lord's exaltation. Saul gave David permission and hoped that David would indeed be blessed by the Lord (17:37). David, who had once been the king's armorbearer, was now armed by the king himself (17:38). Unused to the armor and sword, David soon took them off (17:39); instead, he simply took his staff, five smooth stones, and a sling (17:40).

### **David Defends God's Honor (1 Sam. 17:41–58)**

As David left the Israelite ranks and entered the battlefield, Goliath came out, still protected by the Philistine soldier carrying his shield (1 Sam. 17:40–41). Goliath based his summation of David on his appearance. He "disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy, and good-looking" (17:42). Goliath taunted David, promising that David would be killed and left on the battlefield for the wild animals to eat (17:43–44). Most significant is that Goliath "cursed David by his gods" (17:43). Like David, Goliath knew that his victory would mean the exaltation of his gods; what Goliath didn't know was that God had promised Abraham that He would curse whoever cursed Abraham's descendants (Gen. 12:3).

Passion for the Lord consumed David. He announced that he came not with human might but "in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel" (1 Sam. 17:45). David was so certain that the Lord would give victory that he said he would cut off Goliath's head and leave his body for the wild animals, just as Goliath had threatened to do to him (17:46). David was singular in his

purpose: "That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands" (17:46b–47).

David's confidence was rightly placed. The Lord was victorious, and the battle was over as soon as it began. The Lord defeated Goliath with David's one perfectly aimed stone (1 Sam. 17:48–49). Taking Goliath's sword, David cut off Goliath's head (17:50). The Philistines, unwilling to serve Israel as Goliath had bargained, fled and were pursued by Israel (17:51–52). In a symbolic act, David brought the head of Goliath to Jerusalem, his future capital, which was still under Jebusite control. One day God would give David victory over Jerusalem (17:54). (In verses 55–58, Saul asked who David's father was. Although David had previously served in Saul's court, Saul seemed to be unaware where David had come from. Perhaps Saul was specifically asking about David's family since he had promised that the man who killed Goliath would marry his daughter and that the man's family would be free from taxes [17:25].)

### Conclusion

Israel was crippled with fear and unwilling to meet the imposing Goliath, but David had both right concern and right theology. David's concern was that the Lord of Israel was being mocked. David's theology included the knowledge that God's power would accomplish God's glory. His right concern and right theology resulted in a confidence that was placed in the Lord alone. David's lack of armor and military might did not matter because "the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's" (1 Sam. 17:47). Even David's previous victories against a lion and a bear did not lead to pride. His confidence was not in his previous victories, but in the Lord who had given those victories (17:37). David was willing to be used by God and gave all glory to God. He is an example for believers of both the passion with which we must pursue the Lord's glory and of the dependence with which we must live for the Lord's glory. May the believer be able to say: "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever" (Rom. 11:36).

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.

### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

What did God tell Samuel to do?

*God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint a new king.*

Was Samuel obedient?

Yes.



What did Samuel think when he saw Eliab?

*Samuel looked at Eliab's appearance and thought that he would be the next king.*

What did God tell Samuel about Eliab?

*God said that He did not choose Eliab as the next king. God told Samuel not to look at his outward appearance. That is what man looks at, but God looks at the heart.*

Whom did Samuel anoint?

*Samuel anointed Jesse's youngest son, David.*



### **Honor Assaulted**

Discuss with the students what it means to dishonor someone. Explain that to dishonor someone is to slander that person's character by saying things to degrade him. Ask the students how they would feel if someone were to criticize their mom, dad, brother, or sister. It is likely that they would want to defend their family member by having the slanderer take back what he said. In today's lesson, we will see how God's honor was assaulted by the Philistines' representative Goliath. David realized that what Goliath was saying about God was not true and needed to be defended. David realized that it wasn't he who was defending God but that God would use him as a tool to defend Himself.



### **What Is Success?**

Bring in pictures of "successful" people (athletes, business people, doctors, etc.). Ask students what they think success is. Is it getting good grades, winning a race, being the best at something, or getting recognition? Have they ever had a goal and accomplished it? Has there ever been an instance in their lives when they were successful? What did they do? Do they think that they were successful on their own strength and ability? Explain that the Bible's definition of failure and success is very different than ours. Whatever is not done by faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). Whatever is done to please God is success (2 Cor. 2:9–10). Anything done that is for God's glory is success. We will see today that against all odds, a young man was successful because he acted to please God.



### **Conflict**

Have you ever seen people arguing? Sometimes when people argue they call each other mean names or say bad things about each other's family. In today's lesson, we will learn about a giant man who was doing this to Israel. He was saying bad things about Israel and Israel's God. He did this to make Israel mad and cause them to send one of their soldiers out to fight him. But Israel was afraid of such a big man, and no one would go out to fight him. Let's see what happens in today's story.

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

When Israel told God that they did not want Him as their king anymore, they asked for a human king, like all the other nations had. God gave them King Saul, and like the kings of the other nations, Saul was more concerned with what he wanted than with what God wanted. Because Saul was disobedient to God, God said that he would not be the king anymore, and that He would find a new king. God chose David, a young man who was a shepherd. David was very different from Saul, because in his heart, David wanted to serve and glorify God. But even though Saul did not want to honor God, he still loved David. David played the harp for Saul and was his armorbearer. Saul was still ruling the Israelites, and he did not know that God had anointed David as the next king. In today's lesson, we will learn how David shows his love for God when he confronts an enemy who dishonored God.

The Israelites were in a dangerous situation. The Philistines had gathered their armies together and come to meet the Israelites for a battle to put an end to their war. Saul responded by gathering all of the armies of the Israelites to fight them. Both sides were ready for the battle. The Philistines were gathered on the side of a hill, and the Israelites were across the valley on another hill. They were facing each other. They both stayed at their places for 40 days. But each morning during those forty days, one of the Philistines came down the hill and into the valley. He yelled a challenge to the Israelites to send just one warrior down to fight him. Whoever won the battle would win the whole war for his nation. If the Philistine won, then all the Israelites would be defeated and have to serve the Philistines. But if the Israelites won, then all the Philistines would have to serve the Israelites. But Goliath was no ordinary Philistine warrior. He was their best warrior, and he was huge! Goliath was very, very tall; he wore the best armor you could imagine and had many weapons. None of the Israelites were willing to fight him. They were convinced that they did not have any chance at beating him. Even worse, when Goliath yelled out to the Israelites to challenge them, he said things that were dishonoring to God. He said that he defied the nation of Israel, and Goliath knew that the nation of Israel represented God. The Israelites did not seem very concerned that God was being dishonored, but when David heard about it, he knew that something must be done.

Even though David was Saul's armorbearer, sometimes he went home to take care of his father's sheep. When Saul gathered his troops for the battle with the Philistines, David's three oldest brothers went to fight with Saul. As time passed and no big battle occurred, David's father, Jesse, became curious about his sons. He wanted to know how they were doing. So Jesse sent David to the Israelite armies with some food for his brothers, and he told him to come back with a

report from his brothers. When David got there, he saw the troops gathered and heard Goliath challenge the Israelites and dishonor God. The troops told David that Saul had not found anyone who was willing to fight Goliath. Saul had promised money, special favors, and even his daughter in marriage to the man who would kill Goliath. When David found his oldest brother, Eliab, he asked him whether what the troops had told him were true. But Eliab got angry with David and accused him of neglecting his job as a shepherd just so he could come watch the battle. But Eliab was wrong.

When Saul heard that David was among the troops and that he had been asking questions about Goliath, he sent for him. When David came before Saul, he said that he wanted to go and fight Goliath. David wanted to go and defend God's honor because Goliath was dishonoring God. But Saul said no because David was young and did not have as much experience as a warrior like Goliath had. But David disagreed with Saul. He told him that while he was the shepherd of his father's sheep, he had fought and killed both a lion and a bear. He said, "Since God has already delivered me from the paw of the lion and the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of the Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:37). David was confident that He could win only because He knew the Lord would keep him safe. David knew that the Lord would want to be glorified in front of the Philistines and the other nations who would hear about it. Saul finally gave David permission and even gave him his own armor to wear in the battle. But David took it off because he was not accustomed to using Saul's weapons and armor. Instead, he took his shepherd's staff, a sling, and five smooth stones he fished out of the brook.

So David headed down into the valley to meet Goliath. Goliath was angry that the Israelites sent such an unworthy opponent to fight him. He made fun of David. He told him that all his gods would curse him. But David knew better. What Goliath didn't know was that God had promised the Israelites a long time ago that he would curse anyone who cursed Abraham's descendants, and David was Abraham's descendant. David shouted back to Goliath that he did not come to fight him with his own strength, but with the strength of the Lord, and so that "all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands" (1 Sam. 17:46-47).

David was right to be confident in the Lord. The Lord caused Goliath to be defeated with one perfectly aimed stone. David used his slingshot and hit Goliath right in the forehead, and Goliath fell down. David took Goliath's sword and cut off his head. The Philistines saw that their champion had been defeated. They were not willing to keep their end of the deal with Israelites, to serve them since Goliath lost, so they ran. But the Israelite army chased after them.

The Israelite army had been very afraid when they saw Goliath, and no one was willing to fight him. They were all relying on their own strength and knew it was not enough to beat Goliath. But David knew that his strength would come from God. He knew that he must fight Goliath to defend the honor of God. David was willing to be used by God and give Him all the glory.





## Lesson Questions

Why were the Israelites and the Philistines gathered before one another?  
*The two armies had gathered for war.*

Why weren't the two armies fighting?  
*The Philistines made an agreement to serve Israel if anyone fought their champion warrior.*

Who was the warrior that the Philistines had chosen to fight?  
*The Philistines chose a man named Goliath. He was about 9' 9" tall and was very strong.*

What did Goliath say to the Israelites?  
*Goliath defied the armies of God. Goliath was dishonoring God.*

What did the Israelites do about it?  
*They were all afraid that they would not win, so no one would fight.*

What did David do when he saw what was going on?  
*He decided to fight Goliath and defend God's name.*

How did David fight Goliath?  
*David used a stone in a sling and hit Goliath with it. When Goliath fell, David ran to him and cut off his head.*

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



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### Perspective

Bring in a pair of binoculars and look at various objects, including something to represent Goliath (such as an army man). Talk to the students about perspective—a point of view, or understanding an object's dimensions in relation to other things. Then talk about what happens when you look at something through binoculars. It gets bigger. That is how the Israelites were looking at Goliath. But what happens when you look at the same object through the other end of the binoculars? It gets smaller. While Israel looked at Goliath as a threat, God looked at the situation as an opportunity to defend and display His glory. Talk about how we look at things or problems versus how God looks at them. Our trials are opportunities to glorify God and grow in faith. (See James 1.)



### Work Gloves

Bring in a variety of gloves. Ask the students what purpose each type of glove is used for. Ask them if a glove can do work on its own. No; it needs someone's hand to fill it. Explain that gloves are simply tools to accomplish work. Most gloves need to be "broken in" before they are most effective. Bring in a well-worn baseball

glove or work glove. Explain to the students that gloves are very useful to the one who broke them in. David was going to be king of Israel. He was to be God's chosen instrument to lead Israel. On the outside, it looked as if David was doing the work, but he was merely a glove through which God could do His work. In the lesson the students will see how David was moved by God to accomplish His will.



### **Battle Illustrated**

Help make the lesson come alive to the students by using visuals as you teach. Talk about the massive weight of Goliath's armor by bringing in plastic armor and then explaining how much Goliath's armor weighed. Use five quarter-size river rocks to illustrate David reaching down into the stream to pick up five smooth stones. Use an empty sling to illustrate David swinging his sling. You also could use a plastic sword when talking about David running up to take the sword of Goliath and cut off his head.



### **What Weapon Would You Use?**

Materials: shield, helmet, javelin, spear, breastplate, shepherd's staff, five smooth stones, slingshot

Directions: Purchase a variety of toy weapons and armor from a party store, or make them yourself from items at home. Be sure to include the last three items from the materials list. Place the weapons and armor in front of the class. Ask two or three students to put on or carry the armor that they think would best protect them in battle. Ask each student to explain to the class reasons for their choices. Lead the class in a discussion by comparing and contrasting the armor selected by both Goliath and David. Ask the student how these men's choices reveal whether their faith was in themselves or in God.

### **Praise and Worship**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

*Little David, Play on Your Harp*

*Only a Boy Named David*

*Seek Ye First*



### **David Trusts God**

For 40 days the giant mocked

*(Hold up four fingers on one hand, and make an O with the other.)*

And watched as Israel's army balked.

*(Shy away; cringe in fear)*

Who was brave enough to fight?

*(Shrug shoulders.)*

Not a man was near his height.

*(Hold up hand to indicate very tall person.)*

Along came David, small but brave;

*(March up as if very brave.)*



It was God's honor he sought to save.  
(Point up.)

He warned Goliath of his fate,  
(Shake finger.)

Reminding him that God is great.  
(Point up.)

He took stones from the riverbed  
(Pretend to bend down and pick up stones.)

And hurled one at the giant's head.  
(Swing an imaginary sling.)



Goliath fell down with a crash;  
(Make a falling motion with hands.)

The Philistines ran off in a flash  
(Move fingers in a "running" motion.)

So every time you hear this story,  
(Cup hand at ear.)

Remember to give God the glory.  
(Point up.)

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Sling Craft

Materials: 3x1½-inch pieces of felt, 9-inch pieces of yarn, small rocks, construction paper, glue, scissors

Directions: Have the students punch holes in the middle of the long ends of a felt strip. Give each student two pieces of yarn. Have the students tie yarn through the holes in the felt and then glue a rock to the center of the felt. The entire sling can then be glued to a piece of construction paper. Write the key verse at the bottom of page. Allow time for the glue to dry.



### Paper Figures: David and Goliath

Materials: copies of the paper-doll figures (at back of lesson), crayons, scissors

Directions: The paper figures of David and Goliath have a twofold purpose. First, you can use them to illustrate the key points of the story. Second, students can color them in class and take them home to act out what they learned. Cut the base at the feet of each character upward half an inch from the bottom. This will allow the characters to stand freely.



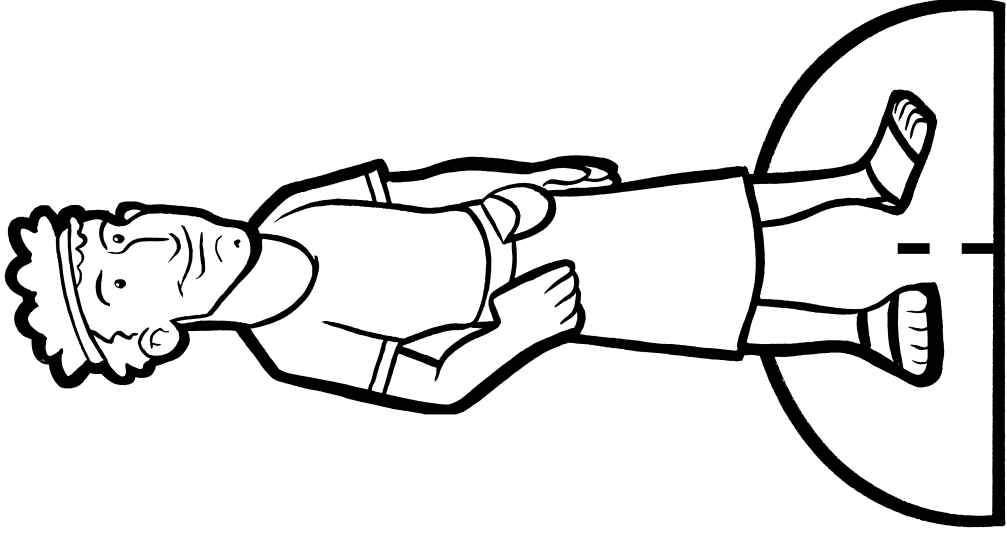
## **Coloring Sheets**

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.

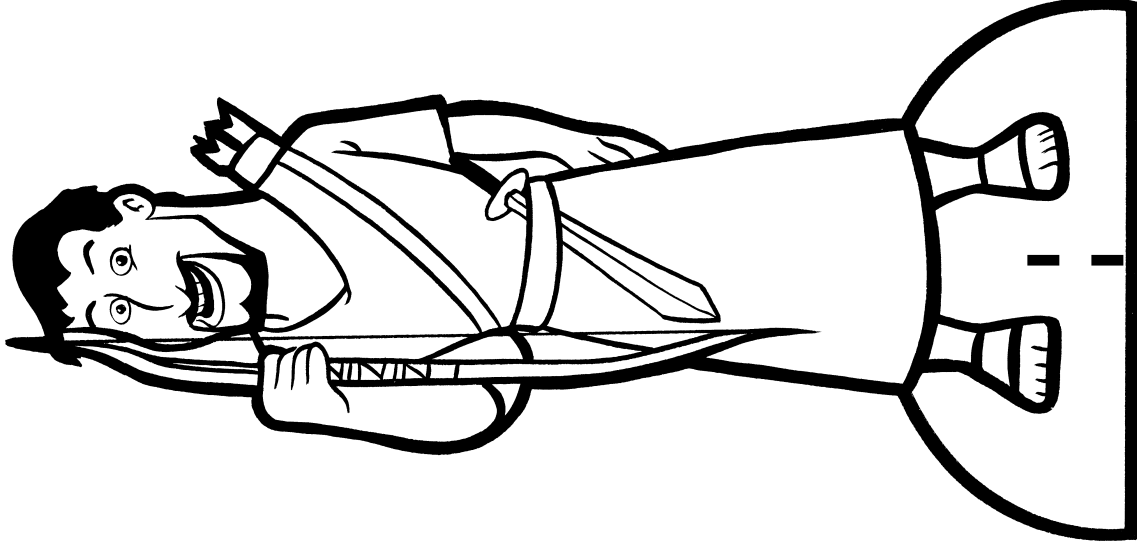
## **MEMORY VERSE**

“You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied” (1 Samuel 17:45b).

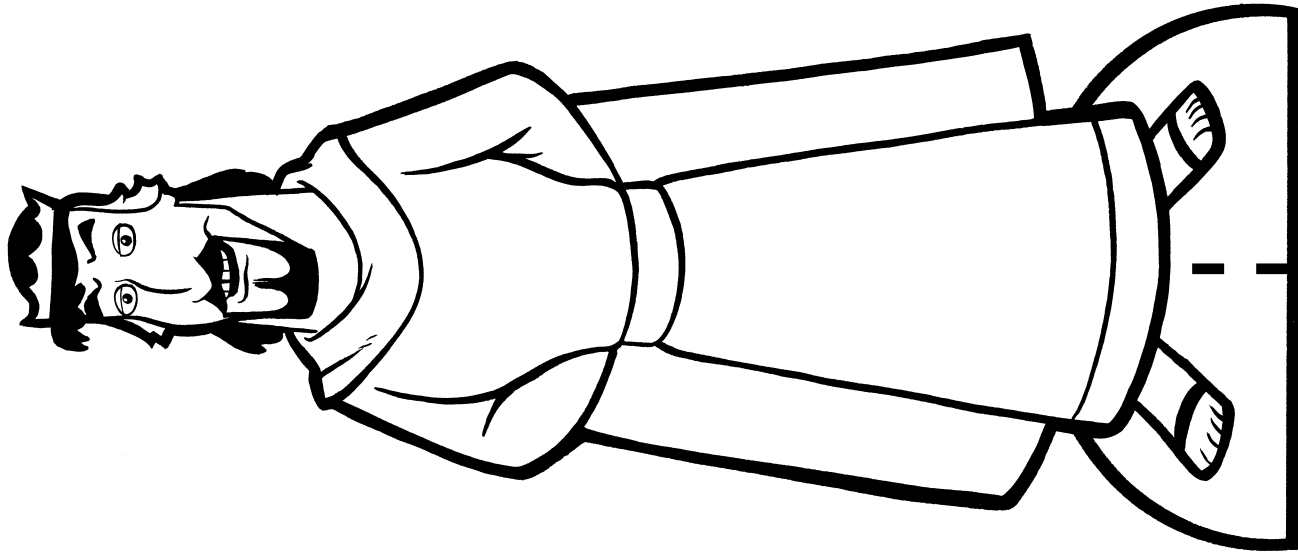
# Paper Dolls



David



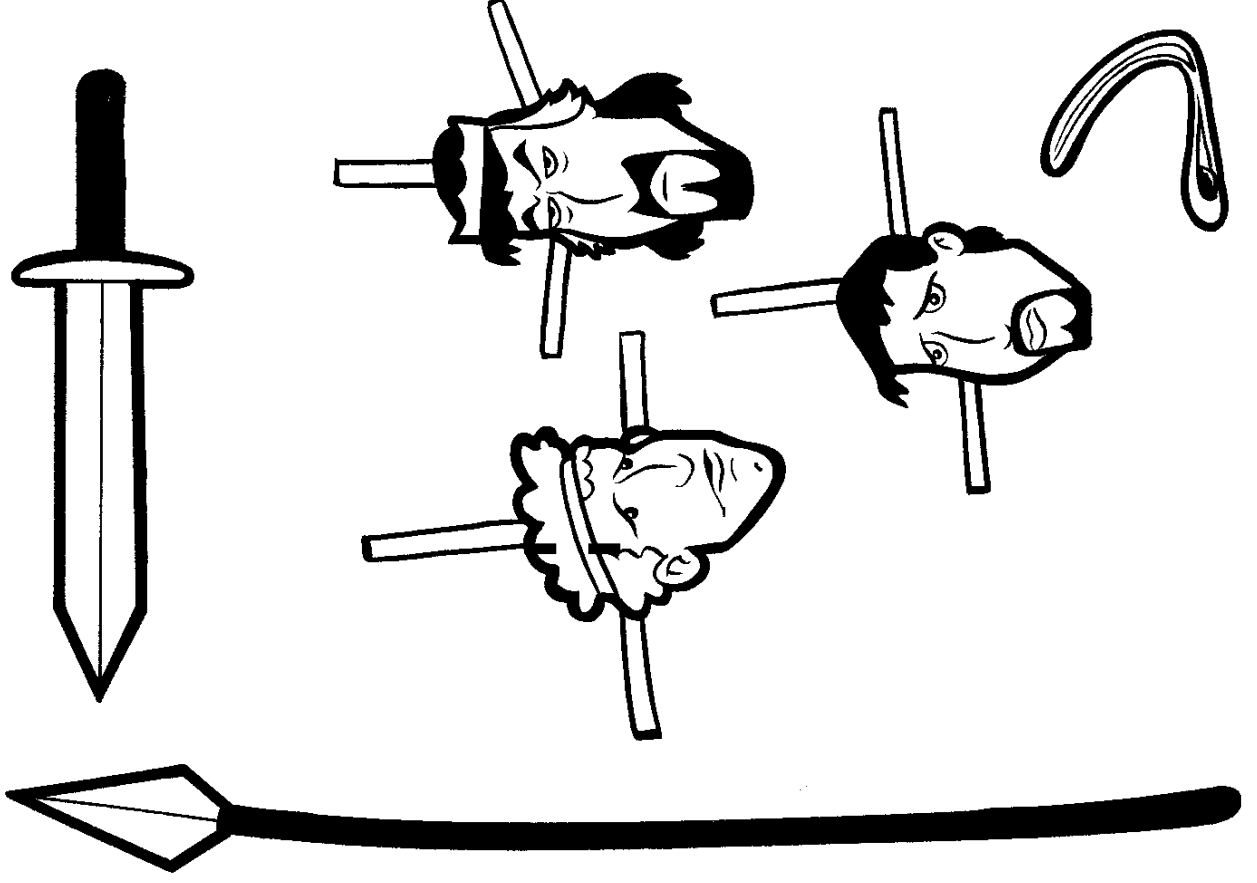
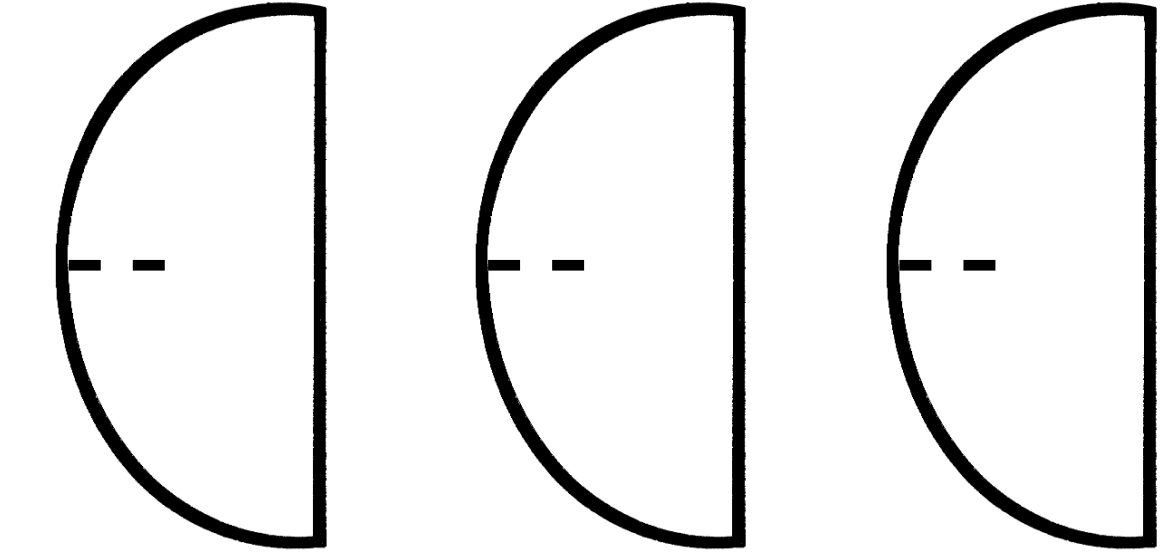
Jonathan



Saul

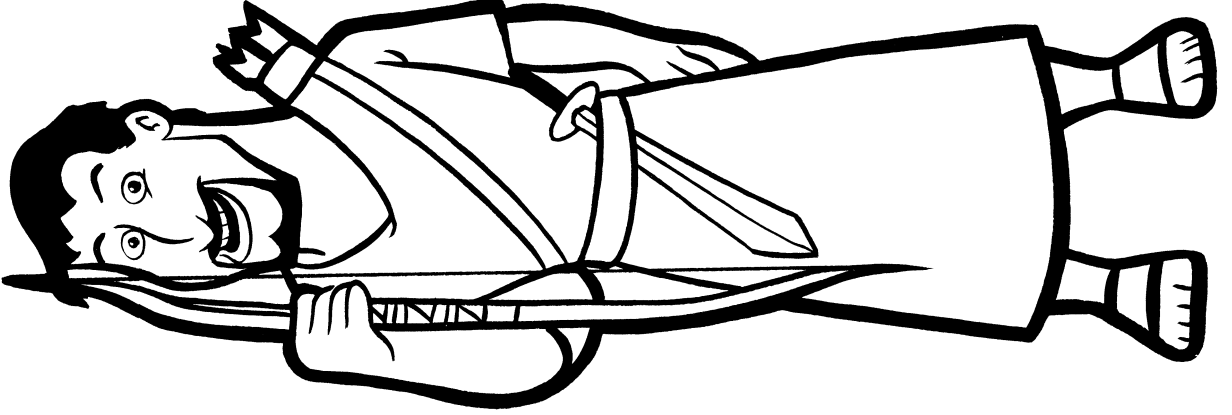
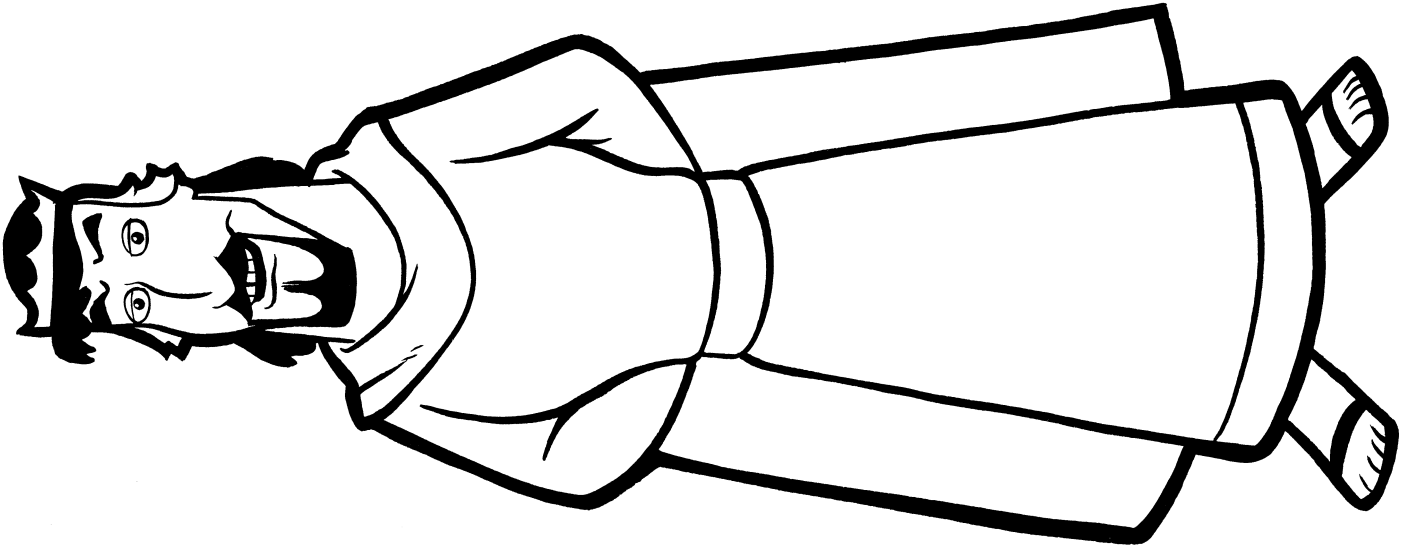
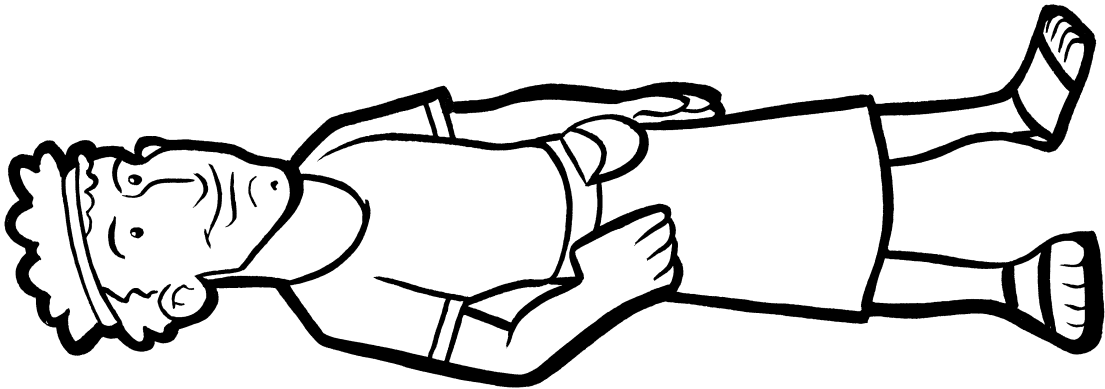


# Paper Dolls

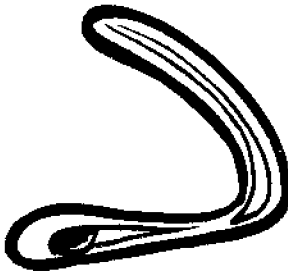
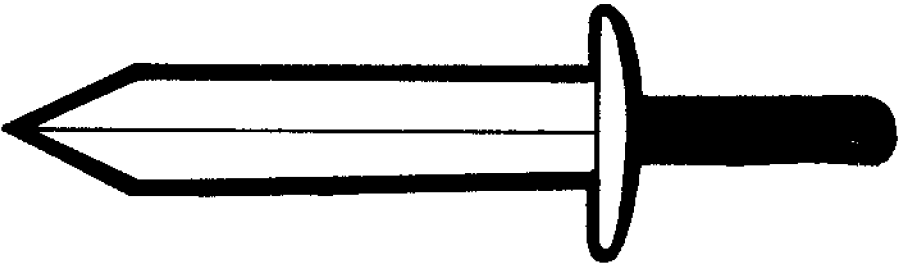




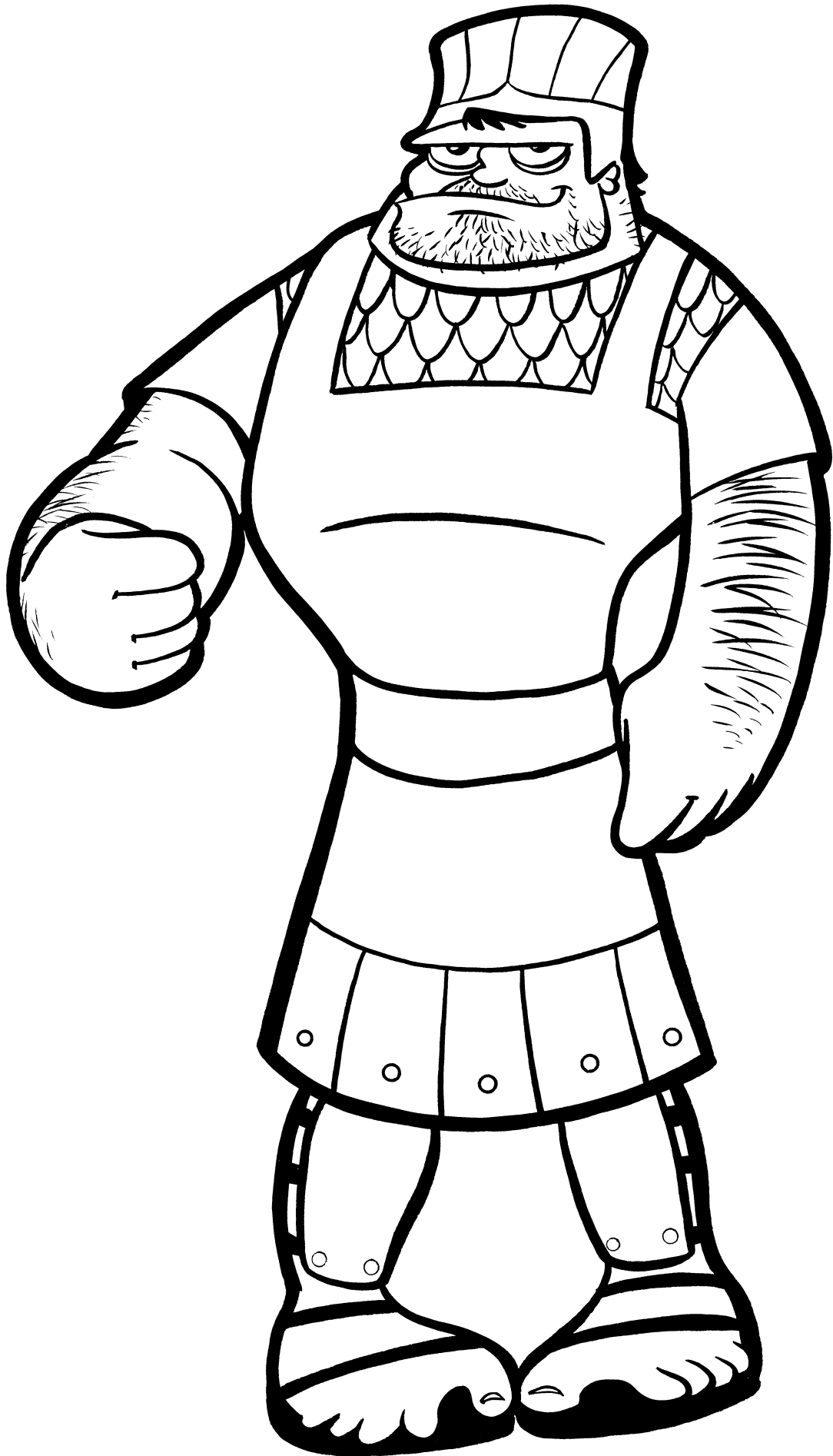




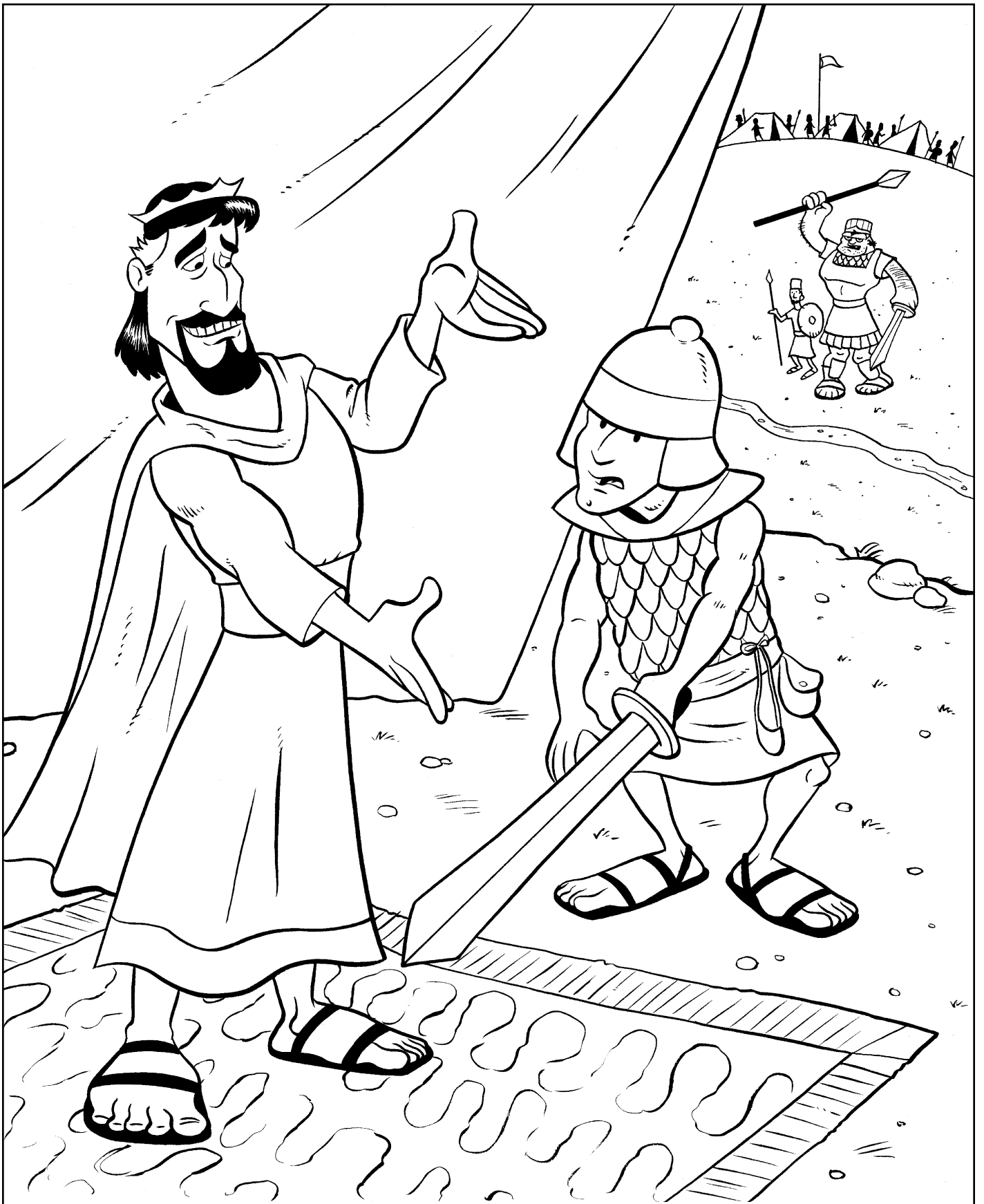












**Saul put his armor on David, but it was too heavy, and David could not walk. So David took his staff, five smooth stones, and his sling to fight Goliath (1 Samuel 17:38–40).**







**“Then David put his hand in the bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth” (1 Samuel 17:49).**

