

Grandma's favorite read aloud Bible stories ©:

David and Goliath part 1

I Samuel 16:12- 17:19

Once upon a time, there were Israelites and Philistines.....

The Israelites lived in tents, herded sheep and were in the desert area on the other side of mountains. The Philistines were rich, lived in buildings, were traders and fisherman and lived along the sea coast next to the valleys. The Philistines also were the first to know how to make tools and weapons out of iron. Everyone, from all over, came to buy these things made out of iron. They were very good at what they did and it made them very rich and very powerful.

One day the Philistines decided that they wanted to be even MORE powerful. So they decided to capture for themselves the main road to other countries so they could sell even more. They would have to take it from the Israelites though, so they challenged them to a battle. Both sides got ready for battle!

Now, the safest place to be during a war in that time was on a mountain. So the Israelites set up camp on one mountain and the Philistines set up their camp on the opposite mountain. The Philistines made armor for all their soldiers to wear, as well as giving swords to each one of them. They even arrived on chariots made of iron. They were an awesome army, but they also had a champion warrior named Goliath. Goliath was no ordinary man! He was nine feet and nine inches tall!! That is as high as most ceilings today!! The hair on his head would be touching the ceiling if he was in the room with you right now! That is really tall and they called him a 'giant'! They had to make an extra big armor for Goliath! His metal vest, called a 'coat of mail' weighed 150 pounds! The head of his spear (just the pointed part) weighed 8 ½ pounds! He also had a large metal helmet, and even armor to cover his legs. AND, he carried a javelin spear on his back. He also had a shield but, he had another soldier called a 'shield bearer' that carried his special shield in front of him! That's a lot of armor!!

The ONLY one on the Israelites side that had any armor was the King himself! (He bought it from the Philistines!) The rest of the soldiers had whatever weapons and tools they could fashion from rock and wood. They were outnumbered and their weapons didn't stand a chance against the Philistine's! They were very afraid-- even their own King Saul was afraid,too.

Every day, Goliath would walk down the mountain and out into the valley and holler at the Israelite army, saying "Why have you bothered to come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of King Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me.

If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But, if I win and kill him, then you will be our slaves!” Goliath did this for 40 days and 40 nights! That’s more than a month!!

Three of the soldiers who heard this every day were the brothers of a teenage boy named David. David was about 18 years old. Everyone already thought David was a brave warrior, who was also very, very good at playing his instrument called the lyre. (A lyre is like a small harp.) David loved to write music and sing while playing his lyre. King Saul even heard about David’s music and had David coming to him anytime he was upset or angry to calm him with his music.

But, about a year before this though, the Prophet of the Lord named Samuel came to David’s family’s house and anointed David to be the next King of Israel!! (His brothers did not like that one bit! Even his own father couldn’t believe it!) But right now, David was too young to go to battle, so he had gone home to Bethlehem to help his father with the sheep while everyone else was at battle. David was very good at taking care of his father’s sheep, though. (Did you know, that when David was younger and was taking care of his father’s sheep all the time, he had to protect the sheep from lions and bears! Anytime a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of his flock, David would go after it and he would hit it and it would drop the lamb out of its mouth and then turn and attack David! David would grab that animal by its beard and hit it again and kill it!!! No wonder people called him brave!)

Soon, David’s father was worried about his other 3 sons, so he asked David to take 10 loaves of bread and 10 rounds of cheese and a gallon of grains and go and check on them. So David went. Maybe he thought he was going to have to cook for his brothers. But you will never guess what he was actually about to do!