

Then David put a stone in his sling, whirled it around his head and shot it at the giant. It hit Goliath right in the forehead. Goliath fell down with a crash. The Philistine army fled in fear. Imagine a *boy* defeating their giant! The Israelites did have a very powerful God!

David was a national hero for killing the giant. He went back home and waited patiently until it was the right time for him to become king. He was 40 years old when that time came. He was one of the greatest kings of Israel. Many great kings descended from David, but even more important, Baby Jesus was one of his great, great, great, great . . . grandsons.

God called David "a man after His own heart." 1 Samuel 13:14.



Color all the hearts that name characteristics that would make "a person after God's own heart."



GOD'S YOUNG FRIENDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

LESSON 6 David: Friend of God

David was the youngest in his family. He had nine older brothers. Even if David wanted to be important, he was not allowed. He was just the little brother.

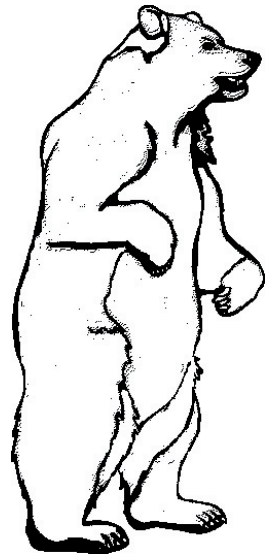
His job was to watch sheep as they nibbled grass on the hillside. It was boring, but he amused himself by doing target practice with his sling. Sometimes he played his harp and sang. David even made up songs and sang to God as he watched his sheep.



You can find one of his songs in Psalm 23.



It was not always boring being a shepherd. Sometimes it could be dangerous. One day a bear sneaked up, hoping for a lamb chop dinner. David put a stone in his sling and killed the bear. He was a pretty good shot!



Another time a lion had the same idea.

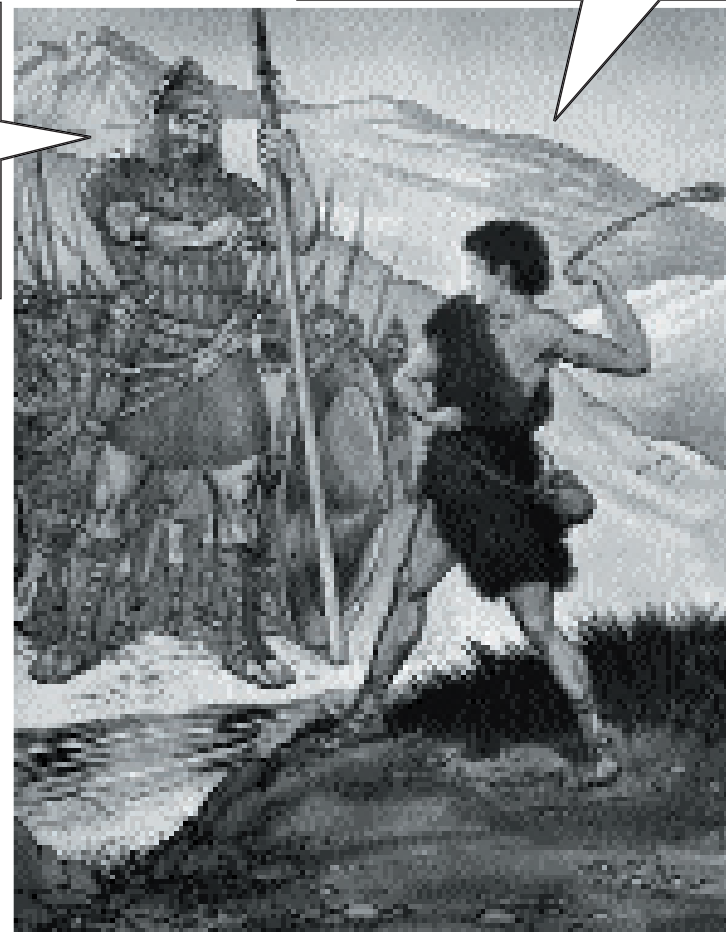


David killed him too. David took very good care of his sheep.

Are you making fun of me? Do you think I am a dog? Why are you sending a little boy out with his sling shot? Do you think that throwing rocks at me will make me go away?

I represent the God of Israel whom you have been insulting. He will give me victory over you today, in front of all these soldiers to show that He is the strongest!

Come on, little boy! I will kill you and feed your body to the birds!



Later . . .

King Saul, there is a boy here who says he wants to fight Goliath.

He is crazy. Even I am afraid to fight him!

Shall I show him in?



Sure, I will talk him out of it.

King Saul could not talk David out of it. He tried to loan David his armor but it was too heavy and David could hardly move with it on. David went out to meet the giant with just his sling and five smooth stones he had picked out of the stream. How did David have such courage?

Read 1 Samuel 17:34, 35 to find out.



One day the prophet Samuel came to the home of Jesse, David's father. He did not reveal the fact that God had sent him on a secret mission. Before dinner, Samuel asked to see Jesse's sons. Jesse called the nine oldest boys and lined them up by their age, oldest to youngest. Samuel went down the line. Each one was handsome.



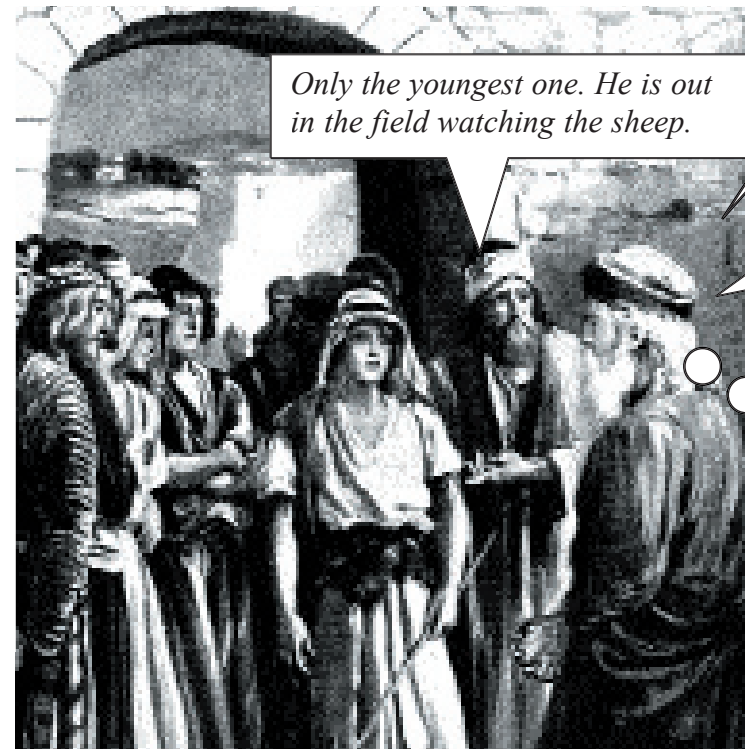
Read this story in 1 Samuel 16:4-13.

As each boy stood before Samuel, he asked God, "Is this the one?"



Soon Jesse ran out of sons . . .

Do you have any more sons?



Only the youngest one. He is out in the field watching the sheep.

Bring him to me now.

Is this the one?



Samuel took a horn filled with oil and poured the oil over David's head. He was anointing David as the next King of Israel.

I do not understand this because Israel already has a king. His name is Saul and God chose him. He was anointed by Samuel too.

If God wants me to be the next king of Israel I will do my very best at that job when the time comes. Until then, Saul is God's chosen king.



Circle the letter in front of each true answer below.

For help, read 1 Samuel 26:9-11.



David thought to himself, if I am God's friend . . .

- a) I will kill Saul so I can be the next king.
- b) I will respect Saul as long as he is still king.
- c) I will go back to take care of my sheep until God tells me the time is right to do something else.
- d) God will take Saul away when He feels it is right. I should not run ahead of God's plan by killing Saul myself.
- e) I am God's choice for king, so if people want to please God they will kill the other king and make me their king right away!

David did continue watching his father's sheep. Sometime later his father sent him to visit his brothers in Saul's army and take them some special food. (Even back then, soldiers in the army enjoyed treats from home!)

Hi little brother David!

His name is Goliath. He wants us to send one soldier out to fight with him. Whoever wins, wins the whole battle. That way not so many soldiers would have to fight.

Who's that giant standing out there?

So why won't anyone fight him?

Mind your own business, David. You are not a soldier.

Have you looked at him?

Right, but he is shouting all kinds of insults at our God! How can everyone just let him say those things?

