

LIVING FAITH: Chapter 11

Living Faith is a family activity that helps drive home the point from this week's chapter from The Story.

Living Faith

How could a teenager defeat the greatest warrior of his era? Two words: God's power. David trusted God to give him the strength to defeat Goliath. He knew he couldn't defeat the ultimate soldier in his own power; David needed supernatural power, not to mention great aim.

Goliath was decked out in more than 125 pounds of armor. David probably weighed just a little more than that. Goliath had a 15-pound spear. David had five smooth stones. Odds were David would end up as a shish kabob. Instead Goliath ended up on his back.

Have your family practice its aim by playing this game. Collect eight to ten 2-liter plastic bottles. Put a couple of inches of water in the bottom of each bottle for stability and set them up as bowling pins. If you're playing the game inside, take turns throwing a pillow at the pins. Each person gets one throw. Count how many pins are knocked down. If you play outside, take turns kicking a soccer ball at the pins. Play several rounds, keep a running score and declare a winner.

When you're finished, talk about the difficulty of knocking down the pins. Now think how difficult it would've been for David to sling a stone into Goliath's forehead. According to historians, military equipment was pretty advanced at this time. Goliath most likely wore a helmet with a thin slit or visor. The giant probably underestimated David and didn't lower his visor or failed to wear a helmet. With God's help, David made a perfect shot to give Israel the victory. Ask:

- Do you think people still underestimate God's power today?
- What are some ways to show God's power to the people around you?

Extra Mile

The contents of the Bible often make their way into the fabric of society. Nearly everyone knows the Golden Rule, which can be found in Luke 6:31. This week's story also has made it into the English lexicon, especially when it comes to sports. Announcers love to talk about a "David versus Goliath" scenario as an underdog team faces a seemingly unbeatable opponent. The NCAA men's basketball tournament, better known as March Madness, is famous for its upsets. Watch videos of two of the most well-known David-like victories.

LIVING FAITH: Chapter 12

Living Faith

You'll need waxed paper, a tube of frosting, a rolling pin and sugar cookie dough for this activity. The slice-and-bake dough from the store will work or you can make dough the night before and have it chilling in the refrigerator.

When you're ready, gather your family in the kitchen and ask: "Have you ever done something and then said, 'I wish I could take that back'? David certainly did. Sometimes he did bonehead things and wished he could turn back time."

Put out the waxed paper, tube of frosting and rolling pin. Ask for a volunteer. Have that family member try to get all the frosting out of the tube and onto the waxed paper. He can squeeze it, crush it and use the rolling pin on it. When he's finished, say, "OK, now get all the frosting back in the tube."

Just like it's impossible to reverse time and take back sin, it's impossible to get the frosting back in the tube. Talk about the importance of thinking before you act and trying to always follow God's will and teaching with your words and actions. As you talk, take out the cookie dough. Roll and bake cookies, using the frosting to decorate them. Point out that God can use the mistakes in our life to make something sweet. God will always forgive when we honestly ask him for forgiveness. He wants us to serve him with our whole heart.

Extra Mile

Idea #1: David did everything with gusto. He served God with passion, and when he messed up—he did it big time! After one especially painful mistake, David poured out his heart to God in Psalm 51.

Go to YouTube and look at these two videos that feature songs based on Psalm 51.

- "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Keith Green

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzTMnDQFMgw&feature=related

- "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Donnie McClurkin

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILRjmPGvVB8&feature=related