

March 14, 2021

Living your

FAITH AT HOME



falconridge
family church

Parents: Here is a family devotional to do in your home to affirm what we learned at church.

Divide your family in half as best you can.

Say: We're going to play a game. Your goal is to get the balloon to hit the wall behind your opponents. Every time you hit the wall, that's one point. You can use your hands, feet, or head to hit the ball. Got it?

Toss the balloon in the center of the room, and allow about five minutes for kids to play. Keep score as you play. After five minutes, declare a winner.

Say: We've been learning that God is on our side. In our Bible story, that meant that David won! So does that mean God is only on our side if we win? Was he on the side of this team (point to the winning team) but not this team (point to the losing team)? If God is on our side, does that mean we'll always succeed? Let's dig in to that.

Say: Let's take a closer look at what happened in our Bible story and figure out if God being on our side means we'll win.

Read 1 Samuel 17:45.

Ask: • What does it mean that David came in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies?

- How do you know if you're doing something in God's name?

Say: Our game was fun, but it was just a game. It wasn't something we did in God's name. It was just something we did to have fun. But let's say you're facing something where you feel like you're battling in God's name. Let's see what else David had going for him. In the verse we just read, David says that Goliath defied God. That means Goliath was an enemy of God.

Ask: • How can you tell if your enemy is also God's enemy?

Say: When you play a soccer game against another team, you probably want to win. But the other team isn't God's enemy. You won't always win. Let's see another example of how David knew God would help him win.

Read 1 Samuel 17:36-37.

Ask: • How could fighting lions and bears help prepare David for fighting Goliath?

Say: Sometimes, we're not the right ones to fight a battle. In David's case, God had prepared him for the battle. He knew God was on his side because of the way God prepared him. And David had something else, too.

Read 1 Samuel 17:39-40.

Say: David had the tools he needed to fight the battle. They might not have been the normal battle tools, but he knew God had given him what he needed.

Ask: • What kinds of tools does God give us?

Say: David needed one more thing. Let's see what he got.

Read 1 Samuel 17:37.

Say: David got permission from his leader—King Saul.

Ask: • Why is it important to have permission from our leaders?

Say: If we're fighting a battle that our parents or teachers have said is too dangerous, that's not God's battle.

Take a look at the "How to Know if God Is Fighting Your Battle" handout.

Say: Think about these factors for a battle you're facing in your life. Maybe you're struggling in school. Maybe you're in a fight with a friend or you don't feel like you have any friends. Think about whether you'd answer yes or no to each of these questions. You don't need to answer out loud. Pause after each question for kids to think.

- Are you fighting in God's name?
- Is your enemy God's enemy?
- Did God prepare you?
- Did God give you the right tools?
- Do you have permission from your leaders?

Say: Sometimes, we can answer yes to all these questions. We can be fighting in God's name, against his enemy, with preparation and the right tools, and with our leaders' permission. And we *still* might not win.

Ask: • If we don't win, how do we know God is still on our side?

Say: David won the battle against Goliath. But there were other times in the Bible where God was on people's side and they still failed. When we say God is on our side, we mean that he's cheering us on, he cares about us, and he'll never abandon us. He's always with us. That's *always* true, even if we lose.

Say: In addition to beating a giant, David wrote a lot of songs called psalms. We're going to read part of one he might've written to celebrate his victory over Goliath. It's a great reminder that God is on our side. Think about a "giant" problem in your own life. Close your eyes as you listen to these verses that David wrote for himself—and you!

Read Psalm 9:9-10.

Pray: Thank you, God, that you're always on our side. In Jesus' name, amen.