

Middle School Age Bible Lesson Outline: David Defeats Goliath

Target Audience: middle schoolers (Ages 11-13)

Lesson Duration: 20 -30 minutes

Materials:

- Bible (1 Samuel 17)
- Pictures or illustrations of David and Goliath
- Worksheet with reflection questions (optional)
- Playdough or modeling clay (optional)
- Rocks or pebbles (optional)

Learning Objectives:

- Middle schoolers will be able to retell the story of David and Goliath.
- Middle schoolers will be able to identify the key characters and their motivations.
- Middle schoolers will be able to explore the themes of faith, courage, and overcoming challenges.
- Middle schoolers will be able to make connections between the story and their own lives.

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (2-3 minutes):

- Begin by asking middle schoolers if they have ever faced a situation where they felt small or outnumbered.
- Briefly introduce the story of David and Goliath, highlighting the contrast between the two characters.
- Show pictures or illustrations of David and Goliath.

Storytelling (5 minutes):

- Read the story of David and Goliath from 1 Samuel 17 (you can use a children's Bible or paraphrase the story in your own words).
- Encourage students to participate by asking questions and making predictions.
- Pause at key points in the story to discuss:
    - David's reaction to Goliath's challenge.
    - Why Saul and the other soldiers were afraid.
    - David's confidence in God.
    - The symbolism of the sling and the stones.
    - The outcome of the battle.

Activities (5-7 minutes):

- Option 1: Creative Response: Divide children into small groups and ask them to create a short skit, song, or drawing that retells the story of David and Goliath.
- Option 2: Reflection: Provide children with a worksheet with reflection questions about the story, such as:
    - What does the story teach us about faith?
    - How did David show courage?
    - Have you ever faced a "Goliath" in your life?
    - What can we learn from David's example?

Conclusion (5 minutes):

- Briefly summarize the main points of the lesson.
- Discuss the relevance of the story to middle schoolers lives today.

- Encourage middle schoolers to think about how they can apply the lessons of faith and courage to their own challenges.
- End with a prayer or reflection.

Differentiation:

- For younger bible learners, you can simplify the story or use more visuals.
- For older bible learners, you can discuss the historical context of the story or explore its deeper theological implications.
- You can also differentiate the activities based on students' individual needs and interests.

Remember:

- This is just a suggested outline, and you can adapt it to fit the needs of your middle schoolers and your teaching style.
- Be sure to create a safe and inclusive learning environment where middle school children feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings.
- Have fun and enjoy exploring this classic story with them!