

Arise! I Can Know God!

Pre-Campference (21st May 2023):

The Big Point: Arise! I Can Know God!

God's Word: David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-50)

Memory Verse: Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord.
(Romans 12:11 - NIRV 1998)

Application: I can know God and be brave in Him!

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Lesson Aim: To bring the focus back to David and inspire the kids to arise, know and love God as David did!

Creative Video (Optional): [▶ Slapstick Theater \(David and Goliath\)](#)

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY

♥ CENTRE YOUR HEART!

Why we do what we do

This 2023, we aim and hope for our HopeKids to arise, rising up to their identity as God's children who know Jesus, love Jesus and serve Jesus with hearts on fire.

What does it mean to have hearts on fire for Jesus? It is living in excitement and passion for Jesus and the things that please Him. To do this, it starts with knowing Jesus and having Him as the priority of our lives. As we get to know Jesus more, may we love Jesus more and long to serve Him with our lives! Through this Pre-Campference week, we want to bring the kids' focus back to David - a bible character who truly lived with his heart on fire for God, truly knowing God, loving God and serving God through all the days of his life. David truly knew God and longed to glorify him with all his actions, not letting his age or his size affect how much he loves and respects God! David knows God and knowing God makes him brave. We long to spark in the hearts of the kids, a desire to know God as David did!

Lesson Aim: To bring the focus back to David and inspire the kids to arise, know and love God as David did!

Focus Aim: For kids to arise to their identity as God's children who know God, love God and serve God with hearts on fire.

♥ Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Let's pray for the following (and feel free to add on your own!) :

- Pray for the children to have soft hearts to learn and grow in God.
- Pray for the children to be hungry to experience God and learn throughout campference and for them to also have fun in campference!
- Pray for fellow teachers to be in good health leading up to campference!
- Pray for the children to know that God is their maker and the one who loves them most, even more than parents or teachers.
- Pray for the children to arise to their God-given identity as God's children.
- Pray for the children to encounter Jesus and learn to put their faith in Him (salvation).
- Pray for the children to know Jesus and have a real friendship/relationship with Him.
- Pray for the children to love Jesus and start building their lives according to God's ways and Word.
- Pray for the children who already know and love Jesus to be inspired to serve Jesus in whatever opportunity that presents itself.

♥ Glossary

Explain using the same terms and language!

Arise: to get up, awaken, be stirred up and ready for action / to come into existence

Alive: to have life, full of energy and spirit

Passionate: to have strong feelings that is hardly controllable

Excited: to be stirred up in feelings

Hearts on Fire: to be excited and passionate about something

Spirit: non-physical part of our being and existence. God is known to be a spiritual being which is why he is not a physical being that can be seen. We too, have a part of our lives that is not physical - this is the part that comes alive when we believe in Jesus.

Saviour: a person who saves us from danger or death - like a hero

♥ Memory Verse Write Up

**Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord.
Romans 12:11 - (NIRV 1998)**

This verse encapsulates what it means to live with hearts on fire. It is knowing that believing in Jesus brings about a spiritual life within our hearts and this life is likened to be a fire within our hearts. On top of that, we have the responsibility to feed the fire and never let it go out, keeping it alive. Keeping it alive requires us to keep knowing Jesus even more, loving Jesus as we know Him more and serving Him as we grow in Him!

Living with hearts on fire and never letting the spiritual fire go out means being excited for God and the things of God and faith, as worded in the current version of the verse:
Stay excited about your faith as you serve the Lord. (Romans 12:11 - NIRV)

***Note to Teachers:** In order to bring out the idea of Hearts on Fire for the children, HopeKids have decided to use Romans 12:11 NIRV (1998) as our Memory Verse. HopeKids Staff Team and HopeKids Equip are aware that the current Romans 12:11 NIRV is different in wording to Romans 12:11 NIRV (1998). We are using the 1998 version to teach simply to bring out the image of how a faith that is alive is akin to keeping a fire alive.

GROW DEEP ROOTS!

Understand the Big Point's focus

Arise: Hearts on Fire

As we get ready for campference, we want to refresh what we want to grow in throughout this year! This year we want to arise and live with our hearts on fire. To arise is to get up and awaken. Arise also has the picture of something coming into existence. And in the Bible, the word “arise” also brings to mind the idea of being stirred up, and being ready for action. Having hearts on fire will mean that we are ready to take action for God simply because we love God!

As we arise in our identity as children of God and live with hearts on fire, we are so excited that we just can’t help but to share about God or do something to grow in our experiences and relationship with God - and the foundation of that is to know God, and to love God. To never let the fire in our hearts go out (Romans 12:1 NIRV 1988), we need to continue to discover yet more about God and to continue to love Him through our actions and in the days that we live our lives.

In the Bible, an older version of Romans 12: 11 (NIRV 1998) tells us:

“Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord.”

What better way to learn more about having hearts on fire than to journey with a character who did live his life with his heart on fire for God - David! David has known and believed in God since his days as a young boy. He knows God and is known by God. He loves God and trusts God with all of his heart. He loves God so much that God called him to be a man after God's own heart, and God specially chose him to be the next king of Israel, God's people and nation.

David's strong faith in God started even when he was still a young boy and this story will help us to further see how knowing God makes David love God and do amazingly brave things in God! In the same way, we can arise and know God just like David!

Read: David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-50)

Please note that the following is for your learning and reading and not for direct teaching.

At this point of the story, our hero David, was still a shepherd boy taking care of his father's and/or family's sheep. David was likely still young, and chosen only as the errand boy to bring things from his father to his older brothers, who followed Saul into battle against the Philistines. This story helps us to see how much David knows, loves and trusts God and how God delivered David and His people. This is also the story by which young David, already chosen and anointed privately by God, comes onto the public stage as he becomes the main character in Samuel's records. David's victory against Goliath proves how knowing and loving God is what qualifies him to be better than Saul to serve as the King of Israel and the champion of God's people in battle and in the life of faith.

V1-11 Goliath terrorises the Army of God's people

The Philistines and God's people were in battle against each other in the valley of Elah. The Philistines wanted control of this valley that would grant them entry into the hill country of Judah. On top of that, the Philistines had a champion, Goliath, who offered to fight on behalf of his side against any champion that Israel would put forward. In those times, this "champion" is any man who steps out to fight between two battle lines. What is at stake in this battle is stated in V9 - the victor will have the other side become their slave and serve them. Traditionally, King Saul himself, being the commander of the army and King, should accept this challenge as the champion but he was terrified, along with the rest of Israel's army.

Israel's army was said to be dismayed and greatly afraid - this tells us that Goliath's taunts had worked. He came forward wearing full battle equipment so that he could demoralise them and defeat the Israelites with fear. The text also described Goliath to be almost 3m tall. On top of that, the armour Goliath was dressed in - it was the best that the highly skilled Philistines could obtain, either by manufacture or by trade. No matter how strong

or skilled Israel's champion, he will have to go against the defence of this armour. Not only did Goliath strike fear to cause Israel to not want to fight at all, but even if Israel did choose to fight, they would do so in fear.

V12-22 David was called to send items to his older brothers in Israel's Army

David, being still a shepherd boy taking care of his father's sheep, was called by his father, Jesse, to bring food to his older brothers who were part of Israel's army. Not only was David to bring supplies and food to them, David was also to bring word of their well-being and safety back to Jesse. Since David was not able to be part of the army and is still helping out at home, it tells us that David was still pretty young.

Even so, we can see David's heart attitude - he was obedient to his father's instructions and ever so responsible for the sheep in his care, making sure to place them in the care of another shepherd before taking his leave to complete his errand (V20). We can also see David's courage - David reached the army camp just when the soldiers were going out to battle positions with both armies facing each other. And yet David was not afraid and ran to the battle lines to ask word of his brothers.

V23-31 David heard Goliath's taunts and Responds in Anger

It is at this point that David hears of Goliath's taunts for Israel to choose a champion courageous enough to fight him. David didn't just hear and see a physical battle in front of him. When we look at David's words in V26, we see that by faith, David grasps Goliath's challenge as directed towards the armies of the living God, and hence towards the unseen God Himself. To David, this battle is fundamentally spiritual in nature, and he was upset that this uncircumcised Philistine would dare the "armies of the living God" to fight him.

David was indignant and probably the only Israelite present who had the right view of God, and he was not even a part of the army. David was only able to respond in such a way because he knows God and had the right view of the true power of God. The Israelite army fears Goliath but David was the only who reverentially feared God for all of His majesty and power. This response shows David to truly be a man after God's own heart who sees things from God's perspectives. He cares about the things that God cares about and sees the problem in spiritual terms rather than material or fleshly terms. He did not even care about the material rewards that will be given to the champion who could defeat Goliath.

Sadly, David's heart was misunderstood and falsely accused. Eliab, David's eldest brother, spoke harshly towards David. To him, David was just a show-off that wanted to sound good without being even part of the army. Eliab also felt that David was an insignificant,

worthless person who was too young and had no right to speak up, especially with such bold words. He also misjudged David to have pride and no good intentions in his heart.

Even so, David remained in his stand and he knows he did not do or say anything wrong. He is now aware of Goliath's challenge towards God and God's army and he was not able to let it be. He might have been hurt by Eliab's words, but they were not going to hinder him. Even more than personal safety, glory or honour, David was concerned for God's cause and God's name and he did not want God's army to be cowering in fear against an uncircumcised Philistine. He wanted all people to know the true power of God that is stronger than the Philistines'. David had the right view of God because he knows God would not let Goliath be either. David knew God and loved God, and this is what makes him long to obey God and do what pleases Him. This made David brave enough to stand up to Goliath and it is at this point that it is decided that Goliath will be defeated. David had the backing of God and nothing is going to hinder him.

V32-41 David's Resolve and Courage to Fight Goliath in God's Name

When called before Saul, David expressed his resolve to fight Goliath in God's name. Yet, comes another round of discouragement. Saul did not think that David should fight simply because of his age, size and inexperience. While it is logical and even sensible to do so, this shows that Saul was looking at the battle in natural, physical terms and not in the spiritual sense. Saul was not able to discern that David had God's backing.

And yet, God had already prepared David for this exact battle when David was just a lowly shepherd - A lion attacked the sheep in his care and David fought the lion. A bear came against his sheep and in the same way, David fought the bear. In both instances, David was victorious and this shows that God had prepared David to fight, and to fight against Goliath. This is generally God's pattern for preparation. He calls us to be faithful in each season, right where we are and then uses our faithfulness to accomplish greater things. If David ran scared at the lion or the bear, he would never have been ready to fight Goliath now. While being a shepherd facing lions and bears, David had no idea he was being trained to fight a giant. In the midst of our preparation we rarely see how God will use it.

Yet now, David can look back and know that the same God who delivered him before will also deliver him now. David knew that God's help in the past acts as a prophecy of His help in the future. David's words in V36-37 tells us that David is confident and sure that God will defend him and defeat Goliath. Because David knows God, he is able to have faith and trust in God. This makes David long to do what obeys God, making him brave and confident. Thus why David shows more willingness to battle on behalf of God's people and to defend God's name as compared to Israel's army or Saul, the king and seasoned warrior of Israel.

When Saul is finally convinced and gives his support for David to fight Goliath, he does so by dressing David up in armour and other weaponry to help David. Saul's mind was still set in the physical. And it was not working for David as the armour was too big for David and it did not fit David. David was not used to it and David rejected Saul's armour which shows once again, David's resolve to depend on God and stand on God's name and power. David could trust God because he knows God.

David gets ready for the battle in his own way and in what he is used to, using the same tools he used before as a shepherd - a wooden staff, five smooth stones which he placed in his shepherd's bag and a slingshot and approached Goliath. David David knew God and that gave him the courage and faith not just to talk, but also to go into the battle, approaching Goliath. Goliath was making his way into the battlefield, and he came with an armour bearer who was holding his shield for him.

V42-50 David's Battle and Victory Against Goliath

When Goliath saw David, Goliath disdained him. David was small and young and there was nothing in David that struck fear or respect in Goliath's heart - he didn't think David was worth a fight. Goliath also felt insulted that Israel's army sent David to fight him. Goliath was said to curse "David by his gods" which is a wrong move against David who has his eyes focused on God and the spiritual.

David spoke against Goliath, making a contrast between himself and Goliath without giving any credit at all to Goliath - David stated how Goliath came with weapons, not even stating Goliath's strength, height or stature. David then declared how he came in the name of God - referring to God as the LORD of hosts - the name of God which talks about God having the heavenly armies at His command. David remained humble before God, declaring how God is the one who will deliver Goliath into his hands. David knew that the battle belonged to God and longed to bring the glory back to God as he wanted to be victorious and all the earth to know that there is a God in Israel.

They confronted each other in battle, David not backing down because he knows God is with him. David came to an appropriate distance between him and Goliath, then calmly and carefully aimed a stone with his slingshot. The stone hit Goliath right in his forehead - it was a direct hit and it sunk into his forehead. Goliath came crashing down on the ground, defeated and dead while David stood victorious without using even a sword. In subsequent verses (1 Samuel 17:51-52), we will know that David then beheaded Goliath with Goliath's own sword.

Link to Big Point: Arise! I Can Know God

This classic and famous story of David and Goliath is used to teach many things, especially about being brave. However, one must understand the crucial truth of what made David

able to do such a brave action of fighting Goliath - it is simply because David knew and loved God through all the days of his life. Even since he was a young shepherd, overlooked and forgotten by many, David spent much of his time cultivating and growing his friendship with God. David loves God and has a right view of who God is and His power - David knew and properly respected and honoured God, and loved God enough to take action and fight in His name. David knowing God's character helps him know that God will be with him in all his battles and will deliver the enemy into David's hand. David was able to do things that obey God and be brave because he knows God and how God will be with him. David Knows God!

Sometimes we may think that it is possible only for the characters in the Bible. However, the truth is, we too, can know God like David did. What we need to do is to cultivate our friendship with God and know God more and more and eventually love God just as much as David did. What's important is for us to keep persevering in our efforts to know God more and eventually let our hearts arise and be on fire for God!

Link to Gospel:

I Can Know God - and knowing God first starts with arising to be friends with God and believe in Him. God is the one who made us and we are meant to live our lives together with God. However, sin entered into the human heart. Sin is anything we do that is wrong before God and separates us from God. Sin is also the reason why fear entered the human heart. Still, God loves us and longs to bring us back to him, which is why God came to earth as his own son, Jesus to save us. Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment of our sin.

Jesus came back to life on the third day, showing that He truly had the power to take away sin and make things right again. If we believe in what Jesus did, we are saying yes to God and that makes our heart right with God again. This is also when our hearts arise and come alive in God again. As we continue to learn more about God and grow in our friendship with God, we learn to know Him, love Him and live with hearts on fire! **Arise! I Can Know God!**