

4.27 David and Goliath: Identity

Topic: Peace in a Nation

Subtopic: Identity

3A. Made New in Jesus Christ

4A. Appreciating Differences

Class: IV (4th Grade)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will be able to name five characteristics of a Child of God.

Attitude: Students will be confident in their identity as Children of God.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

References: I Samuel 17:17-54

Memory Verse: I John 4:16

Teacher Activities

Introduction: Write “I am...” on the board. Give students one minute to write as many different endings as they can in their exercise book.

Bible Story: Have students act out the story of David and Goliath as you read it from the Bible.

Questions:

1. How did the Israelites see themselves?
2. How did David’s brothers and King Saul see him?
3. Why did David think he could defeat Goliath?

David understood that he wasn’t just a boy with a slingshot. He was a future king, the one God called to lead Israel to victory. He also understood that the battle was the Lord’s and God would fight for Israel.

Application: When we become a Friend of God, we change our identity from “just a boy” or “just a girl” to “A Son or Daughter of God”. God is fighting for us and will help. Have students look up verses and list the applications on the board. We may have many giants (problems) but God will help us overcome them.

Evaluation: Do students understand that when they become a friend of God they have a new identity?

Student Activities

Introduction: Students write words to complete the sentence, “I am...”

Bible Story: Act out the story of David and Goliath.

Possible answers.

1. small, defeated
2. As the youngest, smallest, weakest brother; as “just a boy”
3. He had defeated a bear and a lion and he knew God could help him defeat Goliath. He knew God would fight for Israel;

Application: Look up verses and tell our identity in Jesus:

1. I am loved (I John 4:16)
2. I am Righteous (II Cor. 5:21)
3. I am an overcomer (I John 4:4)
4. I am chosen (Ephesians 1:4)

Evaluation:

When asked, “How does God see you?” students answer with one of the characteristics listed above.

Extension Activities: *Story about Mesha.* Read the story at the end of this lesson to your class and guide them in a discussion. Point out that sometimes we feel too small to do something but our friends and God can come along side and help us do it. As we try new things and are successful we begin to have more confidence in our abilities.

Memory Verse Game. Play a game with the memory verses you have learned this year. Divide the class into two teams. Choose one of the memory verses and tell the student how it starts or give the scripture reference. Call on a student to say it. If the student can say it, his or her team gets two points. If not, the student can ask his or her teammates for help and if, by working together, they can successfully say it, the team gets one point. Now the other team gets a turn. Go back and forth as you practice various verses.

Giving up. Ask students if they have ever felt like giving up. Ask what helped them keep going. Ask what they are thinking at those times. Talk about how our thinking can help us or discourage us. Encourage students to change negative thinking so that they are thinking like the Bible teaches. We can also encourage our friends to not give up.

Victor and Victim Thinking. (Review Victor and Victim thinking from Lesson 4.20 -Joshua.) Ask who in this lesson was thinking like a Victor? (David) Who was thinking like a victim? (David's brothers)

Notes for Teacher

This lesson continues the story of David. Last week students looked at characteristics of leaders and what God saw in David's heart. This week students will be asked how they see themselves. Do they just see "a boy" or "a girl" or do they realize that they are special in God's eyes and, with God's help; they can do important things for God.

Key Point: Each person is loved by God and can do all things with God's help.

Bible Story: Either read the passage or tell the story in your own words as students act it out. One student can stand on a chair to be the giant, Goliath. Choose someone small to be David. After telling the story, have students discuss the questions in the lesson outline.

Application: Have students look up verses and write on the board who the verses say we are "in Christ." If you have enough Bibles you can divide the class in groups and give them each three verses. Have them report back to the class as you write on the board. Some possible examples are listed below but you may want to add additional verses.

I John 4:16 – I am loved

II Cor. 5:21 or Ephesians 1:7 – I am forgiven (righteous, free)

I John 4:4 or Romans 8:17 I am an overcomer (conquerer)

Ephesians 1:4 – chosen, holy, without guilt

Psalms 16:3- God delights in me

Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things with God's help

Have students once again write "I am.." in their journal but this time they should finish the sentence with three words from the board. Ask students how knowing this can help them face problems. How did David's understanding that God had chosen him, help him fight Goliath?

Story about Mesha. Mesha was just a little girl when her mother got very sick. Her mother told her to go over the river and through the woods and on the other side of the woods was a doctor who would give her medicine for her mother. Mesha set off to do as her mother asked but when she came to the river she had to cross a swinging bridge. The bridge was very high and she was afraid. She sat down on the side of the bridge and cried. A younger girl came up beside her and asked why she was crying. "I have to go across the bridge to get medicine for my mother and the bridge is scary. I am afraid to cross it."

"Don't be afraid," said girl. "I am small but I cross it all the time. Actually you look pretty big to me."

"I guess I am pretty big," said Mesha as she looked at the even smaller girl. "If you can do it, I can too." She got up and started slowly across the bridge. As she walked she felt almost like she was growing braver with each step.

When Mesha got to the other side of the bridge she began running because it was getting late but when she came to the woods, she again felt afraid. This time a man came along. The man was very tall. He saw her standing there and asked what was wrong. She told him she was afraid to go through the woods because there were animals in the woods that could hurt her. He said, "I'll go with you. No one will hurt you with me beside you." She walked through the woods with the tall man. When she got to the other side, she thanked him and ran to the doctor's house. She got the medicine and started back.

Again she had to go through the woods and now it was starting to get dark. She didn't have a big man to go with her and she didn't know what to do. Then she remembered that the little girl had thought she was big and she remembered how her mother said that God is always with you. She decided that with God beside her, she could do this. She set off through the woods. As she walked she felt big and proud of herself. When she came to the swinging bridge she did not even hesitate. She went across it quickly. When she got home she gave the medicine to her mother.

How did Mesha see herself at first? What changed by the end of the story? How did the little girl and the big man help her? What does this story tell us about how we can help our friends? What does this story tell us about how can we help ourselves? What does it tell us about how important it is that we see ourselves as God sees us?