


GOD THE GOOD SHEPHERD

UNIT ONE: God's Heroes

Lesson 8: David and the Giant

CONTENT:

1. When the Philistines came to attack Israel, King Saul and his army went to meet them in battle. David's brothers were soldiers in Saul's army.
2. Jesse sent David to find out how his brothers were doing. At the battlefield David heard Goliath, a Philistine 'giant' challenge the Israelites to a fight. David offered to fight him.
3. King Saul accepted his offer. David faced the giant with just his sling-shot and stick. Goliath made fun of him but David put his confidence in God. He slung a stone at Goliath and he fell down. Then David killed him with his own sword and the Philistines fled. Israel was saved from the enemy.
4. Jesus once told the story of a man who entrusted his money* to his servants and went away. Two of them worked hard and multiplied the money, but the third just hid the money. The good servants were rewarded but the third sent away in disgrace.
5. Like David and the first two servants, we must use whatever gifts God gives us,  realising that they belong to God. We should not complain that we have less or be lazy. 'Gifts' include things we can do, material things and people. The best gift of all is Jesus. [CCC546, 2044]

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Tell the story of the 3 servants to your family and explain what it means.

REFERENCES: Matthew 25:14-30; 1Samuel 17:1-58. Bibleillustration.blogspot.in

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; blackboard.

I. STARTER:

- Do you remember what God told the prophet Samuel when he wanted to anoint David's eldest brother? [*He said, "People look at the outside, but God looks at the heart!"*]
- What do you think God liked about David? [*His heart was for God. He loved God and praised him. He looked after his sheep well.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Even though David had been anointed he didn't become king at once. There was already a king in Israel called Saul. David just kept looking after his father's sheep. Let's see what God did to make David king.

One day, soon after Samuel's visit, a messenger came to Bethlehem from King Saul.

"Orders from the king! All soldiers must come at once to the valley of Elah! The Philistines have come to attack us!"

All the strong men of the town quickly got ready. David's three eldest brothers were soldiers. They took their weapons and armour (armour means the metal covering that soldiers put on to protect their bodies) and set off as fast as they could to join the king's army.

For forty days David's family didn't hear anything about the battle. David's father was worried. He knew that the Philistines had iron weapons and were very powerful. At last he called David and said, "Take this bread and these cheeses and go and find out how your brothers are doing."

David was happy for the chance to see the battle. But when he reached the battle-ground, he saw something that made him very angry. This is what he saw:

The huge Philistine army were on one side of the valley and King Saul and his soldiers on the other. Suddenly a huge man came out from the enemy side and stood in front. David had never seen such a big man before. He was a giant, compared to him. He was more than 9 feet tall [*Show the students how high that would be*] and was like a mountain with muscles! His body was completely covered with shining armour: a helmet on his head, a shining coat of metal, and strips of metal on his legs too. He held a huge spear in his hand and had a sword hanging on his back.

But what made David angry were his words. He started shouting out in a loud, booming voice, "You Israelites! Why come with your army to fight? I defy you! Send me one man to fight with me. Let's see if any of you is brave enough!"

David felt his blood get hot. "Who is this Philistine that he should defy the army of the living God?" The soldiers nearby said, "His name is Goliath. He comes and challenges us every day. The king has promised to reward anyone who kills him, but no one is ready to face him."

"I will fight him!" shouted David. The people ran and told King Saul what David had said. But when King Saul saw David he said, "You can't think of fighting this giant. You're just a boy! And he has been a soldier for many years!"

But David answered, "I have killed bears and lions while looking after my father's sheep. The Lord saved me from them and he will save me from this giant!"

"Go then, and fight! And may the Lord be with you!" The king took off his own helmet and metal coat and put them on David. He put his own sword on David too. David took a few steps and then he shook his head. "I can't even walk with these!" he said, and took them all off again.

Then he took his staff and put five smooth stones into his bag. He picked up his sling and went forward to meet the giant.

When Goliath saw young David, he let out a roar of laughter. "Ho ho ho! Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks? Come to me and I will kill you and give your body to the birds to eat!"

David shouted out, "You come with sword and spear, but I come in the name of the Lord! This battle is the Lord's and he will win it!"

The giant began to walk forward. David ran forward too. He put his hand into his bag and took out a stone. Then he swung it round and round in his sling and let it go. Out flew the stone, as fast as a bullet, and struck Goliath on his forehead. The mighty giant fell down on his face.

Before he had a chance to get up again, David ran forward and pulled out his sword and killed him with it. Then he cut off his head.

When the Philistines saw what had happened to their champion they were afraid. They turned and ran and the Israelites chased them right out of their land.

King Saul was so grateful to David that he put him in charge of his army and gave him his daughter in marriage. David won many battles for Israel and all the people loved and praised him.

[Give out handouts. Students fill in the missing words in the top half of the page.]

1. "Come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds to eat!"
2. "You come to me with sword and javelin but I come to you in the name of the Lord!"
3. When the Philistines attacked, King Saul called his soldiers together to fight them.
4. One day Jesse sent David to see how his brothers were doing.
5. David heard the giant Goliath challenge the Israelites. He offered to fight him.
6. The King gave him his own armour and weapons, but David went against the giant with just a staff, his sling and 5 stones.
7. He slung a stone and it hit the giant's forehead. The giant fell down. Then David killed him with his own sword and cut off his head. The Philistines ran away in fear.

NEXT CLASS:

- Think about David and Goliath. Who was taller? [*Goliath!*]
- Who was older? [*Goliath!*]
- Who had more armour? [*Goliath!*]

David knew all this, but he didn't get worried. He didn't think about who was stronger or taller or older. He knew that he was good at slinging stones and fighting wild animals, and he knew that God would help him, so he just went forward and did his best.

Once Jesus told a story to remind us to be like David:

Once a rich man called his servants together and said, "I am going away on a long journey. While I am away take good care of my property."

He called one servant forward and gave him 5 bags of gold coins. "Make good use of my money!" he said to him.

Then he called another servant forward and gave him 2 bags of coins. "Use this money well for me!" he said.

After that he called a third servant and gave him 1 bag of gold coins to look after. Then he went away.

(When your father gets extra money, do you know what he does with it? He may put it into the bank. The bank uses the money for factories or businesses, and the money becomes more. After some years your father's money becomes much more.)

That's what the first servant did. He bought land and grew grain in it. Then he sold the grain and at the end of one year he had more money. With that money he bought more land. His master's money began to multiply.

The second servant, who got 2 bags of coins also worked hard. He bought a shop and filled it with all kinds of things to sell. Many people came and bought things from his shop. Soon he had enough money to buy another shop. And so his master's money became more and more.

What do you think the third servant did? He looked at the bag of coins and said, "I only got one bag! What a mean fellow my master is!" He went to the garden and dug a hole and put the bag inside. Then he sat back and relaxed.

After many years the master came back and called his servants. "Let us settle the accounts! Tell me what has been done with my money."

The first servant came forward and said, "Master, you gave me 5 bags of coins. See, I have made 5 more!" He put 10 bags of coins on the table.

The master smiled at him and patted him on the back. "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful in a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and be happy with me!"

The second servant came forward and said, "Master you gave me 2 bags of coins to look after. See, I have made 2 more!" He put 4 bags of coins on the table.

The master was very happy with him too. "Well done, good and faithful servant! Here is your reward! Come, be happy with me."

Last of all the third servant came forward. He said, "Master I was afraid of you, because you are so mean, so I hid the coins away. Here, take your money! It's yours, so you can have it back." And he put the bag of coins on the table.

The master was very angry with the man. "You wicked and lazy servant! Why couldn't you have put my money into the bank instead of hiding it away?" And he sent the servant away from him.

III. REFLECTION/DRAMA:

- This story is actually about us. God is like the master and we are like the servants. God has given each of us many gifts. He wants us to use them well for him. Can you tell me some of the gifts God has given us?

[Accept students' suggestions and make a list on the blackboard. Better still, make simple sketches as shown.]

- Some gifts are things we can do. What are they? What can you do? Smile, sing, tell jokes, play, study, help, pray, write, tell stories, visit, draw and paint etc.
- Some gifts are things: Money, clothes, a home, food, books, toys, a cycle etc.
- And some gifts are people: Parents, sisters and brothers, friends, relatives, teachers etc.
- The best gift of all is knowing Jesus and belonging to his family.
- All these are like a bag of gold coins. God wants us to use these gifts well, as he wants us to, to make him happy. We have to remember that everything actually belongs to God and one day we will have to meet him and tell him what we have done with our life.
- God doesn't want us to say, "I have so little!" "I'm not rich like Amit!" "I'm not clever like Sonam." "I'm not strong like Goliath!" "God is so mean!"
- Instead he wants us to be like David. David used whatever he had for God. If you are good at running, run for God. If you are good at singing, sing for God. If you are good at washing the dishes, help your mother and tell God quietly, "I'm doing this for you!"
- God also wants us to share the best gift of all. What is that? (*Jesus!*) We can share Jesus with others by loving them, telling them about Jesus and praying for them.

[Pray together:]

Thank you Father for all the gifts you have given me./ I want to be like the good servants and use them all for you./ I want to share Jesus with others and multiply your gifts./ Please help me to do this./ Amen.

- If you really try your best, at the end of your life God will say to you, "WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! COME AND BE HAPPY WITH ME!"

IV. ACTIVITY

[Students draw or write the gifts that God has given them personally in the space provided.]

Home assignment:

- x Read handout at home.
- x Tell the story of the 3 servants to your family and explain what it means.