

Junior Soldiers

Unit 6 : Lesson 8



With God I can do it!

PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand that God has made each of them in a specific way and they should use all they have to worship and serve Him. God has made you able to do His work, and you should do it!

‘David answered [Goliath]: “You’ve come out to fight me with a sword and a spear and a dagger. But I’ve come out to fight you in the name of the Lord All-Powerful.”’

1 Samuel 17:45 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

1 Samuel 17:31–50 (CEV)

This lesson is part of a series, Lesson 7 and Lesson 8 go together and look at the story of David and Goliath and how God used what David had to do great things for Him. The children will be exploring what they have as well as how God might use what they have to worship and serve Him.

We learnt about David in the last lesson and explored what God had already ‘built’ into David to equip him for the task of defeating Goliath.

1. Life experience: David was still a child, yet he was able to draw on significant life experience in battle with wild animals to prepare him for facing Goliath.
2. Faith: In addition to this, David had no question in his mind about God’s delivering presence in his life as well as God’s awesome majesty.
3. Passion/fire about the problem: In David’s eyes, even the army of the living God should not be mocked, he was righteously angry!

Go back to the passage above:

- In coloured pen or marker, underline the parts of the story in the reading above that show you that David knew he could and should fight Goliath.
- Now in another coloured pen, underline the parts of the story where other people speak about David.

This lesson is all about the ‘I cans’ of God equipping his people for very specific tasks (some are heroic one-offs, some are day-to-day acts of courage and service). We will hear back from children who have been considering their potential to serve God in ways that fit who they are and the life experiences (perhaps even battles) they have already faced. Remember to consider their potential in the light of life experience, faith, and passion/fire.

Pray for the children in your group. Ask God to help you to see potential in the children as He has equipped them. Write down any notes that you may need to have on hand to encourage the children with any wisdom and vision you have been given about their wonderful potential in Him.

The end goal of this lesson is that children will design a project to do and decide what (if any) other help or resources they might need. If you have a variety of abilities in your group with varying levels of independence, please consider allowing your more independent children to design their own projects (or work in pairs) while you help the more dependent children to design a project that they can do together, or if this is difficult, then design a project as a group that they can all carry out as individuals in their homes and communities.

Note that the projects that you agree on can be used in relation to the projects section in their award passports. See leaders' notes in relation to the project section, ideas and suggestions.



What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- The children need a copy of their charts from last lesson. It would be wise for you to have kept a copy.
- Music for action song (CD, accompanying instrument, whatever is needed for the song)

For 'The Main Thing'

- The project work sheet (a copy for each child)
- Post it notes, or small pieces of paper for the Brainstorm Race
- Chart paper or a white board with sections marked for teams to put their ideas into for the Brainstorm Race.
- Timer for the Brainstorm Race
- A4/A3 or sheets of butchers paper
- Pencils, pens and Bibles

For 'Tying In'

- Action song reprise
- Any pictures that the children drew last lesson of the David and Goliath story.
- Bibles

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.
- Copy the children's project sheets so that you can keep a copy and pray for them in their project



Connecting In

Welcome the children to an exciting project design lesson!

Do an action song: Choose a song that is about doing all things through Christ who strengthens us (e.g. 'Be Happy' by Doug Horley on the *Lovely Jubbly* album). Sing it as loud as you can!

The Choosing Game:

(Leader's note: there are no wrong answers for this game, it is simply to get the children in touch with their own ideas, inclinations and choices.)

To set up this game, indicate three different areas of your activity space. In this game you need to choose your answer to the given situation and run to the area that indicates your answer, e.g. Space 1 is for option 1, Space 2 is for option 2, Space 3 is for option 3 which is 'I don't know, or I would do something else'. As you give the options, help to remind the children where they need to go by pointing to the space that they can go to for the choice they make

You can make this activity very meaningful by affirming that the choices are all good (1 and 2), and that sometimes we need time to think over what we need to do to respond (3); then, there are other children in area 3 who have thought of something else... ask them what they would do in that situation. Affirm good, Godly ideas, and laugh off the silly responses from your comedians, challenging them about what they could do in that situation that would please God. It is also important to encourage children to be honest with their choices and not just choose what they think is the 'right' answer.



Situation 1: A child you don't know at school is being bullied by a kid much bigger than you. Do you:

1. Pray about the situation and comfort the bullied child. [Option 1]
2. Go to the school principle or teacher/s on duty and ask for help and keep bothering the teachers until something is done. [Option 2]
3. I don't know/ I know what I'd do and it's something different. [Option 3]

Situation 2: You have discovered that your family doesn't buy fairtrade chocolate and you want them to. Do you:

1. Stop eating chocolate in protest and start bugging your family to only use fairtrade chocolate. [1]
2. Write to the manufacturers of your favourite chocolate and ask them to become fairtrade. [2]
3. I don't know/ I know what I'd do and it's something different. [3]

Situation 3. There's a new group of children at your church and you are really shy. Do you:

- Pray and hope that they will feel welcome. [1]
- Ask a few of your really outgoing friends to come and meet them with you. [2]
- I don't know/ I know what I'd do and it's something different. [3].

Situation 4. One of your very close friends is sad about something in their family. Do you:

- Ask them how they are and ask your parents if you can have that friend over to play more often. [1]
- Pray for them whenever you think about the problem. [2]
- I don't know/ I know what I'd do and it's something different. [3]

Link... In the last lesson we filled in a chart where we looked at 'Who has God made me to be?', which helped us to see our personal potential and abilities and how we can use these to worship and serve God.

- Who talked with their Big Buds about their chart this week?
- Who talked with someone else about their chart this week?
- I wonder if any of you have done some thinking and decided to add something extra to your chart.

God has given all of us different skills and life experiences, and different things get us all fired up as well. We are paying attention to what those things are, so that we are ready when God gives us opportunities to step up and do His work. Some opportunities are all around us every day (like the boy who shared his lunch with Jesus so that others could have something to eat). And some opportunities may come up once in a life time (like David telling a King that he was wrong and going out to fight a giant with a sling and a stick, because he knew God would be with him when fighting Goliath!).

The Main Thing

Brainstorm Game:

The idea of this game is to build up a list of identifiable problems that the children can see that they may be able to use later as a springboard for their project.

- Divide the children up into teams, or pairs, or if you have a small group, run this activity with individual children as competitors.

- Hand out a pencil or pen and a stack of post it notes to each child or team.
- Tell them that they will have a limited amount of time to identify the problems or challenges in their church, or community, or family that they think children could help to make better.
- If the children are working in a group, seat them away from the whiteboard
- They will need to allocate a runner (to run to the whiteboard and stick up their group's ideas), a writer (to quickly write ideas down), and the rest of the group are thinkers (to help give ideas to the writer).
- If you have a small group, or just one child, race the clock and just total their pile of ideas when the time is up.
- Give the children five minutes and start the Brainstorm Race.
- Total up the ideas and cheer the winning 'ideas team'.



Link: Read out the ideas the children have had and ask the children to explain any that are difficult to read or understand.

- Are any of these problems ones that you think God would like us to make a difference in?
- Who has special gifts and experience in some of these areas?
- I wonder what sorts of things could be done to make a difference.



Project Planning...

Hand out some plain A3/A4 paper or large sheets of butchers paper (some kids will like more space to be creative as they plan and explore the difference they are going to make). If you have a variety of abilities in your group with varying levels of independence, please consider allowing your more independent children to design their own projects (or work in pairs) while you help the more dependent children to design a project that they can do together, or if this is difficult, then design a project as a group that they can all carry out as individuals in their homes and communities.

Outline the things that the children will need to think about in their planning and preparation, offering help where needed.

Project areas to think on and include in your planning...

On a large sheet of butchers paper or whiteboard write up the following information for the children to use as a reference for their planning and preparation.

- Identify the need or challenge.
- Describe or draw what you think needs to happen.
- How has God enabled or skilled you so that you might be able to meet this challenge or solve this problem?
 - From my life experience so far
 - Because I have faith in God that it's right to do
 - I have a passion/fire about this issue
- Do you need other people to help you? Could they be members of your family?
- Who are they and what should they be able to do?
- Do you need any stuff to do your project?
- Write down, step by step, what you will do.
- When will you put this plan into action?
- How will you know that you have made a difference?

Tying In

Sitting in a circle ask the children/pairs/groups to share with each other about the project they have decided to do.

Invite children to share their hopes about the difference that they want to make.

Ask all the children to open their Bibles or so that they can all see 1 Samuel.

Highlight the drawings/creations of the David and Goliath Story that they did last lesson.

- What was David doing before he fought Goliath ? (harpist – 1 Sam 16:15–20, shepherd – 1 Sam 16:11, armour bearer – 1 Sam 16:21–22, messenger for his family – 1 Sam 17:12–18)
- Did he do anything else after he fought Goliath and killed him? (became an officer in Saul's army – 1 Sam 18:5, eventually became king – 2 Sam 5:1–5)
- Did David serve God on just one day? (no, he served God all his life; he failed and he succeeded)
- Are our projects single day projects or longer projects? (various answers anticipated)
- Does your project look challenging?
- Read over the information on your project sheet: How has God enabled you to meet this challenge or solve this problem? (life experience, faith, passion/fire)

Pray:

Gather the children together and pray for each child and their specific project. If in a larger group, do this kind of prayer in smaller groups so that every participant is prayed for before they leave. Ask God to give everyone the strength, wisdom and courage to make a difference by doing God's work.

Sing:

Action song about God enabling us to do all things in his strength!

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Project...

This Home & Beyond section can be set aside to encourage the children to recruit any helpers that might be needed (family or friends) or organise the resources they will need to carry out their plan.

They will need to take their plan home. It would be good for them to share this plan with their family and Big Bud so that they can support them in any specific way and pray for them too. Keep a copy of the plan and pray for each child this week.



Home & Beyond

Project...

- Take your plan home
- Share it with your family and Big Bud
- Is there any way that you would like them to support or help you with this project?
- Ask them to pray for you in relation to your project.


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