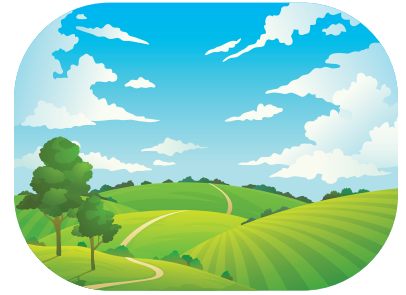


The Story of David and Goliath

Retold by Michele Meleen

The Philistines sat on top of one hill and the Israelites sat on top of the next hill. They were ready to fight.

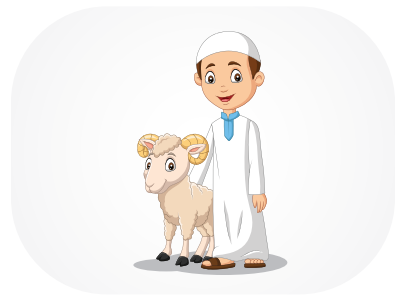


Every day, for 40 days, a giant named Goliath walked from the Philistine side down into the valley between the hills. Goliath was nearly ten feet tall wearing hundreds of pounds of armor. Every time he said the same thing, "Send one man to fight me and whoever wins that battle wins this war." Goliath was terrifying.



Days turned into weeks. No Israelite stepped forward to fight Goliath.

David was a young boy at this time; his dad Jesse had eight sons and David was the youngest. While his brothers camped with their leader, Saul, getting ready for the battle, David helped his father keep the farm going and looked after their sheep.



One day, David's dad sent him to take food to his brothers. When David arrived, he heard men saying that whoever killed Goliath would be given a lot of money, get to marry the king's daughter, and his family would never have to pay taxes again. David shared the rumor with the men standing next to him. When Saul heard this news, he also heard that David had said these words.



Saul called for David. David offered to fight Goliath for the Israelites. Saul didn't think David was old enough or strong enough to fight Goliath. David explained how he had once defeated a bear and once defeated a lion in order to save his family's sheep. He told Saul that God had rescued him from the bear and the lion. David believed God would save him from this fight with Goliath too.



Saul agreed that God would be on David's side and offered his own armor for David to wear. The armor and weapons were so new and different, David didn't feel comfortable using them. He thought he'd fight better in his own clothes with his own weapon, a sling with stones.



Goliath said mean things to David and threatened him. But, David was not afraid. David told Goliath, "God will help me win."

As David and Goliath ran toward each other to fight, David used his sling to fling one stone at Goliath. The stone struck Goliath in the head and he fell to the ground, dead. The Philistine army ran away as fast as they could and the battle was over.

