

GOD IS OUR STRENGTH

BOTTOM LINE:

God's love makes us strong.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that true strength comes from God.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 17:20-50, David and Goliath

MEMORY VERSE:

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." -Psalm 31:24 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Kids will learn through the story of David that God's love makes us strong.

INTRO:

Can you imagine how cool it would be to live in a world of dinosaurs? Imagine waking up and looking out your bedroom window on a vast plain, where giant long necks and duckbills are

grazing. Imagine having to brake on the way to school because a herd of Triceratops are crossing the road. Or imagine seeing flocks of pterosaurs flying overhead. It would be so cool, wouldn't it? It would probably be a little scary too. After all, where you find plant-eating dinosaurs, you are going to find meat-eating dinosaurs, from the tiny raptors up to the mightiest of the mighty.

Spinosaurus, Allosaurus, Giganotosaurus, and of course...

Tyrannosaurus Rex. We are going to spend the next couple of weeks talking about dinosaurs. While there are questions still to be answered about when dinosaurs roamed the Earth, we know without a doubt that dinosaurs, like us, were created by God. These amazing creatures all had their own unique characteristics, and each one can teach us something about the Lord. We are going to begin with the king of the dinosaurs, the one and only T-Rex. T-Rex was big and powerful. He was a fierce predator and a deadly killer, and when he locked on to some prey, he was nearly unstoppable. Imagine how cool it would be to get your hands on a T-Rex. Think of the things you could do with a T-Rex by your side.

Who is going to stand up to you and push you around when you have T-Rex backing you up, right? There are times in our lives when we could use some extra strength. When we are faced with tough choices, challenges, or just a bad day, we could use the strength of a T-Rex to see us through. Thankfully, we have someone even stronger ready to step in and help us out. We have a God who loves us, a God who is so strong, he can even help a small boy take down a giant!

READ

1 SAMUEL 17:20-50

MAIN POINT

There is a reason this is one of the most popular stories in the Bible. When you are a kid, it is exciting to read that once upon a time, a young boy about your age took down a giant! He did not do it with a sword or a spear. He did not even wear armor. He had the strength of the Lord to give him courage, and he won a great victory for God's people. David's story reassures us that when the going gets tough, the tough lean on God. God loves us, and he is always by our side. When you need strength, God will be there. He will make you more powerful than a T-Rex, and he will give you victory.

There is no such thing as a T-Rex in this world, and you are not likely to find giants the likes of Goliath either. But there are still "giants" that can ruin your day. For some kids, giants come in the form of school bullies. For some, giants could be poor health for you or for someone you love. Giants can be problems at home or at school. Regardless of where they appear or when they strike, giants always make you feel small and helpless.

Fortunately, we do not have to face giants alone. God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins. Because he did, we can receive the Holy Spirit, God's presence that dwells in our hearts.

When you believe in Jesus, God is always there. He will never abandon us, and he will give us the strength we need when a giant comes our way. How many of you have faced giants in the past week? Whether it is a person, a situation, or just a bad day, the next time you face off with a giant, call on Jesus. Jesus loves you, and he will not leave you out there to fight the giant alone. He will give you strength, and when the moment of truth comes, he will help you slay the giant. Trust Jesus when times are tough. Ask him to give

you strength. God loves you, and he will give you all the strength you need.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Samuel 17:20-50

Who challenged the Israelite soldiers to a fight?

Why did no one answer Goliath's challenge?

Why was David unafraid to fight Goliath?

Where did David get the strength to fight Goliath?

What happened to Goliath?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

True or False Activity

David was a general in Saul's army. FALSE

Goliath was not a real giant. FALSE

David did not wear any armor because he was too small. TRUE

God gave David the strength he needed to face Goliath. TRUE

God cannot give us strength to face our giants. He does not do that anymore. FALSE