



Who is Goliath, really?

AT A GLANCE



Bible

1 Samuel 17:41–47



Topic

Power, violence and trust in God



Takeaway

Not reading the story as a victory pose



10–15 minutes



Object: a big stone and a small stone



Preparation: 10 min



indoors or by the fire



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic “Power, violence and trust in God”. Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

2 min

Opening

Put the stones down. Ask: Who do you identify with – David, Goliath or the trembling soldiers?

3 min

Bible text

Read 1 Samuel 17:41–47. David says: “It is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s.”

5 min

Thought

The story is often told as an underdog success. David’s point is a different one: weapons do not decide, God does. Later David himself becomes a powerful king who abuses his power (2 Samuel 11). The question remains: when do today’s little ones become tomorrow’s Goliaths?

5 min

Conversation

Where do we have power, as a group or as individuals – and how do we use it?



Who is Goliath, really?



Prayer to read aloud

God, keep us from trusting in strength and weapons. Make us brave for the little ones and humble when we ourselves become big. Amen.



To think further

- Is it problematic to celebrate violence in Bible stories?
- Where do you stand on the side of the weaker today?



For leaders

- Leave room for doubts and critical questions – an honest conversation matters more than a quick answer.
- As a leader, feel free to share a personal experience.
- With heavy topics, keep an eye on who is struggling and be available afterwards.



Section: Well-known Bible stories. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.