

People of God: David

2. Courage!



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PEOPLE OF GOD

Background information:

People of God refers to the Old Testament accounts of the people of Israel. David, an ancestor of Jesus, is a key figure in both Christianity and Judaism.

The accounts of David's life can be found in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel.

Key Words	
courage	Being brave, doing something even when you're afraid
justice	Fair treatment
injustice	An act that is not fair or right
Civil rights	Equality and fairness for all
courageous advocate	Someone who speaks up for the rights of others



David

Explore how David showed courage



Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOKUCQGqSZE>

Read: The Bible Passage - 1 Samuel 17

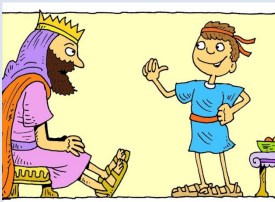
The Philistines had a champion fighter named Goliath. He was about nine feet four inches tall and very strong.



Goliath stood and shouted to the Israelite soldiers, "Choose a man and send him to fight me. If he can fight and kill me, we will become your servants. But if I defeat and kill him, you will become our servants." When King Saul and the Israelites heard the Philistine's words, they were very afraid. Goliath came out and shouted every morning and evening. This continued for 40 days.

Jesse said to his son David, "Take this food to your brothers in the camp. See how your brothers are and let me know that they are all right."

David did as Jesse had told him. When David arrived at the camp, the army were going out to their battle positions. David ran to the battle line and talked to his brothers. Suddenly, Goliath came out. He shouted things against Israel as usual, and David heard it. "Why does he think he can speak against the armies of the living God?" asked David.



David said to King Saul, "Don't let anyone be discouraged. I will go and fight this Philistine!" Saul answered, "You can't go out against this Philistine and fight him. You're only a boy. Goliath has been a warrior since he was a young man."

But David said, "I have been keeping my father's sheep. I have killed both a lion and a bear to protect my sheep! Goliath will be like the lion or bear I killed. The Lord saved me from a lion and a bear. He will also save me from this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you." Saul put his own armour on David. He wore Saul's bronze helmet and carried his sword. He tried to walk around but he was not used to all the armour Saul had put on him.



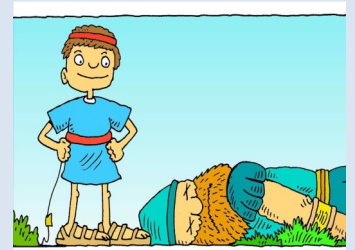
He said to Saul, "I can't go in this. I'm not used to it." David took the armour off. He took his stick in his hand. And he chose five smooth stones from a stream. He put them in his pouch and held his sling in his hand. Then he went to meet Goliath.



Goliath looked at David. He saw that David was only a boy and he looked down at him with disgust. David said to him, "I come to you in the name of the Lord of heaven's armies. He's the God of the armies of Israel! You have spoken out against him. I will defeat you and then all the world will know there is a God in Israel!"



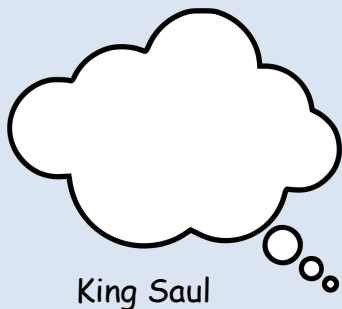
As Goliath came near to attack him, David ran quickly to meet him. He took a stone from his pouch. He put it into his sling and slung it. The stone hit the Philistine on his forehead and sank into it. Goliath fell facedown on the ground.



So David defeated the Philistine with only a sling and a stone! He hit him and killed him.

Think about the story:

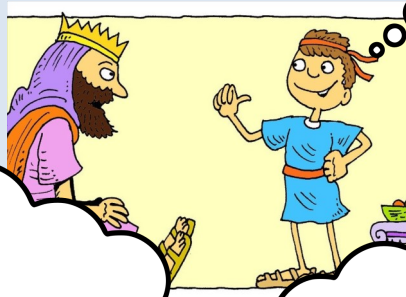
David said that he would fight Goliath - what do you think each of these people were thinking?



King Saul



David



David shows *courage* in this story. Can you think of another Christian value that he shows?



Goliath



Army of Israel



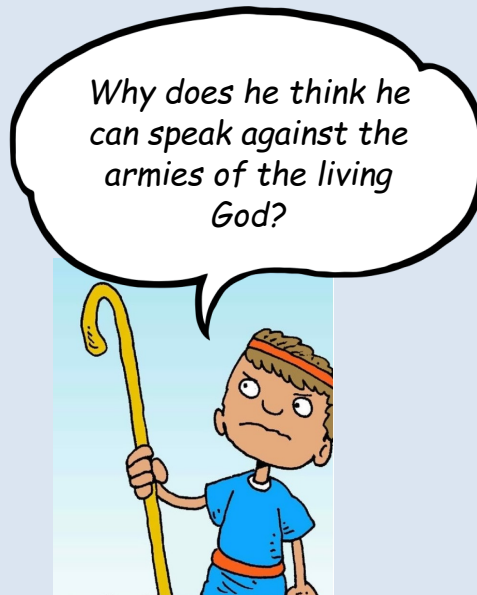


Courage to Speak Out

David was angry at the things that Goliath was saying about the army of Israel and about his God.

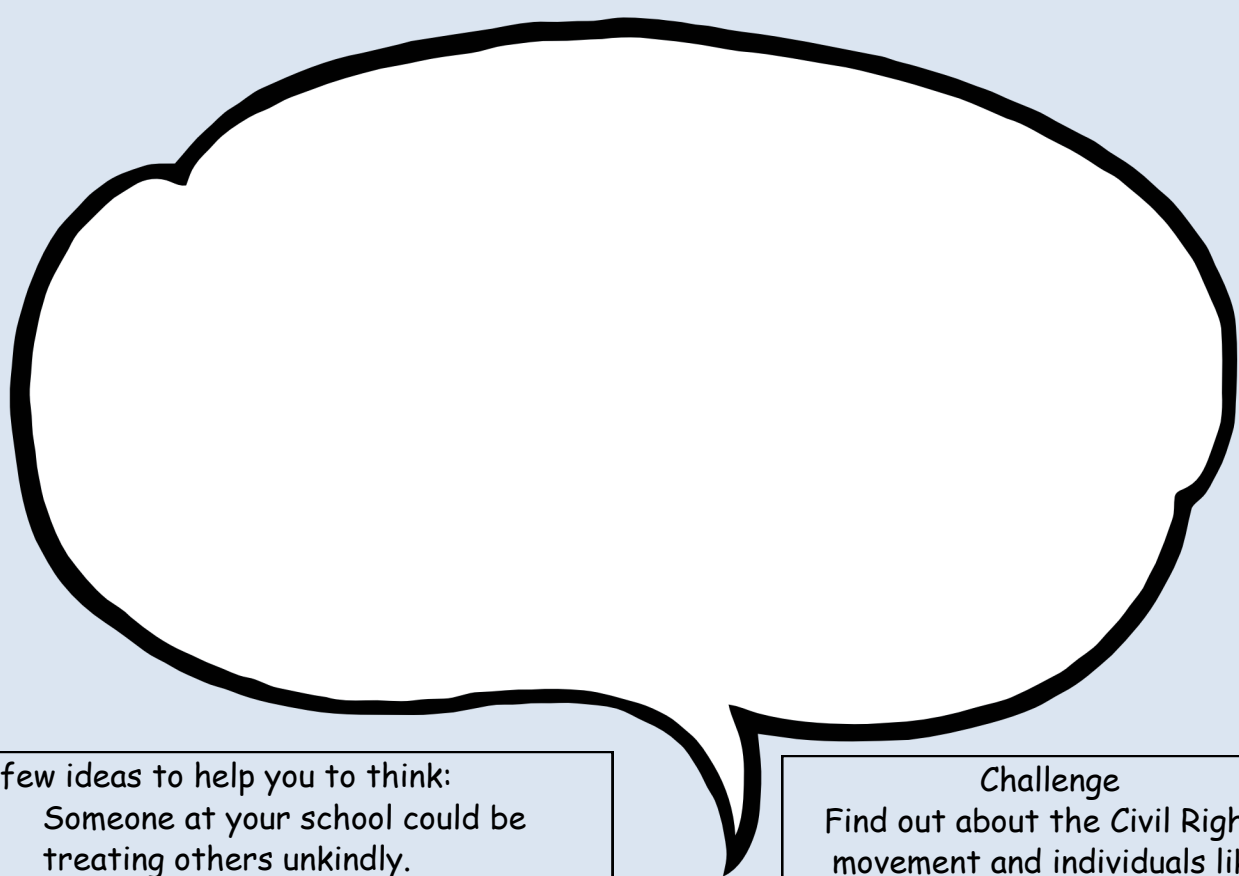
Christians believe that, like David, they should speak up against people and situations that are not fair or right. They believe in justice.

It can be hard to be brave and courageous enough to speak up when things are not right. It can be even harder to stand up and fight!



Raise Your Voice!

Can you think of an issue in our world, in our country or at your school that you feel is not fair? Can you speak out against injustice? Write your feelings in the speech bubble.



A few ideas to help you to think:

- Someone at your school could be treating others unkindly.
- There may be an issue with litter near to your home or school.
- You may feel upset about poverty in our country.
- Plastics are polluting the oceans and hurting our sea creatures.

Challenge

Find out about the Civil Rights movement and individuals like Martin Luther King and Rosa Parkes. These people had the courage to speak out against injustice.





COURAGE

*'Actions speak
louder than
words'*

Do you agree?
Write your thoughts
in the bubble.



David's story can be found in the Old Testament.
The New Testament contains the things that Jesus taught.

Anything you did for
one of my people,
you did for me

Lend, expecting
nothing in return



Do good, be fair to
others. Help the
orphans. Stand up for
the widows.

Sell your possessions
give to the poor. You
will have treasure in
heaven

Christians believe that Jesus wanted them to *do* something about injustice, not just talk about it.

What sort of things could Christians *do* for others?



Challenge:

Can you find out about some Christian charities who follow Jesus' example of *speaking up* and *taking action* against things that are unfair and unjust. We call these courageous advocates!

Here are some ideas for you to explore:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools>



<https://www.toilettwinning.org/group/schools/>



<https://www.compassionuk.org/>



<https://feedthehungry.org.uk/#>

