


**BEAR
HUG 21**

Future King David Defeats Goliath

Memory Seed: Psalm 56:11: ***In God I trust; I shall not be afraid.** What can man do to me?* (Short version is in bold.)

The Big Apple: The Israelites forgot God's promise to help them fight their enemies if they obeyed and trusted Him. David remembered God's promise and defeated Goliath. When we are scared, we should trust God and remember His promises from Scripture.

SOW THE SEEDS

Read: 1 Samuel 17; Ephesians 6:10-18

Memorize: Psalm 56:11

This world is not perfect — that's something we know all too well. Even those of us who trust Christ as Savior and obey Him are not immune to bad things happening in our lives. But in the midst of trials, we do have the comfort of God's presence and the peace that only He can bring. When Cubbies feel afraid, they need to remember that God is always with them, no matter what. It's a good reminder for us too.

God made a promise to protect Israel. He promised that if Israel believed in and obeyed God, He would protect them from their enemies. What a wondrous and comforting promise! While it's not the same specific promise we can cling to today, we still have a promise that God will always be with us. The promise God made to the Israelites was protection from their enemies — from people. Today our enemy is Satan and his powers of darkness. This is where Psalm 56:11 brings great comfort and peace. With God for us, what can man, or Satan, really do? We can trust in God and His love to guide and help us. We have the Holy Spirit to bring peace in the midst of fear. We have the eternal hope of heaven.

Cubbies are at an age where fear can be found everywhere. Stress from preschool, babysitters, new siblings and moving out of town are common at this tender age. What a comfort for these young ones to know that God is always with them no matter where they are or what happens to them. Be sure to emphasize this truth.

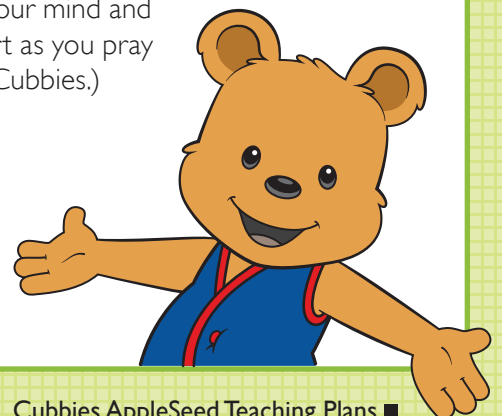
SEE THEM SPROUT!

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through this lesson so Cubbies:

1. Understand that the Israelites felt scared because they forgot God's promise that He would help them fight their enemies.
2. Hear how David trusted God and God helped him fight Goliath.
3. Share about times they feel afraid and desire to trust God in those times.
4. Know that God doesn't promise to fight all our enemies anymore, but they can remember other promises from the Bible when they feel afraid.
5. Learn a few promises from the Bible: God is with us, God loves us, God is our strength.

6. _____

(Add a goal the Holy Spirit brings to your mind and heart as you pray for Cubbies.)



COMING IN

(10-15 minutes before club officially starts)

IDEA 1: Giant Attire

What You Need

- Extra sets of large clothing for Cubbies who forget

Beforehand, tell parents to dress their child for club in clothes that are too big for him or her. Cubbies can pretend they are wearing a giant's clothes.

IDEA 2: Goliath Mural

What You Need

- Goliath head pattern (resource CD)
- Newsprint or mural paper approximately 9.75 feet (3 m) long
- Crayons

Most Bible translations say Goliath's height was six cubits and a span (which totals about 9.75 feet or 3 meters). Ahead of time, cut mural paper about 9.75 feet long. The mural will hang vertically. Print and glue the Goliath head pattern to the top of the paper and sketch an outline of Goliath's body to fill up the paper. (You can use the Goliath image on TC76 as a guide.) Spread the paper over a few tables and let Cubbies work together to color him. This mural can be displayed or hung on the wall during Lesson Time and Game Time.

IDEA 3: Big and Small Play Area

What You Need

- Items of various sizes that can be sorted from smallest to largest (dolls, pom-poms, shoes, books, strands of yarn, puzzle pieces, etc.)
- Blocks of all sizes
- Small foam balls

On tables or on different areas of the floor, place groups of items for Cubbies to arrange in order from smallest to largest. In

an area on the floor, place a pile of blocks. Tell Cubbies to build a giant person (Goliath) and a small person (David) across from each other. Talk about how Goliath was big, and David was small. Say, "Goliath wanted to fight God's people. But with God's help, David got rid of Goliath. Let's see if we can get rid of Goliath." Let children roll a ball or use their hands to knock down the Goliath blocks. Explain that small things and small people can be used in a big way by God.

IDEA 4: Sandwich Bag Slings

What You Need

- Two pieces of yarn about 30 inches (76 cm) long for each Cubbie
- Sealable snack size clear plastic bag for each Cubbie
- Hole punch
- Scraps of newspaper

Beforehand, punch a hole in all four corners of each snack bag. Give each Cubbie a bag and two pieces of yarn. Show Cubbies how to thread a length of yarn through the two holes on one side of the bag. They will do the same on the other side. The yarn can hang loosely at the sides of the bag or a leader can tie the yarn on each side in a knot. Let Cubbies crumple small pieces of newspaper to make "rocks." The purpose of this craft is to help Cubbies understand what a sling is; however some Cubbies can try whirling a newspaper rock in their sling. Later they can place their "rocks" inside the sling's bag for safekeeping.

STARTING TIME (3-5 minutes)

Continue your starting routine. Include the "Cubbies Song," Cubbies key verse, Cubbies motto, unit Core Truth: God Is in Charge and the A and C verses along with your favorite visuals, songs and motions.

PUPPET SHOW

(3-5 minutes)

What You Need

- Cubbie Bear puppet
- Katie Collie puppet

LEADER: Hi, Cubbies! Are you ready to see our friend, Cubbie Bear? Let's call him together. One — two —

(Before you finish counting, you or another leader will pop the Cubbie puppet into view and bounce him slightly and quickly while moving him to a certain point so it appears that he is running. Then remove him from view.)

LEADER *(surprised and confused):* Wait a minute! Cubbie, where are you going? Come back!

(Bring Cubbie back into view.)

CUBBIE *(panting loudly):* I'm running away from the t-t-t-tractor.

LEADER *(to Cubbies):* I don't see any tractors in here, do you? *(Allow response from children.)*

CUBBIE *(still out of breath as he talks):* I was with Timothy and his friends at his birthday party, and right after we got off the train, I heard Timothy's dad coming in the tractor, so I started running to hide in the trees.

LEADER: Cubbie, why are you so afraid of tractors?

CUBBIE *(in a slightly shaky voice):* They make a loud noise that scares me and they have big, GIANT wheels. I'm afraid the tractor will start chasing after me!

LEADER: Cubbie, you don't have to worry. Timothy's dad is a safe tractor driver, and he doesn't chase anyone with the tractor. And besides, you're with your friends. I'm sure Timothy and Katie Collie won't let the tractor hurt you.

(Bring Katie Collie into view. Make barking noises.)

KATIE: Ruff, ruff! Hi, everyone.

(Encourage children to say hello to Katie.)

LEADER: Katie, we were just talking about you. You would protect Cubbie from the tractor, wouldn't you?

KATIE: Oh, yes! One of my jobs on the farm is to keep everyone safe. Timothy's dad says I'm the best watchdog around. *(Lift Katie's chin up slightly and turn her head from side to side as if she's proud of herself.)*

LEADER: By the way, Katie, are the friends getting along any better at Timothy's birthday party? I heard they were having trouble being kind.

KATIE: No, the friends still aren't getting along. Just a minute ago, Timothy wanted everyone to go on a hayride, but when they saw Cubbie running away they decided to follow him instead. They're on their way over here right now!

LEADER: Oh, that's too bad. I guess they'll miss out on the cake then. I heard Grammy Lois had Timothy's birthday cake ready at the bakery.

CUBBIE *(perking up):* Cake? C'mon, Katie Collie, we'd better go. We don't want to miss the cake.

LEADER: Wait, Cubbie, what about the tractor? I thought you were trying to hide?

CUBBIE: Oh, I'm not scared anymore. There's something about cake that makes all my fears go away!

LEADER *(laughing):* Cubbie, why am I not surprised that food makes you feel better? You two enjoy the cake and we'll see you later.

CUBBIE and KATIE: OK. Bye-bye.

(Children wave goodbye as the puppets are put away.)

SNACKS (5-10 minutes)

Snacks are optional and can be done at any time during club.

IDEA 1: Bread and Cheese**What You Need**

- Whole grain crackers or bread
- Cheese slices
- *Optional* — napkins and string

Remind Cubbies that David's father asked him to bring food to his brothers in the army. The bread was for his brothers and the cheese was for the captain of their army group. You could wrap each serving of bread and cheese in a napkin and tie it with string. The children could pretend they are David visiting his brothers.

IDEA 2: Big and Small Snacks**What You Need**

- Two snacks that vary greatly in size (e.g., one giant cookie and several mini cookies, a watermelon [seedless] and an orange, a large pizza and a mini pizza)

Show Cubbies both the large and small snack before they are served. (Warn them that everyone may not get a taste of the small snack.) Compare the difference in snack sizes to the difference in size between David and Goliath. Even though David was smaller, God made him stronger than Goliath.

SONGS (3-5 minutes)

Songs can be done before or after Lesson Time.

SING:

- The chorus of the hymn **“Oh, How I Love Jesus”**
- **“God Is in Charge”** to the tune of “God Is So Good”

God is in charge (*repeat 3 times*)
He's the King of me.

- **“Only a Boy Named David”** by Arthur Arnott (lyrics and tune are easily searchable online)
- **“Little David Play on Your Harp”** (the tune to this traditional gospel song is easily searchable online) Sing only the lyrics about David.

Little David play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelu
Little David play on your harp, Hallelu

David was a shepherd boy
He kill'd Goliath and shouted for joy

PRAYER (1-2 minutes)

(Think about a Bible promise verse that helps you when you feel anxious or afraid. Choose a verse that is simple for Cubbies to understand. Focus on themes such as God's presence with us, God's love, ways to pray and so on.) Cubbies, when I feel afraid, I remember God's promises to me in the Bible. Here is one promise I like to remember (*read your verse and give a brief explanation or practical example of how the verse helped you*). Our memory verse, Psalm 56:11, says: *In God I trust; I shall not be afraid ...* That's a good verse to remember too. Is anyone feeling afraid of anything today? Can we pray for you? (*Allow Cubbies to share and then pray for Cubbies who shared by name. If Cubbies share a fear that raises concern, such as abuse, address it quickly and in an appropriate context.*) Father God, I pray for (*insert name*) to trust in you. I pray (*insert name*) will not be afraid of (*insert item of fear if child shared it*). (*If you have a small group, you could pray for each Cubbie by name, whether they express fear or not.*)

LESSON TIME (15-20 minutes)

What You Need

- Teaching Cards (TC) 69, 74, 76-78
- Bible with markers placed at 1 Samuel 17 and Psalm 56:11
- *Optional* — Goliath mural made during Coming In, five smooth stones of various sizes (found easily at a home and garden store), sling made from yarn and a circle of brown felt or leather (resource CD)

(Adapt the words of this lesson so it fits you and your Cubbies. Open with prayer.)

Today, our friend, Cubbie Bear, felt scared. What made him so afraid? **(Allow response.)** Cubbies, what are some things that make you feel afraid? **(Allow Cubbies to share.)**

One time, God's people, the Israelites, felt afraid of a very big enemy. They forgot that **God is in charge (display TC69 and prepare to reuse the card later)**. They forgot God's promise that if the Israelites obeyed and trusted in Him, He would help them win against *all* their enemies. **(Display TC74.)** Young David would help them remember to trust God.

(Keep displaying TC74 as you open your Bible to 1 Samuel 17.) Here is a true story from God's Word. Remember, all the stories in the Bible really happened. You can believe them! One day, David's father Jesse said, "David, take these 10 loaves of bread and these 10 cheeses and hurry to visit your brothers in the army. Find out for me how they are doing. I hope they are well!"

Early the next morning, David left his sheep with another shepherd, packed the food and set off to see his three oldest brothers who were fighting in the Israelite army.

(Display TC76.) When David arrived at the army camp, the Israelites were lining up to meet their enemy. The Israelites stood on one hill, and their enemy, the Philistines, stood on the hill across from them. David left his

pack of food with a guard and ran to see his brothers on the hill. As David talked with his brothers, an angry voice boomed:

(Cup hands and SHOUT the following words.) "Israel, let's see how strong you are! Send a man to fight with me." **(Leader note: In those days, to defy an army was the same as defying that army's god.)**

The giant voice came from a giant man. **(Point to Goliath on TC76.)** His name was Goliath. He was a Philistine, and the Philistines were enemies of God and God's people. Goliath stood over 9 feet (2.75 m) tall!

Optional: Ask a tall leader to stand on a chair (carefully!) and display the full length of the Goliath mural or beforehand, attach the mural to a point above nine feet on your wall.

When the Israelites saw Goliath, they all ran away, terrified. **(Make a scared face and run in place for visual effect.)** They forgot that God was in charge. They forgot to trust their mighty God and King, who saved them from their enemies.

(Display TC77.) But David did not forget. "Who does this Philistine think he is? Does he really think he can beat the armies of the living God?" he said. "I will fight Goliath, and God will help me," David told the Israelites and King Saul.

"You are too young!" said King Saul. "You don't know how to fight."

"I take care of my father's sheep. God helps me kill the bears and lions that attack the sheep. He will help me kill Goliath," David answered.

Cubbies, what do you think will happen? Will the little shepherd boy, David, win against the giant warrior Goliath? Why do you think so? **(Allow speculation.)**

(Open your Bible to Psalm 56:11.) David played the harp and liked to write songs. Listen to these words from one of his songs: *In God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? (Psalm 56:11)*. **(Say the verse with Cubbies a**

continued on next page

continued from previous page

few times.) David knew that God was stronger than any man, even a giant! David also believed God would fight for Israel as He promised.

David went to a stream nearby and chose five smooth stones to put in his pouch. (**Show your stones if you brought them. David's stones probably ranged in size, with the largest ones being as big as a golf ball or egg.**) He held his sling in his hand (**show your sling if you made one**) and went to meet Goliath.

When Goliath saw David, he was mad. He couldn't believe the Israelites would send such a young boy to fight him! Goliath said mean words to make fun of David.

David told Goliath: (**read David's words from 1 Samuel 17:45 aloud**). Then David ran closer. He reached into his pouch. He pulled out a stone and whirled it in his sling. (**Distance yourself from Cubbies. Grab both yarn ends and whirl your sling quickly above your head and then let go of one end. Do not use a real stone in your sling for safety reasons. You could also just pretend to whirl a sling and then stop your hand as if you are releasing a stone.**)

Swoosh! He let the stone fly and it thumped Goliath right in the forehead. (**Display TC78.**) That angry giant fell face-first into the dirt.

Optional: Let Cubbies take turns pretending to whirl a sling at your Goliath mural or a leader who pretends to be Goliath.

Hooray! The Israelites hooted and hollered. (**Cheer together.**) They chased the rest of the Philistines and won the fight. Finally, they remembered: **God is in charge.** (**Display TC69.**) Many years later, David became king because of his trust in God. Cubbies, let's say David's verse again together! Psalm 56:11: *In God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?* (**Repeat Psalm 56:11 a few times.**)

These days, God doesn't promise to fight all our enemies like He did for Israel.

Instead, Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us. But God DOES promise that He is with us at all times. (**Hold up your Bible.**) This is a promise God gives us in the Bible. When you feel afraid, you can remember this promise and other promises from the Bible. Do you know any other promises from the Bible? (**Allow response.**) **Remind Cubbies of God's promises to love us always, to give us strength when we feel small or weak, to help us make good choices, etc. Close in prayer, asking God to help you and the Cubbies to trust Him always.**)

HANDBOOK TIME

(15-30 minutes)

Give each handbook group leader a copy of Bear Hug 21 Handbook Leader Sheet from the resource CD.

Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet

What You Need

- A copy of the Bear Hug 21 Activity Sheet for each Cubbie
- Crayons
- *Optional* — Nerf Ballistic Balls® or foam golf balls, Goliath head (resource CD), tape, smooth stone (larger than the opening of a bath tissue roll to keep it from being a choking hazard), red target (resource CD)

Let Cubbies color Goliath. Roll the paper and secure ends with tape, forming a tube. Use this tube for the activity with balls. Or instead of having Cubbies play with individual figures, tape the Goliath head picture to the middle of each handbook table. Cut out and tape the red bulls-eye target on the forehead. After each Cubbie says the verse, he or she gets a chance to take the stone, slide it onto the forehead and try to hit the target.

PLAY TIME (15-20 minutes)**IDEA 1: Goliath Target Practice****What You Need**

- Small beanbags, small foam balls, paper wads
- *Optional* — masking tape; Goliath mural made during Coming In; box, basket or Hula-Hoop®, red target (resource CD)

Review how God helped David fight Goliath. Remind Cubbies that we are not supposed to treat our enemies like this anymore. This was a special command God gave to Israel when they were living in the land of Canaan. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us. There are several ways to play this game:

1. Hang the Goliath mural on the wall at a point above 9 feet (2.75 m). Let Cubbies throw beanbags, paper wads or small balls and try to hit Goliath on the head. Most will probably not be able to hit that high, but they will enjoy trying. For fun, let Cubbies take turns standing next to the mural. Take pictures of them with a camera or mark their height with masking tape so they each can see how their size compares to the giant.
2. Lay the mural on the floor and secure it with masking tape. Cut out and tape the red target to the middle of Goliath's forehead. Give each Cubbie five beanbags and let Cubbies toss the beanbags so they land as close as possible to the target on Goliath's head.
3. Ask leaders to each pretend to be Goliath. Cubbies throw paper wads at leaders. Any leader who is hit must leave the game.
4. Instead of using the Goliath mural, place a box (or basket or Hula-Hoop) on the floor and see if Cubbies can throw beanbags into it.

IDEA 2: Hit the Pin**What You Need**

- Awana game pins or soda liter bottles filled with a scoop of sand or rice to steady them
- Beanbags or a playground ball

- *Optional* — Tape the Goliath head (resource CD) to the top of the designated pin.

Set the pins up in a line or pyramid shape. Let Cubbies take turns trying to toss a beanbag or roll a ball to knock over a designated pin.

IDEA 3: Goliath's Shoes**What You Need**

- A pair of shoe boxes for each group (these will be Goliath's shoes)
- Awana game pins or cones

Divide Cubbies into groups. Set a pin in front of each group. Cubbies will walk around the pins. Pins should all be the same distance away from each group. Talk about how big Goliath's shoes must have been. The first Cubbie in each group puts the shoes on over his own shoes and walks around the pin before returning to his team line. He gives the shoes to the next Cubbie in the group. Play continues until all team members have had a chance to walk.

IDEA 4: Ball Launch**What You Need**

- Clothesline
- Push pins
- Water balloon launcher (sling shot)
- Soft balls

To help kids imagine how high David's stone had to fly, use push pins to hang a clothesline above 9 feet tall in your room. Let children take turns helping a leader load and launch balls over the line with the sling shot.

GOING HOME (5-10 minutes)

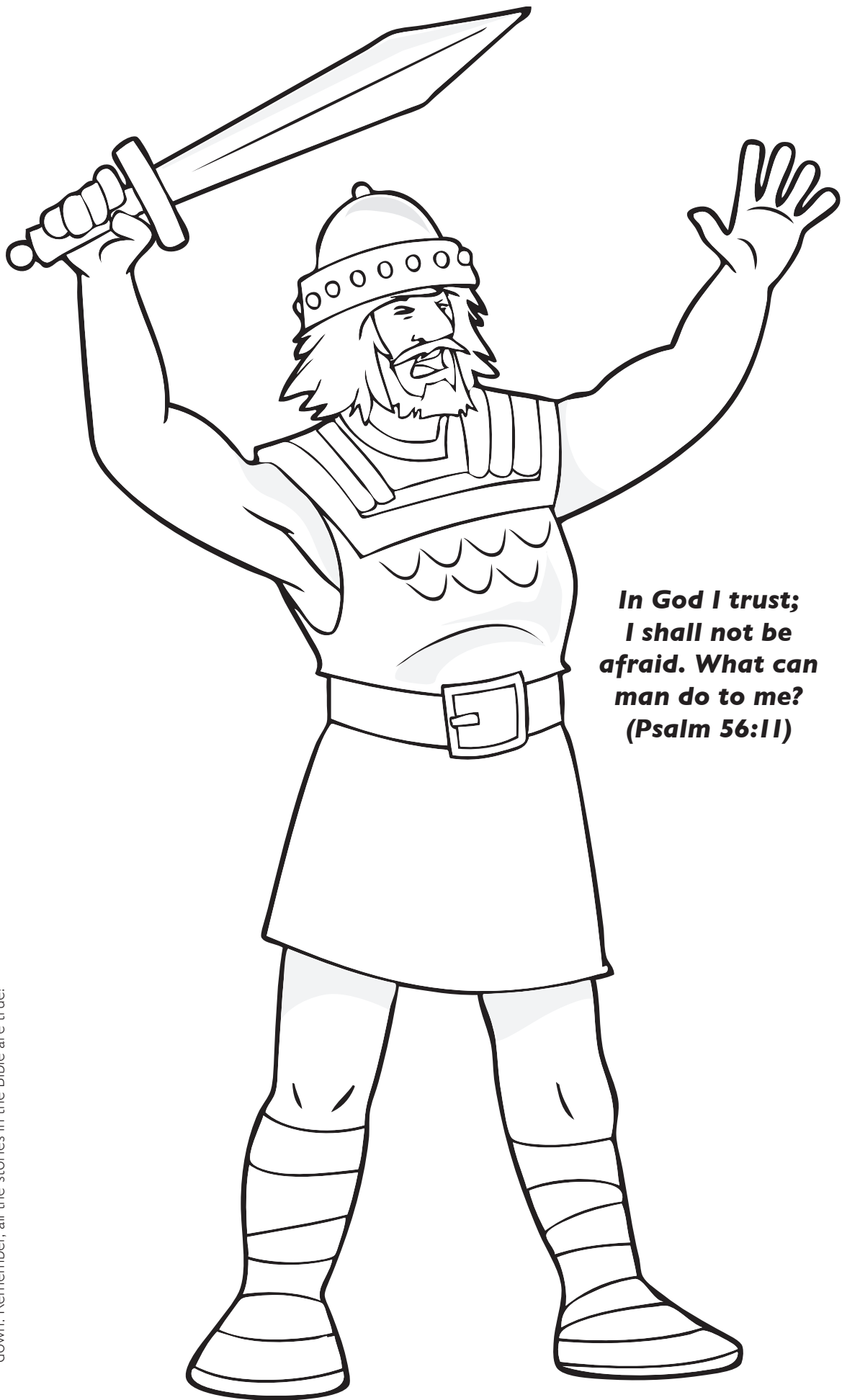
Children are able to influence their parents in ways that you can't! Encourage Cubbies to ask their parents to help them learn their verses or finish the Under the Apple Tree activities. Perhaps offer a small prize as an incentive.

NAME: _____

Basic Instructions: Color Goliath.

Even More Fun: Roll the paper and secure the ends with tape, forming a tube. Goliath should stand on his own. Roll a small ball towards him to try to knock him down.

Ultimate Fun: Retell the true Bible story about David and Goliath as you try to knock Goliath down. Remember, all the stories in the Bible are true!



***In God I trust;
I shall not be
afraid. What can
man do to me?
(Psalm 56:11)***