

David Faces Peril with Faith and Courage

From 1 Samuel 16—17, about 5 minutes

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is not to perform but to relive sacred events*)

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| Samuel | |
| David | |
| Voice (of God) | |
| Goliath | |
| Prompter | Shouts a brief line, and Echoes repeat it. |
| Echoes | Children and adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script. |
| Voice | Samuel, I have rejected Saul from being king over Israel. He has disobeyed my commands. Take the anointing oil and go to Jesse in Bethlehem; I have chosen a king from among his sons. |
| Samuel | Yes, Lord. I go as God said, and invite Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice. Here they come. Oh, here is Eliab, tall and handsome. |
| Prompter & Echoes | Surely he is the one! |
| Voice | No, Samuel. I reject Eliab. Man sees the outward appearance, but I see the heart. |
| Samuel | Jesse has seven of his sons pass before me, but God chooses none of them. |
| Prompter & Echoes | Why not? |
| Samuel | I ask Jesse if these are all of his sons. Jesse reluctantly sends for his youngest, David, who is tending the sheep. |
| David | What do you want, father? I must get back to the flock; I heard a wolf howling this morning. |
| Voice | Samuel, this is he. Anoint David. He will someday be king of Israel. |
| Samuel | Soon after, the Philistine army invades and camps in the valley of Elah. A giant, Goliath, comes out from their army; he is wearing armor, has a sword at his side, and carries a huge spear. |
| Prompter & Echoes | He is fearsome! |
| Samuel | The soldiers of Israel watch in awe. |
| Voice | Listen to the giant taunt. |
| Goliath | (<i>Shout</i>) Men of Israel! Choose your champion and send him out to fight. If he kills me, we will serve you. If I slay him, you will serve us. I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man to fight! Who will come fight me? |
| Prompter & Echoes | A dreadful challenge! |

- Samuel Meanwhile, Jesse gives David bread to take to his brothers who are now serving in King Saul's army.
Eliab, the oldest, scolds David for coming to watch the battle.
- David Oh no, Eliab! Our father sent this bread to you and your brothers.
Tell me, why do our soldiers fear that proud pagan Philistine?
I will go to King Saul and offer to go down and fight him.
- Prompter & Echoes But you're just a boy!
- Samuel Saul tells David that he is too young and inexperienced
and that Goliath has been a warrior since his youth.
- David King Saul, your servant killed a lion and a bear
that took lambs from my father's flock.
I will do the same to this Philistine,
since he has defied the armies of the living God.
The Lord delivered me from the lion and the bear,
and he will do the same now.
- Prompter & Echoes Courageous faith!
- Samuel Saul puts his armor on David, but it's too heavy, and he takes it off.
David chooses five smooth stones from a brook.
Now he faces the giant, carrying only a stick and a sling,
the kind that one swings in circles.
- Goliath (*Laugh*)
Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?
Ha! I curse you by my gods.
Come and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky.
- David You come to me with sword, spear and javelin,
but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts,
whom you have ridiculed.
- Samuel David runs to meet the giant. He whirls the sling.
He releases the stone. It is flying through the air!
- Prompter & Echoes Wham!
- Samuel It strikes the Philistine's forehead.
- Prompter & Echoes The giant falls!
- Samuel David runs, grabs the Philistine's sword and cuts off his head.
The Philistine soldiers see their champion fall, and they flee.
- Prompter & Echoes God delivers us!