

In God's hands - Growing in faith



What are some of the things that you can do now that you couldn't do when you were a baby or a toddler?

As we grow we learn to do all sorts of things that we couldn't do when we were younger - I'm sure you have thought of lots of things! And as we learn about God and how we can trust him so we grow in faith too.

Last week we heard about David, who was the youngest of 8 brothers and who looked after his father's sheep. Today we are going to find out about one of David's great adventures and how God helped David grow in faith.

Watch our video: <https://youtu.be/IZTXp0sNvQk> where Margaret tells the story with the help of Scruff.

Read the story of David and Goliath in a children's Bible story book.

Ask: I wonder if at the beginning of the story you thought it would be possible for David (a small boy) to defeat Goliath (a giant man)?

I wonder what made David different to all the soldiers in King Saul's army?

I wonder why David decided not to use King Saul's armour?

David chose to have faith in what God said and not what the people around him were saying. David trusted God and wanted to do what pleased him, he knew that God had helped him before when he was looking after the sheep, and lions or bears had attacked them, and he knew that God would help him again. God helped him be brave and gave him courage. Each time David trusted God his faith in God grew.

Pray: Cut out 5 pebble shapes from a piece of paper, each pebble is for writing or drawing a prayer on. Maybe you know someone who has a job where they need to have courage, or someone who is ill or needs to be brave or maybe for yourself to know that God is with you when you need to have courage.

Decorate your pebbles and keep them safe in an envelope or paper bag. You can take them out during the week and pray for yourself and others, asking God to be with you and them and to give you and them strength and courage. To help you and them to trust God and for faith to grow.

Memory verse: David faced a giant and even if he felt scared he had courage because he knew God was on his side. When things are difficult or we are feeling scared we can remember God's promises - that he loves us and is with us and that he protects and helps us. Try to learn this verse or write it on a card to help you remember: *'With God all things are possible'* Matthew 19:26

Make a 'thank you' poster: find a sheet of paper and write 'Thank you God' on it. Find, cut out and stick some pictures from old magazines on the page (or draw pictures or write) to make a poster thanking God for all the good things he gives us.

David spent time talking to God; when he was looking after his father's sheep in the fields he talked to God. I wonder if you talk to God? And if you do, when do you talk to God?

David talked to God any time and all the time and we can do the same. The more time we spend talking to God the more we will be able to trust him and follow him, just like David did. Spend some time now talking to God and thanking him for all the things on your poster.

Sing: you might like to sing this song - 'Our God is a great big God'. Can you remember the actions? <https://youtu.be/q8fcpShP19c>

Discover: I wonder if you know how tall you are? Do you know how tall Goliath was? It says in the Bible that he was 'six cubits and a span' that is about 3 metres tall! (1 Samuel 17:4)

Can you find a measuring tape and measure out three metres? Maybe you could make a model or lay out some cushions on the floor or use some paper to draw a giant Goliath to see just how big he was? Measure yourself and see how big he was compared to you.

Have fun measuring all your family. Try building towers from blocks or boxes and see how high you can make it!

Make: you could make a poster with the word F.A.I.T.H. which stands for 'Feeling afraid I trust Him'. Or if you have an empty box or jar you could cover it and decorate it and add the word F.A.I.T.H. You can use the box or jar to keep your prayers to God in, maybe you can write on a piece of paper about a worry or something that is difficult and ask God to help you. Then look back after some time - maybe the following week or month - and see how God has answered your prayers.

