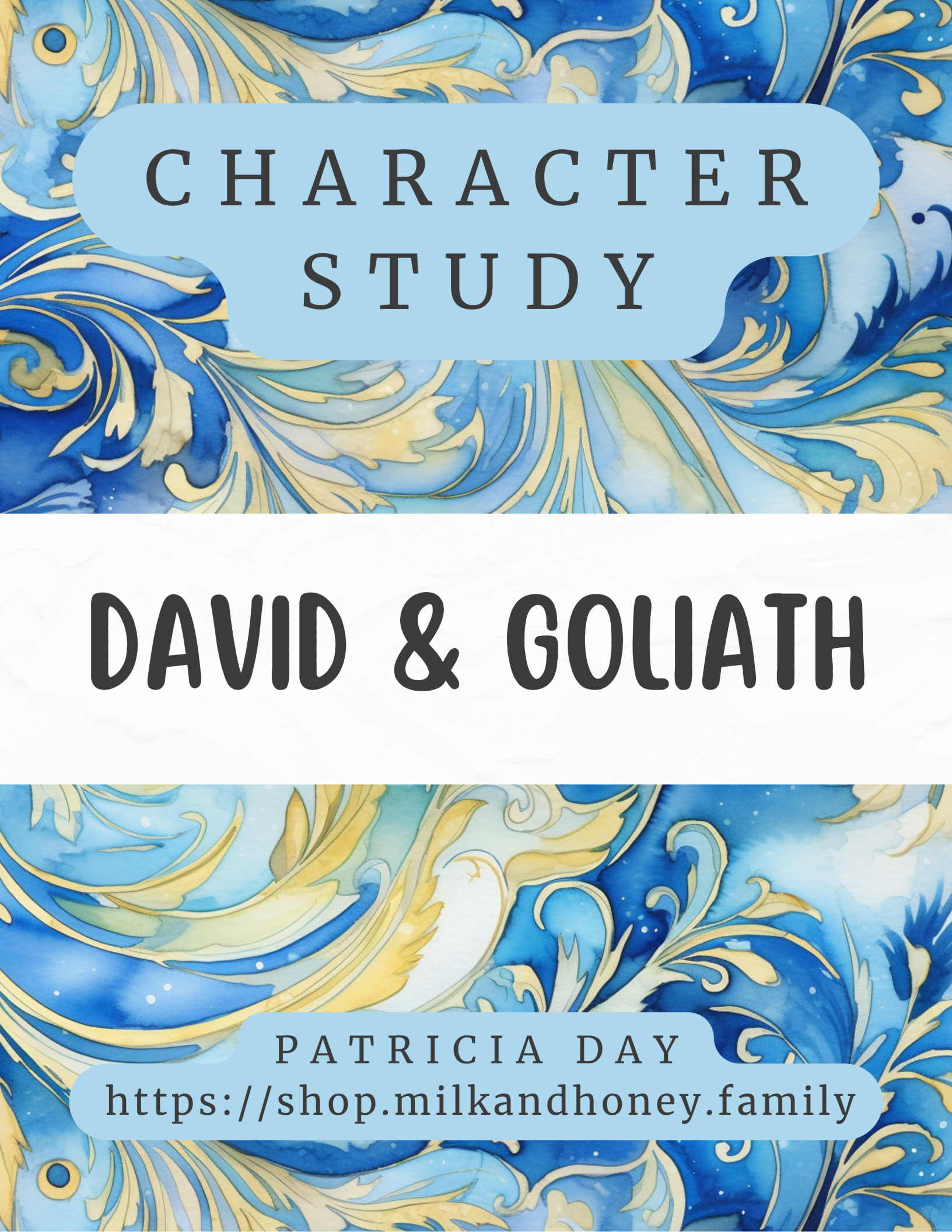




CHARACTER STUDY

DAVID & GOLIATH

PATRICIA DAY

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BIBLE LESSON

DAVID & GOLIATH

The story of David and Goliath is more than just an ancient tale; it is a profound source of inspiration and guidance for our lives today.

This lesson is designed to help you dig deeper into the layers of this remarkable narrative, exploring the principles of faith, courage, and trust in God's strength that are as relevant now as they were in the days of ancient Israel.

As you reflect on the story of David's triumphant battle against the giant Goliath, you will find practical insights and valuable life lessons that can empower you to face your own "Goliaths" with unwavering confidence.





BIBLE LESSON

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Setting the Scene (1 Samuel 17:1-11)

Goliath, the Philistine champion, was a colossal and imposing figure. He stood over nine feet tall, a literal giant among men. His physical appearance alone was enough to strike fear into the hearts of his opponents. Goliath was adorned with heavy bronze armor that gleamed in the sun, making him an intimidating and fearsome sight on the battlefield. His helmet, coat of mail, and leg armor clanked with every step, creating an eerie and unsettling atmosphere. Goliath's spear was like a weaver's beam, its head alone weighing as much as 600 shekels of iron (roughly 15 pounds or 6.8 kilograms).

Goliath's challenge to the Israelites was equally terrifying. He would come out each day and call for a representative of the Israelite army to engage him in single combat. His words were laced with mockery and contempt for the God of Israel, as he shouted, "Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us" (1 Samuel 17:8-9). This daily taunt was not only a challenge to the Israelite soldiers but also a direct affront to their faith and God's honor.

The Israelite army, on the other hand, was paralyzed by fear and dread. Goliath's immense size, his reputation as a fierce warrior, and the overwhelming odds against them left the soldiers in a state of despair. They had no champion willing to face this formidable enemy. Their collective faith seemed shaken as they failed to trust in the God who had delivered them from countless other trials and enemies in the past.

The fear that gripped the Israelite army is a powerful reminder of how doubt and apprehension can cripple us in the face of challenges. It serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of allowing fear to dominate our hearts and minds, preventing us from taking the courageous steps that faith often requires.



BIBLE LESSON

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Enter > David

David, in stark contrast to the fearful Israelite army, is introduced as the youngest son of Jesse, a shepherd, and musician. He was thought to be a teenager, maybe 15-17 years old. He was too young to be a soldier. He was a humble and obedient young man who faithfully tended his father's sheep. David's role as a musician in King Saul's court was his only connection to the military, but his faith and character were about to catapult him into a different kind of battle—one of epic proportions.

David's introduction as a shepherd and musician serves to emphasize the unexpected nature of his role in this story. He was not a seasoned warrior or a member of the elite army, yet he possessed qualities that would prove to be far more important: unwavering faith in God and a courageous spirit. David's willingness to step forward in the face of overwhelming odds showcases the importance of trusting in God's strength rather than relying solely on human qualifications.

Before getting into David's courageous actions on the battlefield, it's essential to understand the backdrop of his anointing by the prophet Samuel. In 1Samuel 16 we see that God had rejected Saul and had chosen David as the future king of Israel even while Saul was still reigning. Samuel, acting on God's command, went to Jesse's house to anoint one of his sons as the future king.

The anointing of David was a sacred and significant event. When Samuel arrived at Jesse's house, he examined Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, and thought he was the chosen one due to his impressive appearance. However, God reminded Samuel that He doesn't look at outward appearances but at the heart. One by one, Jesse presented his sons to Samuel, but none were chosen. Finally, Jesse sent for David, the youngest, who was out tending the sheep. When David arrived, the Lord made it clear to Samuel that he was the one to be anointed. Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his family, signifying God's divine selection.



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David's anointing was a powerful affirmation of his future leadership, and it demonstrated God's sovereign choice of leaders based on their hearts, character, and faith rather than their outward qualities. This event laid the foundation for David's unwavering trust in God and his willingness to step into difficult situations with confidence.

David's obedience is a prominent theme throughout his life. Despite being anointed as the future king, he remained under the authority of his father, Jesse, and demonstrated great humility and respect for Saul, the current king. When his father requested that he go to the battlefield to check on his brothers, David willingly obeyed.

David's obedience to his father's instructions, as well as his willingness to serve in Saul's court as a musician, reveals his humility and respect for authority. Even though David had been anointed as the future king, he did not seek to overthrow Saul or act rebelliously. This obedience sets a powerful example for us, emphasizing the importance of respecting authority and patiently waiting for God's timing to fulfill His promises.

When David arrived at the battlefield and heard Goliath's blasphemous challenges against the God of Israel, he was filled with righteous anger and a deep determination to defend God's honor. David's response to Goliath's challenge was rooted in his unwavering faith in God and his understanding of the covenant between God and His people.

David questioned why the Israelite army, God's chosen people, were allowing this pagan giant to defy their God without taking action. He boldly volunteered to face Goliath, trusting in God's strength to deliver him. His famous words, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:37), exemplify his unshakable faith in God's protection.



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David's response to Goliath's challenge is a powerful demonstration of courage in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. His trust in God's strength and his determination to protect God's honor teach us that faith and courage go hand in hand. David's actions encourage us to confront the "giants" in our own lives with similar faith and resolve, relying on God's power to overcome them.

As David's determination to face Goliath became evident, King Saul was initially skeptical about David's capabilities. Saul, who had been chosen as Israel's first king and stood head and shoulders above everyone else, looked at David, a young shepherd, and doubted whether he could take on the formidable Goliath. Saul expressed his concerns to David, saying, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth" (1 Samuel 17:33).

Saul's skepticism reflected the prevailing sentiment of the Israelite army and the societal expectations of that time. In the eyes of many, David seemed ill-equipped for the task at hand. However, Saul's doubts also served as a contrast to David's unwavering faith in God. It illustrates how faith often challenges conventional wisdom and worldly expectations.

In response to Saul's skepticism, David passionately articulated his trust in God's deliverance. He recounted his experiences as a shepherd, explaining how he had protected his father's sheep from both lions and bears. David attributed his success in these life-threatening situations to the Lord's divine intervention. He declared, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:37).



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David's confidence was not rooted in his own strength or experience as a warrior but in his unwavering trust in God's power and faithfulness. His reliance on God's strength, coupled with his previous experiences of God's protection, gave him the assurance needed to confront Goliath. This demonstrates a profound lesson for us: true strength and courage come from trusting in the Lord rather than relying on our own abilities.

The climax of the story comes when David faces Goliath in single combat. Goliath, armed with his massive spear and shield, approached David with contempt. David, in stark contrast, approached the giant with a simple shepherd's staff, a sling, and five smooth stones from the brook.

As Goliath taunted and advanced, David loaded his sling with a single stone and, with unwavering confidence in God, let it fly. The stone struck Goliath in the forehead, penetrating his armor and sinking into his flesh. Goliath fell to the ground, dead.

This dramatic moment is a testament to the power of faith and trust in God. It underscores that God can use the seemingly weak and insignificant to accomplish great victories. David's triumph over Goliath was not due to his physical prowess but to his trust in the Almighty God who empowered him to face and conquer the giant.

The victory over Goliath serves as a powerful reminder that God is the ultimate source of strength and deliverance in our lives. When we face our own "giants," we can find courage and hope in knowing that, like David, we can trust in God's strength to overcome our challenges, no matter how formidable they may seem.



BIBLE LESSON

DAVID & GOLIATH

10 WAYS WE CAN APPLY THIS STORY TO OUR LIVES

- **Facing Challenges with Faith and Courage:** Just as David faced the giant Goliath, we encounter challenges and obstacles in our lives. This story encourages us to confront these challenges with faith and courage, trusting that with God's help, we can overcome even the most daunting circumstances.
- **Relying on God's Strength:** David's victory over Goliath reminds us that we should not rely solely on our own strength but trust in God's power. When we face difficulties, we can lean on our faith and believe that God will provide the strength and resources we need.
- **Overcoming Fear and Doubt:** The Israelite army's initial fear and doubt mirror the feelings of apprehension and uncertainty we often experience when confronting challenges. We can learn to conquer fear and doubt by grounding ourselves in our faith and in the knowledge that God is with us.
- **Using What We Have:** David's use of a simple sling and stones highlights the importance of making the best use of the resources and abilities we have at our disposal. We don't need to have extraordinary tools or talents to face our challenges; God can work through the ordinary to achieve the extraordinary.
- **Standing Up for What Is Right:** David's righteous anger in the face of Goliath's blasphemy reminds us of the importance of standing up for what is right and defending our values. We can apply this by speaking out against injustice and championing causes that align with our beliefs.



BIBLE LESSON

DAVID & GOLIATH

10 WAYS WE CAN APPLY THIS STORY TO OUR LIVES

- **Trusting in God's Timing:** David was anointed as the future king, but he didn't rush to take the throne. Instead, he patiently served in various roles until the time was right. This story teaches us to trust in God's timing and be patient in waiting for His plans to unfold.
- **Remaining Humble:** Despite being anointed as king, David remained humble and obedient to his father and to King Saul. We can learn the importance of humility, respect for authority, and a willingness to serve others in our own lives.
- **Teaching the Next Generation:** The story of David and Goliath is a powerful lesson to pass on to the next generation. Parents, teachers, and mentors can use this story to instill values of faith, courage, and trust in God in young people.
- **Finding Inspiration in Role Models:** David's example serves as an inspiration for us to look to role models in our faith and history for guidance. We can learn from the lives of those who have demonstrated unwavering trust in God.
- **Seeking God's Guidance and Strength in Prayer:** Just as David prayed and relied on God before facing Goliath, we can turn to prayer for guidance and strength when confronted with challenges. This story encourages us to maintain a close relationship with God through prayer.

DAVID & GOLIATH

DEEPER REFLECTION

What are the "Goliaths" in my life right now—challenges or fears that seem insurmountable? How can I apply the principles of faith, courage, and trust in God to face them?

Reflecting on David's unwavering faith, what role does faith play in my own life? In what ways can I strengthen my faith in God's power to overcome difficulties?

DAVID & GOLIATH

DEEPER REFLECTION

DAVID & GOLIATH

DEEPER REFLECTION

David's obedience and humility played a significant role in his story. How can I practice humility and respect for authority in my life, even when facing adversity or receiving recognition?

How can I be patient and trust in God's timing when facing situations where I desire immediate results or answers? Are there aspects of my life where I need to practice patience and wait for God's plans to unfold?



DAVID & GOLIATH
JOURNAL PAGES

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JOURNAL PAGES

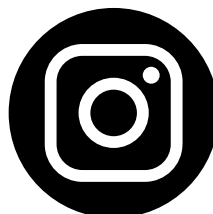
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WANT MORE?



Hi, my name is Patricia. Married mother of two with a mild indoor plant addiction. CEO at Milk and Honey, where our aim is to equip parents to faithfully and boldly train their children to walk with the Lord all the days of their life.





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