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PREVIEW: DAVID AND GOLIATH

By

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Cast of Characters

NARRATOR: Guides the story
DAVID: Central character, Jesse’s youngest son
JESSE: David’s father
ELIAB : David’s older brother
ABINADAB: Another older brother
NITZEVET: David’s mother
SAUL: King of Israel
ABNER: Commander of Saul’s army
GOLIATH: The Philistine giant

Synopsis

Join young David, his father Jesse, King Saul, and more biblical characters in this 20–25 minute drama retelling the story of David and Goliath. The script for all ages begins shortly after the prophet Samuel anoints David as the future king of Israel and explores how David and his family may have felt during this significant time. As David hears of the giant Goliath terrorizing Israel’s army, he steps onto the battlefield with the Lord as his guide, showing the audience how God can use someone like them—just as He used David—when we put our faith and trust in Him.

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: Jesse’s field on the outskirts of Bethlehem - day.

At Rise: Scene 1 begins with David sitting in his father Jesse’s field, keeping watch over his sheep.

NARRATOR

Many of you have heard the story of David and Goliath. You most likely grew up hearing this captivating tale of the mighty David defeating the fearsome Goliath with just a sling and a stone. However, a lot of times we forget that these were real people of history. This is not a tall tale, this is a true tale of how God worked in and through David to accomplish an outstanding victory. What you are about to see will answer many questions that we as a society often think. Our story begins in Jessie’s fields in Bethlehem. A short time ago, the great prophet Samuel came and anointed David as the Lord’s anointed future King of Israel. How might David’s father and his brothers react to this? What is David feeling inside? Watch and see.

DAVID

(Singing)

I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; He has hurled both horse and rider into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song; He has given me victory.

(Suddenly, DAVID’S singing is cut off as his oldest brothers ELIAB and ABINADAB come walking through the field, finishing a day’s work.)

ELIAB

(Groans)

What is that awful noise?! I can't tell if it's singing or if one of “King David’s” *(said sarcastically)* sheep subjects has gotten hurt!

(ABINADAB nudges ELIAB, pointing to DAVID.)

ABINADAB

Look, brother! The little songbird is at it again!

(Laughs annoyingly)

ELIAB

Does that kid ever stop?! David, what are you howling about this time?!

DAVID

I am singing Moses’ song. All of Israel sang it when they crossed-

ABINADAB

The Red Sea!

ELIAB AND ABINADAB: WE KNOW!

ELIAB

We have heard that story a million times, David. You don’t have to remind us. And do you think YOU are a leader like Moses?! Moses's staff was bigger than you!

(Scoffs)

Pathetic.

(DAVID’S body begins to tense up more and more as his brothers talk.)

DAVID

I was hoping I would be alone.

ABINADAB

Oooh, I'm sorry! I did not mean to disturb the KING OF ISRAEL!

ELIAB

We apologize, oh royal one!

(ABINADAB and ELIAB laugh hysterically and bow before DAVID, clearly mocking him.)

DAVID

Please, brothers just… just leave me alone.

ABINADAB

Watch how you speak to us, David! We’re the ones who fight battles alongside the REAL ruler of Israel, King Saul himself! You are nothing but a filthy shepherd!

ELIAB

Samuel is wrong about you, David. The only thing you will ever rule over will be these dirty sheep!

(DAVID stands up, ready to confront ELIAB. However, ELIAB shoves DAVID, causing DAVID to stagger backwards. Right when he stands up, their father JESSE comes walking in. DAVID and his brothers stop, not wanting to be caught quarreling in front of their father.)

JESSE

Boys! Boys, now is not the time for roughhousing! David, back to the sheep! Eliab! Abinadab! What are you even doing out here? You and your other brothers are supposed to be packing up your belongings for the battlefield. King Saul sent word that the Philistines are headed this way as we speak!

(ELIAB and ABINADAB burst out laughing.)

ABINADAB

Oh please, father! We don’t need to pack much. There is no point in worrying about them! I could kill 100 Philistines easily!

ELIAB

Of course, brother! All they have to do is look at that face of yours and they’ll drop dead!

ABINADAB

Excuse me?! I could write a whole book about your horrid appearance!

(ELIAB gets closer to ABINADAB and grabs him by the collar.)

ELIAB

You take that back!

(ABINADAB sticks his tongue out at ELIAB. ELIAB then punches ABINADAB in the arm. ABINADAB yelps in pain, and the two brothers begin to walk offstage.)

ELIAB

We’ll head back and gather our things, Father.

(ELIAB looks at DAVID and smirks.)

ELIAB

See you around, Your Highness.

(ABINADAB and ELIAB laugh hysterically.)

(ELIAB and ABINADAB walk offstage. DAVID is left sitting on a rock by the sheep. His body is tense with anxiety and uncertainty. JESSE begins to walk off but, once he sees how DAVID is feeling, turns around and walks back. It is clear he does not speak to DAVID often.)

JESSE

Um… So… How are your sheep treating you today, son?

(DAVID doesn’t seem interested in talking to his father. Their conversation is filled with awkwardness.)

DAVID

They’re fine.

JESSE

Wonderful. Well… I guess I’ll leave you to it.

(JESSE begins to walk away but stops whenever DAVID speaks to him.)

DAVID

Father? Can I ask you something?

JESSE

Anything, my son.

DAVID

When Samuel came, you let all of my brothers pass in front of him, and you didn’t even tell Samuel that I existed. Why?

(JESSE is thrown off by this question.)

JESSE

Well, David. You were out in these fields with the sheep and I didn’t want to disturb you. Besides, your older brothers fight on the battlefield. They’re soldiers. You are our shepherd. I did not think that-

DAVID

I mattered?

JESSE

Now I did not say that, son. Do not put words in my mouth that I did not speak.

(DAVID stands up.)

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SAUL

(Chuckles in disbelief)

David, you can’t do this.

DAVID

You’re right. I can’t. But my God can.

SAUL

Go, boy. May the Lord be with you.

(DAVID runs off. ABNER, the commander of Israel’s army, walks up to SAUL.)

SAUL

Abner, send word to David’s parents. Soon they will have to prepare for a funeral.

Scene 4

Setting: Battlefield - day. At Rise: David is seen in the middle of the battlefield alone, sling and stone in hand. Ready to fight Goliath.

(GOLIATH begins to march toward DAVID. His footsteps echo across the battlefield. GOLIATH takes one look at DAVID and bursts out laughing.)

GOLIATH

Israel! Am I a dog that you come after me with a stick? Come on! Come over here, boy, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals! I curse all of you and your foolish God!

DAVID

You come at me with a sword and spear and battle ax. I come at you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel's troops, whom you curse and mock. This very day God is handing you over to me. I'm about to kill you and serve up your body and the bodies of your Philistine buddies to the crows and coyotes. The whole earth will know that there's an extraordinary God in Israel. And everyone gathered here will learn that the Lord doesn't save using a sword or spear. The battle belongs to God—He's handing you to us on a platter!

(GOLIATH roars in rage and begins to march towards DAVID. DAVID quickly grabs a stone and puts it in his sling. He then swings the sling and lets the stone go, swinging it towards the fearsome GOLIATH. The audience sees the stone fly through the air and hit GOLIATH square on the head. GOLIATH stumbles and falls face-first to the ground. Crowds cheer in response. JESSE, NITZEVET, ELIAB, ABINADAB, SAUL, and ABNER come rushing out on stage.)

ABINADAB

Did you just see that?! Our little shepherd boy brother just killed Goliath! I almost can't believe my eyes!

ELIAB

Maybe Samuel isn’t so crazy after all!

(SAUL and ABNER are standing separate from the others. SAUL turns to ABNER; slight fear painted on his face.)

SAUL

What David just accomplished was no natural feat. It seems like the power of God was in him. Abner, whose son is he?

ABNER

I don’t know.

(SAUL grabs ABNER.)

SAUL

Well, find out who he is!

(NITZEVET comes up and hugs DAVID.)

DAVID

Mother? Father? What are you-

NITZEVET

We came as soon as we got word of what was happening. I’m so proud of you, David.

DAVID

Thank you, Mother.

(JESSE now approaches DAVID.)

DAVID

I’m sorry, Father, but I had to disobey your orders. I felt the Lord calling me to-

(DAVID is cut off because JESSE wraps him in a hug. DAVID hesitates but then hugs JESSE back.)

JESSE

I was wrong for doubting you. When I saw Samuel, the great prophet of OUR people approaching MY home, I had a feeling in my bones that I had never felt before. You are my boy. You always have been and you always will be no matter how tall or what age you are.

And when Samuel came and anointed YOU, I did not know what to think. I couldn’t wrap my mind around what that meant for us. I was at a complete loss for words. I didn’t want anything bad to happen to you, but through that fear and worry I treated you unfairly. And I’m so sorry. I love you, son.

DAVID

I love you too, father.

(ABNER approaches DAVID.)

ABNER

Boy, who exactly ARE you?

DAVID

I am David, son of Jesse.

NARRATOR

Like I said earlier, this is not a tall tale. This story is just as true today as it was thousands of years ago. God can work through you just like he worked through David. Many of us have fearsome giants in our lives that we may feel like we cannot overcome, but if we hand our problems and our situations over to the Lord, just like David, he will work through us to accomplish outstanding victories. May we all one day be able to say that we are people after God‘s own heart.

(THE END)



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