



4. The big bully

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series ‘Songs from the heart’.* You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This assembly continues our exploration into some of the words of David from the Book of Psalms, with a very famous story from David’s life, the story of David & Goliath – and how God helped David to bring justice to his people, through five small stones and a determination to stand up against unfairness. Because of the current conflict in the Middle East, we have avoided referring to God’s people or Israel in this script, but instead use the term ‘King Saul’s army’, locating it within its historical context. As with other scripts this term, it’s no accident that we are using questions to probe children’s thinking throughout this series, as questions are very much at the heart of David’s words in the Psalms!**



How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference your school’s values and the things that are a part of your school’s unique vision. Today, we will use some words from Psalm 28 to reflect on how David found God’s help in his life – and encourage children to reflect on the fact that sometimes, something needs to be done about unfairness – injustice – in all sorts of different situations. You will have your own school context for this, so do use situations that will resonate with pupils to help them to get the most out of this opportunity.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- For the introductory game, there are some pictures that you will need to insert into the presentation, or print out: these can be accessed from links in the PowerPoint, for copyright reasons. We have done our very best to find images that are easy to access, but you may have to search for yourselves if links don’t work! You could also make up your own quiz, using stories that are familiar within your school context.
- The story within the script is an all-join-in story, but there are also pictures from the story in the PowerPoint. Skip these slides if you prefer.
- You will need some small pebbles or stones for the reflective activity for your classrooms this week.

Gathering:

Slides 1-3: Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing; you can view the demos using links under the slide.



Leader: As we gather together,

ALL: ...we bring our hearts.

Leader: As we gather together,

ALL: ...we share our thoughts.

Leader: As community together,

ALL: We serve one another.

Signs for greeting: click on links

Hearts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - heart](#) (or you could use your hands as shown in the image)

Thoughts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - thought](#)

Serve: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - serve](#) (or you could just open your hands in front of you)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4: Who wins?** We’re going to start our time together today, as we often do, with a quiz. I wonder if you’ve ever noticed how many stories and films that we all love have some sort of ‘goodie versus baddie’ situation in them? So let’s look at some together – and you tell me who wins! *[use images you have chosen, on slides 5-9. The answers are: Kung Fu Panda, Po; Luke Skywalker; the ants; Buzz Lightyear; the Three Little Pigs]*
- **Slide 10: The big bully**



There's always a point in all these stories where we think that there's no way the 'goodie' is going to win but somehow they always do. And the smaller they are, and the bigger the baddie, the more we love it – because it's what we hope will happen in real life, that good wins over evil.

We're all going to have a part to play in another story about good v. bad now – another story that comes from the life of David. In the story, David, who is just a young boy, takes a very brave stand against a mean and unfair baddie. Every time we say certain words, there's something to do – actions that I'm going to teach you now *[go through the list, using your class to help teach the actions]*

Now, we're ready to tell our story – don't forget your part, and watch out for a few extra actions to do as we go along! *[use script on p.3-4. There are pictures if you want to use them.]*

- **Slide 16:** We said earlier that we love stories where good wins over evil – but we love it even more when the goodie has stood up for people who are being treated unfairly, like David did. David knew that God loves fairness – the Bible calls it 'justice' – and he also knew that God would help him to fight against those who treated others unfairly. That same boy David one day became King – and continued to stand up for justice – fairness – for much of his reign. David's stones didn't seem to be much of a weapon when compared to Goliath's mighty sword, but David knew he needed only one, well-placed stone to be victorious. It takes great courage to stand up against unfairness, and we might feel we don't what to say, or who to say it to, but many people believe that God can help too – just as he helped the shepherd boy David.
- We have many chances to act as David did every day – maybe not to defeat a big bad baddie like Goliath, but to make sure that we do something about unfairness if we see it happening. Things like.....not sharing.....or someone else always being in charge of the game.....or someone being unkind.....or someone not doing their bit when it's time to tidy up. Our school rules exist to make sure that everyone in our school community is treated fairly, and treats others fairly – so let's do all that we can to help each other to keep them.

Slide 17: Responding (and words for worship):

Now let's stop and think.....Last week we heard about how David often expressed his deepest feelings in the psalms that he wrote. Listen to these words from Psalm 28:

'Hear the sound of my prayer, when I cry out to you for help.....

....Praise the Lord! He heard my prayer for help.

The Lord is my strength and shield.

I trust him, and he helps me.'

Psalm 28: 2, 6&7

....I wonder what you think this shows about David's beliefs about God?....

....and what difference this might have made in this story about Goliath, and throughout his life?....

....I wonder how these words might help us to stand up for what's right and fair, even when we feel small like David did?....

I'm going to pray now, and ask God for his help. If you'd like to pray with me, then listen carefully as I say the words, then join in with 'Amen' at the end.

Slide 18: Prayer

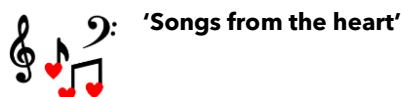
Dear God

Thank you that you love it when things are fair, and that you heard David the shepherd boy's prayer for help to be brave and defeat Goliath. Thank you that you promise to help us too when we ask. Please help us to know what to do if we come across unfairness of any sort but above all, to do all we can to treat others as we would want to be treated – with fairness.

Slide 19: Amen

Sending: Slide 20

Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead,



All:may we serve one another in our **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**.

Signs for response: click on links

Thoughts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - thought \(signbsl.com\)](#)

Words (use 3rd definition): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - word \(signbsl.com\)](#)

Actions: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - action \(signbsl.com\)](#)

To sing / listen to:

[Resilience in me](#) (NBD) or [Slingshot](#) (NBD)



Ideas for classroom reflection: Pebble for your thoughts

David used a pebble to defeat Goliath.

Take a pebble in your hand and think about a situation that seems unfair to you. This might be something personal to you, or something in our world.

Place the pebble back in the bowl and as you do, you might want to ask God to bring justice, like he did for David and King Saul's army.



The Big Bully - an all-join-in story

Each time you say a certain word, there is something to do, or something to say:

| Word(s) | Action(s) |
|-------------------|---|
| David | Say "Hurray!" and punch hand in the air |
| Goliath | Say "You big bully!" and wag your finger, as if telling off |
| God | Point upwards |
| soldiers | Salute and say "Sir! Yes sir!" |
| Five small stones | Sing '1,2,3,4,5', & count on fingers, as in the nursery rhyme |

Slide 11: David was a young boy, a boy who looked after sheep [baa!] but a boy who listened to God and knew that God was going to use him in very special ways. His brothers were all big and strong, and were soldiers in King Saul's army. King Saul's soldiers were powerful and strong, but the enemy army was *enormous* and wherever they went, everyone was afraid of them.

Slide 12: The Philistines' champion was a giant named Goliath who each day stood on top of the hillside and made fun of King Saul's soldiers. 'You think you're stronger than me?! You puny little Israelites!' Goliath jeered. 'Send your mightiest soldier out to face me and you'll see who's the champion! And when we win, you will *all* be our slaves!!!!'

Slide 13: Before long, the entire army of King Saul was cowering in their tents, worn down by the taunts of Goliath, and believing that he was indeed unbeatable.

One day, the young boy David was sent out to the battlefield with food for his brothers and he saw Goliath standing on the hilltop, jeering and laughing at the frightened army of King Saul. David couldn't believe what he saw and said to King Saul – 'Don't you know who we are? We are the army of the mighty God, who fights on our side. Goliath is no match for our God! Can't you see he's just a big bully?! So I, David, will fight him. The God who has helped me protect my sheep [baa!] against the bear [ggrr!] and the lion [roar!] will fight with me against this bully.'

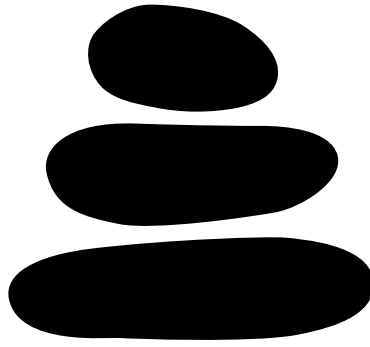
Slide 14: He took his slingshot from his small shepherd's bag and went to the bubbling brook to select five small stones. Then David walked right up to Goliath with only his sling and five small stones as his weapon.



When **Goliath** saw him, he laughed out loud at how small and ridiculous **David** looked: ‘What use are those stones going to be against my mighty sword?!’ he jeered. But **David** took no notice and put one of his **five small stones** into his sling. As **Goliath** laughed on, **David** swung the sling around his head and let the small stone fly. It flew across the battlefield towards **Goliath** and struck him right between the eyes [donk!].

Slide 15: Then **Goliath** fell to the ground, dead. King Saul’s army was victorious – and all because a young boy, whose name was **David**, knew that **God** helps those who stand against injustice.





David asked God to help bring justice against Goliath. He wrote in Psalm 28: 'Hear the sound of my prayer, when I cry out to you for help.'



I wonder if you see things that are unfair in the world?



Talk together about what these things are and how we might try to make things fair.



Take a pebble from the bowl and hold it in your hand. Think about any actions that you could take. Then place the pebble back in the bowl. You might like to pray as you do.

