2 Samuel 21

“*The Giants in our Lives”*

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 21:1-22

**Memory Verse:** *“For without me you can do nothing.”*  John 15:5

**Lesson Focus:** God will help us fight our battles in life.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page; Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd graders: The Armor of God Book

**Introduction:** Ball Battle:

1. Get two balls and call two kids up for the epic “ball battle”
2. They will challenge each other to who can throw the ball in the air and catch it the most times. If a child fails to catch the ball then the other child wins.
3. Play the game several times with different opponents.

Tell the kids that today we are going to be talking about “battles.” Not a “ball battle” but battles that happen in life that we will have to fight. David had battles all of his life. Some he fought with God’s help and some he fought on his own and they did not go so well. These battles were sometimes with giants and giants can represent the battles that we face in our own lives. We cannot fight the battles/giants of life without God’s help!

**Bible Lesson:**

 **2 Samuel 21:1-14; *“The Sin Giant”***

1. **David Prays: 2 Samuel 21:1-2**

 **√** What had been happening in the land? (a famine)

 **√** What is a famine? How long had it been going on?

 **√** What did David do about it? (Why did it take him three years to pray and ask

 God?)

When things are going wrong in our life or when things get hard, what do we usually do about it? Do you pray first? Or does it take a while before you remember to pray? Why do we pray last?

**√** What does the Bible say about prayer?

1 Thessalonians 5:17; “*Pray without ceasing.”*

**√** How do we pray without ceasing? Is it hard or easy? Why?

Philippians 4:6-7; *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

 **√** How many of you worry?

 **√** What things does this verse tell us to worry about? (nothing)

 **√** What are we supposed to pray about? (everything)

 **√** What are we supposed to add to our prayer (thanksgiving)

 **√** What does God promise to give us when we pray? (peace)

It took David three years of suffering though a famine to take it to the Lord and ask Him about it.

**√** What did David find out from God?

God said that it was because of Saul and his killing of the Gibeonites.

**√** Why did that matter to God? Because in the book of Joshua, the Gibeonites tricked Joshua into a treaty with them – that Joshua would not kill them and that they would be become Israel’s slaves. This was an agreement between Joshua and the Gibeonites. Saul did not honor that agreement. So David and all of Israel were suffering because of the sin of another.

**√** What does verse 2 tell us about Saul?

1. Saul sought to kill the Gibeonites
2. Saul sought to kill them because of his “zeal” for Israel

**√** What does “zeal” mean?

“Zeal” means to have a passion for or want to sincerely take care of something. Saul had a passion to take care of Israel but He did not do it God’s way. He went about it in his own power. We can have a ‘zeal’ or “passion” for the things of God but go about doing them in the wrong way.

Example: Let’s say that you wanted to share Jesus with a friend at school. You go up to him and you say that he is not a Christian and that he not going to heaven. You do not pray – you just do what you think you should do. In your own power you offend your friend and he does not want to have anything to do with Jesus.

 But, what if you prayed and you asked God for guidance. What if God told you to be kind and to love this friend and to look for the moment that God would give you to share Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you think there would be a difference? Jesus tells us in John 15:5; *“For without me you can do nothing.”*

We can do things for God without doing things with God!

This is what Saul did – and now all of Israel was suffering for his sin.

1. **David talks to the Gibeonites: 2 Samuel 21:3-6**

**√** What did the Gibeonites want? (They wanted Saul’s family to pay for their sins. 7 of Saul’s family would be hanged.)

1. **David delivers 7 of Sauls family for death; 2 Samuel 21:7-9**

**√** Who does David spare? (Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s Son)

David delivers 7 of Saul’s family to the Gibeonites. (there is another Mephibosheth from Saul’s family given to be killed)

1. **David remembers Saul’s Family:**
2. Rizpah – the mother of two of the sons that were killed camps out

Beside the bodies and keeps the birds of prey from attaching. She stays for 6 months.

1. David hears of her dedication and takes the bodies and retrieves the bodies of Saul and Jonathan and gives them a proper burial.

**2 Samuel 21:15-22; *“The Giant Problem!”***

 The Philistines wage war once again against Israel. They never give up. They

seem to think that since David is older – that maybe now he will not be able to fight their giants.

**√** What happens in 2 Samuel 21:15?

1. They go to war – but David becomes weary.
2. One of the giants (Ishbi-Be’nob) – thought that he could kill David. (His spear weighed 30 pounds.) (a college shot-put weighs 16 pounds)
3. Abashai kills the giant for David. David’s men persuade David to not come into battle any more. They will have to fight for David.
4. Sibbechai kills another giant (21:18)
5. Elhanan kills the brother of Goliath.
6. The biggest giant (who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. Jonathan, David’s nephew killed him.
7. All four were born to the giant related to Goliath and all died by David or David’s warriors. The writer of the book of Samuel wants to make sure that we know that God defeated the giants through David and his warriors. But David had to fight until the end of his life.

During David’s life he always had “giants” to battle. He had the giants of his own sin in the past chapters. He had the battle of his own family. He had the giant of Saul’s sin. And then he had the true “physical giants” that hounded him his whole life. But when David was not strong enough to fight anymore, his warriors fought for him.

**Conclusion:**

1. What are the giants that you fight in your life?
2. Do you go to God for help? Or, who do you go to?
3. How could God help you fight these giants?
4. Who else can you count on to help you fight? Do you have good friends that follow Jesus that will go into battle for you? Do you have parents and grandparents that pray for you.

Remember what David said, “For the battle is the Lords.” 1 Samuel 17:47