

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 8

Perseverance of the Saints

Scripture: I Samuel 17; John 10:27, 28; Hebrews 12:5-7

Objects to have:

Something small enough to fit into your closed hand—it should be something breakable
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Show the children the object which you are holding in your hand. Name the object; tell them if you were to drop it, it could be broken. Call a child to the front of the room. Ask the child if he thinks he can take that object from your hand; encourage him to try. Of course, do not let him take it from your hand. Thank the child and have him be seated. Explain that the reason he could not take the object from your hand is that you are stronger than he is. You wanted to hold on to the object and not let him have it.)

(Tell the children that the hand which is holding the object is one person; the other hand is another person. The other person wants to try to break what is in your hand. Slap your hand or beat on it but show the children that by hitting against the first person the object cannot be broken because it is protected.)

(Tell the children that the object in the hand is you. The hand is Jesus. Give the children the testimony of your salvation, then tell them that Jesus holds you in His hand. He will never let anyone or anything take you out of His hand.)

I'm going to tell you a favorite Bible story today.

Telling the story:

There were eight boys in that one family. Count to eight with me. (Hold up eight fingers and count them.) This one was the eldest; this one was the next to the eldest; this one was next in line (continue saying this for the next four); this one was the youngest. His name was David.

I think that a man went shouting through the town, "This is an order from the King! The Philistines have come! The Philistines have come! Men, help us fight them. They are camped very close to our town." Able-bodied men grabbed their spears, their swords, and their bows and arrows and ran from their homes. They lined up behind the army commander. King Saul was in the lead. They marched from their town to a mountain. There they pitched their tents on the side of a mountain and got ready to meet the enemy. Three of the Israelite soldiers were brothers from the house that had eight sons in it. These three men were the three eldest of the eight brothers.

While these three men and the rest of the army were pitching their tents and getting ready for battle, they could look across the valley to the other mountain; they could see the enemy on the other mountain. Maybe they wondered whether there were more men in the Philistine army than in their army. I wonder if they were a little frightened as they thought about going into battle. They could very well be killed. They had a job to do, however; they needed to keep the enemy away from their homes and their families.

I think someone called out, "Look! Look down there! Look in the valley! One soldier from the Philistine army is standing there. He is shouting something to us. Listen!"

In the valley was one soldier from the Philistine army. You never saw a man as tall as this man. This man was nine feet, nine inches tall. If he were to come inside your house, he could not stand up straight coming through

any doorway without bumping his head hard. He was a tall man! He also looked fierce. He was wearing armor. The armor was made of thick metal. He was protected by metal on his chest and his arms and his legs. He had a shield, but he was not carrying his own shield. Another man carried his shield for him. His sword was as long as any man was tall. That was a huge giant of a man. He looked scary. He sounded scary.

“Listen!” he said. All the men in the Israelite army stopped to listen to this giant as he talked. The giant, named Goliath, shouted across to the Israelite army. The three brothers heard Goliath. Goliath yelled, “One of you come and fight me. If you win, the Philistine army will be your servants. If I win, you will be our servants!”

I am sure that the Israelite army shook in their boots. There was not a man in the Israelite army who was as big or as strong as Goliath. Goliath could beat any Israelite soldier, they thought. Goliath went back to his camp. Not one Israelite soldier volunteered to fight Goliath.

On the next day while the Israelite army waited for the Philistine army to start the battle, Goliath once more came to the valley. Once again he shouted across to the Israelite army, “What man among you is willing to fight me? Come fight me!” Not one Israelite soldier volunteered to fight Goliath that day. On the next day, Goliath once again came to the valley. Once again he called for an Israelite soldier to come fight him. Once again no Israelite soldier was willing to fight him. Goliath came to the valley and shouted across to the Israelites each day for many days.

We said that there were eight boys in one family. How many of these sons went to battle? Yes, three of them did. That left this many (hold up five fingers). David (hold up “his” finger only), the youngest, had a job to do. His job was to watch the sheep in the field.

One day David’s father spoke to him. “David, go to the mountain where your brothers are fighting with the Israelite army. See how they are. Also, take this food to them. Then come back and tell me how they are doing.”

David’s first thought was for his sheep. Who would watch his sheep while he was gone? He would find someone. He did find someone to watch his sheep. Then he took the bundle of goods from his father and started on his journey toward the mountain where the army was. I think David was excited as he went. He was the youngest boy in the family. He would get to go where his big brothers were with the army. He had to walk a few miles to the mountain. As he got closer, I think he was listening for the noise of battle. He was probably listening for the clanging of swords together. He was listening for the shouts of voices in battle. As he got closer and closer, however, he did not hear any of these sounds. He climbed up the mountain. Soon he saw an officer of the army. He told him that his father had sent this food for his brothers. He left the food with him. He was anxious to find his brothers. He ran into the army. He soon found his three brothers.

“Hello, brothers, Daddy sent me. He gave me some food to bring to you. I gave the food to that army officer back there. How’s the battle going?” While David was talking with his brothers, Goliath once again came to the valley. He started to shout toward the Israelite army. The army became quiet while Goliath was yelling to them. David listened. David looked at the men of the Israelite army. He was amazed to see that they all looked frightened while Goliath talked. He saw them turn and run away from the side of the mountain, away from Goliath. David could hardly believe what he saw. David knew that the men of the Israelite army knew how great and powerful God is. David was saved, and he knew that the men of the Israelite army believed in God, too. Why would not any of them fight? I think that David asked about this. Some of the Israelite men said to David, “The king has offered a big reward to the man who will kill Goliath. The king will give this man great riches. The man can even marry the king’s daughter! But, no one wants to fight Goliath.”

David asked, “Who does that Philistine think he is? He does not know the great, living God. We do. Because God is all-powerful, He can do anything through us.” David’s big brother was angry with David when he heard these words. David’s big brother said, “Little David, who do you think you are? Why don’t you go back and keep the sheep? You don’t know what you’re talking about.” Maybe David’s big brother was ashamed to have David see him be afraid.

David asked, “Why should I go home this minute? Have I done anything wrong?” David went from soldier to soldier asking the same question, “Why doesn’t somebody do something! Somebody go fight Goliath.” David was sad because Goliath was able to make fun of God’s army, the Israelites. Goliath did not know the true, living God. None of the Philistines did. With God on the side of the Israelites, the Israelites should not have been afraid. David let everybody know that they should not have been afraid. David said, “I am not afraid. I will fight Goliath.” Someone heard David say this. That soldier took David to King Saul. King Saul probably was sitting in a very fancy tent.

King Saul said, “Why have you come to see me, young man?”

David said, “King Saul, I will go fight Goliath.”

King Saul said, “Oh, no, you are only a young man. Goliath has been a soldier from the time that he was young. He is now an older man and can fight much better than you can. I cannot let you go out to fight Goliath. You will surely be killed.”

“But I can fight Goliath. One day while I was watching my sheep, a lion and a bear came and took a little lamb from the flock. I was able to kill the lion and the bear and save my little lamb. God helped me to fight the lion and the bear. That same Lord will help me now to fight Goliath.”

King Saul decided to let David go. There was no one else who would fight Goliath. Saul decided, however, that David should wear some armor just like Goliath was wearing. King Saul had his own armor brought to David. King Saul’s servant put the armor on David—a helmet of metal, metal over his back and his chest, metal over his arms, and metal on his legs. David put on the armor. Then he tried to walk. He could not move, much less walk! He said, “I cannot wear this. It is too big for me. Besides, I do not need this armor; God will take care of me. I will win in the fight against Goliath.”

David got ready for battle. He took his shepherd’s staff in his hand. He walked over to the clear-flowing brook of water and bent down and chose five stones from the brook. He put the stones in the little pouch which he wore on his belt. With his slingshot in hand, David walked out of the camp of the Israelites. He went down the mountain side. He walked into the valley where Goliath was standing. As Goliath saw him coming, Goliath laughed. “Ho, ho, ho, who do the Israelites think I am—a dog? Look what a little man they sent out to fight me. Well, come closer little man; I will take care of you in a hurry!”

David was not frightened by the laugh nor the talk. He took one stone from the pouch on his belt, put it into his sling, whirled the sling ‘round and ‘round over his head, then let go of one end of the sling. The stone flew straight to its mark—into the forehead of Goliath. Goliath fell to the ground. David went to him to be sure that he was dead. Goliath was dead. The two armies who were watching could hardly believe their eyes. The Philistines knew for sure that Goliath would kill David. The Israelites were afraid that Goliath would kill David. David struggled to pick up Goliath’s sword. With Goliath’s sword, David chopped off Goliath’s head! The Philistine army turned and ran! The Israelite army ran after them, killed many and won the battle.

For everybody who trusts Jesus as his Saviour there is God’s protection. It’s as if God is holding us in His hand. Nobody can take those of us who love Jesus out of His hand. He loves us. He takes care of us. When we die, Jesus will take us to Heaven; we need never be afraid. Jesus loves us, and He takes care of us.

Let Jesus hold you in His hand. Let Jesus guide you every day of your life. To everyone who trusts Jesus as his Saviour, Jesus says, “*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*” John 10:28.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: John 10:28, “*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*”