

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets of our society. —Billy Graham

The biblical Goliath stood a towering 9 feet 6 inches. He had a helmet of bronze, a coat of mail, a shield and armor on his shins. For weapons, he carried a javelin of bronze, a spear and a sword in its sheath (1 Samuel 17:51). It was a terrifying sight. The shepherd boy David, on the other hand, was a youth who had no helmet, no armor, no sword, no javelin and no spear. His only weapon was a sling and five smooth stones (1 Samuel 17:38-40). He was an underdog in this fight if there ever was one.

When Goliath saw him, he sneered and said, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field” (v. 44). David accepted his invitation, running quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. He put his hand in his bag, took out a stone and slung it hard into Goliath’s forehead. Goliath fell to the ground and David cut off his head, using the giant’s own sword (vv. 48-51). Score one for the underdog.

Although you might think of this as a surprising victory, it actually makes perfect sense. Throughout history, Davids have found ways to conquer Goliaths. History teaches us that Davids are usually insurgents, creating novel strategies to defeat their enemies. They refuse to play by Goliath's rules, but, instead, adopt unconventional tactics.

Today is Father’s Day. Often children think of their fathers as slayers of Goliaths even if they are not familiar with the story. Fathers are all-powerful and all-knowing, the fixers of all things mechanical, and they can lift heavy objects and they provide a shield of safety for the home. This is how children view their dads.

Granted, I am aware that some of my readers may have grown up in a fatherless house, or with a father with some severe issues. Yet, we’re all aware of the ideal of the father who loves and cares for his family. Perhaps you were blessed with such a father.

This is such a strong image that God is often described as a father in the Bible. Everything that is positive about the father image, that’s what God is to us.

And for this we are thankful!

—Timothy Merrill, adapted from HomileticsOnline.com

Prayer: O God, thank you for the millions of fathers who are working hard to be good examples for their children. Bless them in a mighty way! Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday: John 14-17
- Monday: Hosea 11-14
- Tuesday: 2 Kings 18-19
- Wednesday: Isaiah 1-3
- Thursday: Isaiah 4-6
- Friday: Isaiah 7-9
- Saturday: Psalms 64-66

Verse to Remember

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

—John 14:6

SOUNDS THE SAME!

Homonyms are words with the same spelling but different pronunciations and meanings, such as a "minute" (60 seconds) and "minute" (very small). Each sentence below has two blanks that you are to fill with homonyms.

1. The strong _____ caused the flag to _____ around the flagpole.
2. The violinist replaced his violin and _____ before returning to the stage to take a _____.
3. The doctor _____ some gauze around her bleeding _____.
4. She got a _____ in her eye when she saw the _____ in her new dress.
5. A _____ broke out in the last _____ of the classroom.
6. You should not _____ someone in the _____ without water and food.
7. He _____ for days because he could not afford the scooter, a bright red _____.
8. Our Japanese host asked us not, for his _____, to drink all the _____ because he needed some for other guests.
9. The _____ violin player loved to fish, especially for _____.
10. In a herd of elk, you'll notice that _____ do not have antlers, while the dominant buck _____.



Answers: 1. wind, 2. bow, 3. wound, 4. tear, 5. row, 6. desert, 7. moped, 8. sake, 9. bass, 10. does