

# *Upper Elementary*

## *David and Goliath*

## Checklist

- rubber bands
- modeling dough
- butcher paper cut to 9'9" with Goliath drawn onto it
- masking tape
- print-outs
- 1 large stone with a "G" on it
- 5 small stones

Topic:	David & Goliath
Intro:	<p>Show the pictures of Robert Wadlow, the world's tallest man in modern history, (who was a very nice person). Have children name some of the tallest people they can think of (ie; basketball players). Talk about what things the biggest person around would be able to do. Talk about how if the biggest person around was a bully, how would that change how we feel about them? Goliath is estimated to be about 9'9" in our measuring system. About how much of a height difference was there between him and Robert Wadlow (who was still growing at the time of his early death)?</p>
map	<p>The Philistines came from the Mediterranean Sea and were known as "the Sea Peoples" back then. Around this time they had just been kicked out of Egypt and they were looking for land. They began invading Israel from the coast and were working their way inland.</p>
1 Samuel 17:4-7	<p>A champion out of the camp of the Philistines named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span went out. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he wore a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. He had bronze shin armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. The staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. His shield bearer went before him.</p>
masking tape	<p>Measure 9'9" in masking tape on the floor. Have each child lie down one at a time to be measured. Mark their height in a perpendicular piece of tape with their name on it.</p>



David and Goliath



Robert Wadlow, 1918-1940




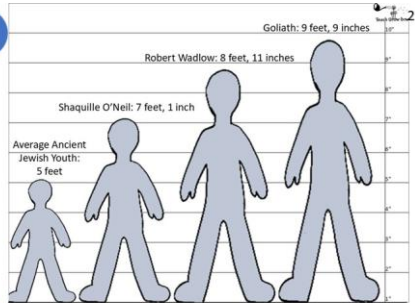
1 Samuel 17:4-7

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<p>1 Samuel 17:8-11</p>	<p>He stood and cried to the armies of Israel, and said to them, “Why have you come out to set your battle in array? Am I not a Philistine, and you servants to Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then will we be your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us.” The Philistine said, “I defy the armies of Israel today! Give me a man, that we may fight together!” When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.</p>
	<p>In ancient times, soldiers fought hand-to-hand with swords. Sometimes, to avoid having so many soldiers get hurt, each army would have their best, strongest, bravest soldier fight. This man was called a champion. This way, only one person would die. But whichever side lost became slaves to the other. The winning army would get all their belongings.</p>





Goliath: 9 feet, 9 inches  
Robert Wadlow: 8 feet, 11 inches  
Shaquille O'Neil: 7 feet, 1 inch  
Average Ancient Jewish Youth: 5 feet



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1 Samuel 17:12-15

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	Even though David had been anointed as the next king of Israel, he was still running errands for his father and older brothers, rather than acting like he was better than them.
	People often wonder how old David was. The Bible doesn't tell us his age, just that he was a "youth." But it does give us some clues to help us guess. According to Numbers 1:45, Israelite men 20 years and older fought in the army. David was the youngest of 8 sons. The three oldest were in the army, which means David likely had four older brothers who were younger than 20. Most babies were born about two years apart. Assuming there were no older sisters or twin brothers, about how old do you think David was?
1 Samuel 17:26, 31-33	David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done to the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"...When the words were heard which David spoke, they rehearsed them before Saul; and he sent for him. David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."



After being anointed as the next king, David

- Acted important
- Still followed instructions



According to Numbers 1:45, Israelite men had to be 20 years old in order to fight in the army. David was the youngest of 8 sons. The three oldest were in the army, which means David had four older brothers who were younger than 20. Most babies were born about two years apart. Assuming there were no older sisters or twin brothers, about how old do you think David was?



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The Israelites had asked for a king so they could be just like all the other nations around them. And that is what they got, a king just like all the other nations' kings. One who relied on the power of his army instead of the power of God. Saul was shocked to see someone so young acting so brave. How did Saul react to Goliath's challenge? (he and all Israel were dismayed and afraid) How did David react to Goliath's challenge? (God will deliver him as punishment for insulting Him)

1 Samuel 17:34-37  
 David said to Saul, "Your servant was keeping his father's sheep; and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after him, struck him, and rescued it out of his mouth. When he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, struck him, and killed him. Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." David said, "Yahweh, who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go! Yahweh will be with you."

When David was working as a shepherd boy, he had to protect his father's sheep from a bear and a lion. Taking care of sheep was not an important job, but God used that time in David's life as training for a bigger challenge. Right now it might not seem like the jobs God gives you are that important. But if you are faithful in what He trusts you with right now, He may be preparing you for much bigger things in your future.

It would have been about a five-hour walk from Bethlehem to the Valley of Elah. David also was a harp player for King Saul. We don't know how much time was spent with Saul and how much was spent with his father's flock, but it seems he regularly traveled back and forth to do both jobs. David was certainly busy!

How did Saul react to Goliath's challenge?

How did David react to Goliath's challenge?

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1 Samuel  
17:38-40

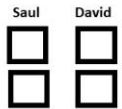
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Unlike Saul, David knew that armor and strong weapons were not the way to defeat Goliath. He realized that the battle was in God's hands. What other examples can you think of when God solved problems in strange ways? (Joshua blowing trumpets to take down the walls of Jericho, Gideon sneaking into the enemy camp with torches inside of jars) God wanted to make it clear that He was in charge.

Trusted in God



Some people argue that it seems like Saul didn't know who David was, even though only a chapter earlier we learn that David was Saul's personal servant. Although Saul doesn't say, "Oh, it's you, my personal musician!" he also doesn't ask who David is. As king, even if he was fond of one servant more than another, it would have still been expected for him to act formally and impersonal with his staff. It makes sense that as Saul's armor-bearer, Saul would accept David's offer to fight (albeit after some arguing), rather than simply sending him away. The fact that Saul gave David his own armor seems to show that there was already a level of trust for him.

1 Samuel 17:41-45  
 The Philistine walked and came near to David; and the man who bore the shield went before him. When the Philistine looked around and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and had a good looking face. The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" The Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and to the animals of the field." Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of Yahweh of Armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

butcher paper  
 Goliath, rubber bands, play-doh  
 Tape butcher paper Goliath to wall. Let children roll balls out of play-doh. They can each take turns with a rubber band, using it as a sling shot to aim for Goliath's head, from the opposite side of the room.

1 Samuel 17:48-49  
 When the Philistine arose, and walked and came near to meet David, David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine in his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

Closing:  
 Play a game of marbles, but with stones: Use masking tape to mark off a large square on the floor with a small X in the center. Place the large stone with a G on the X in the center of the square. Have the children sit at the edge of the square and TAKE TURNS SLIDING their David rocks to knock Goliath out of the square. Make sure you show the children how to slide their rocks (not throw them) before you get started. Alternatively, let one child try to knock Goliath out and count how many tries it takes them before letting the next child have a turn.

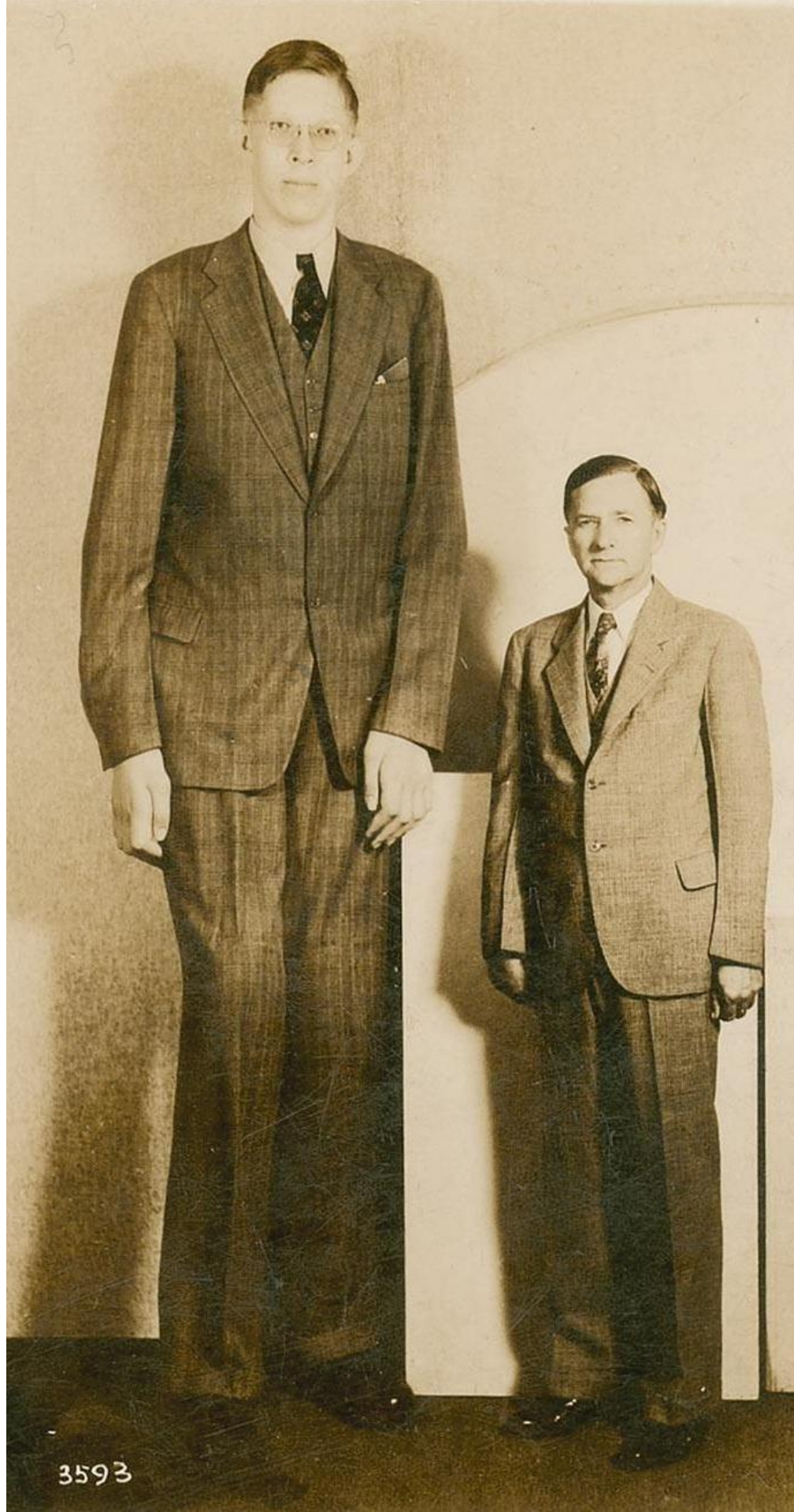
**HOLY BIBLE** 1 Samuel 17:41-45 5

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Front of postcard of Robert Wadlow (left) with his average-size father (right). Taken some time before 1937.



"Robert Wadlow (left) and Jack Grissom, playmates at Alton, IL, are both 10 years old. Robert is six feet, six inches tall and weights 211 pounds. Jack is four feet, two inches-about normal for a boy of his age."

*The Pittsburgh Press,*  
October 28, 1928

# Map of Philistine Cities and Conquests

[bible history online](http://biblehistoryonline.com), CC0, via Wikimedia Commons



10"

Goliath: 9 feet, 9 inches

9"

Robert Wadlow: 8 feet, 11 inches

8"

Shaquille O'Neil: 7 feet, 1 inch

7"

6"

Average Ancient Jewish Youth: 5 feet

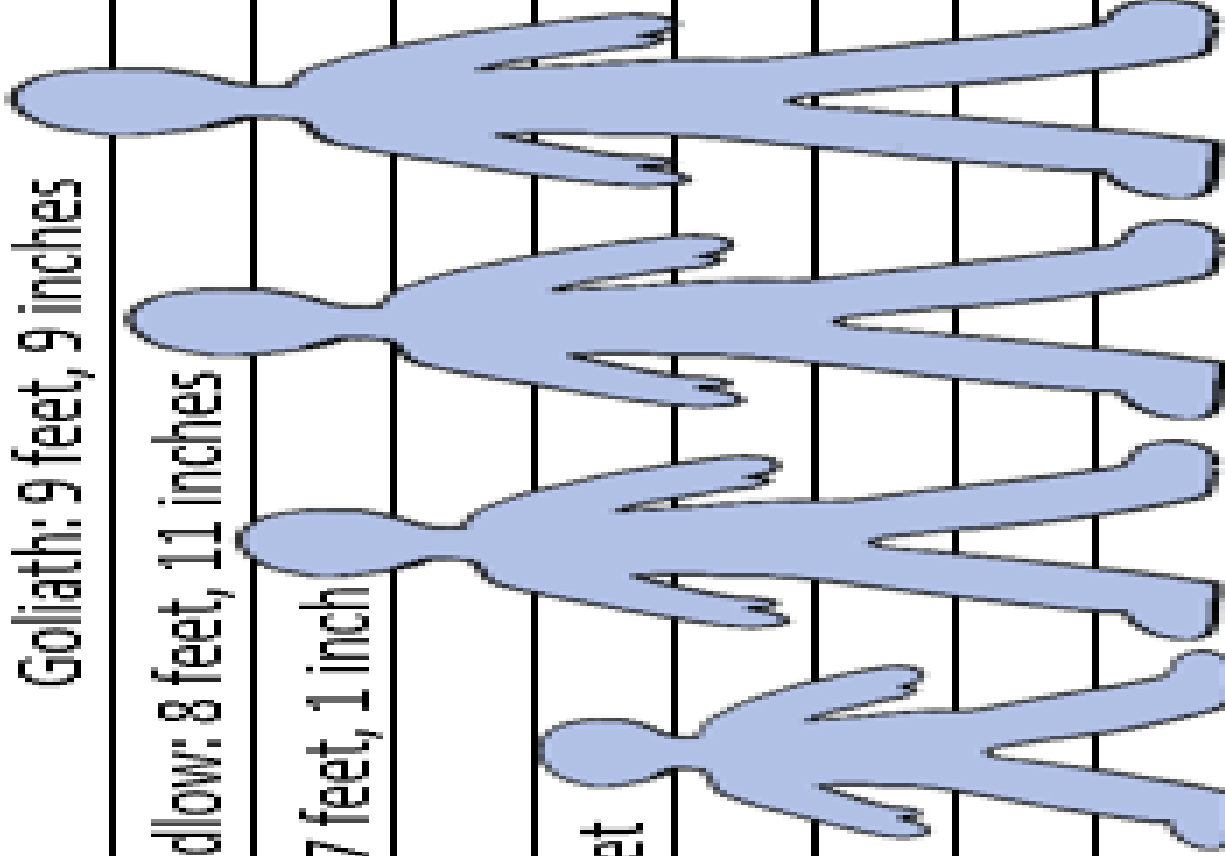
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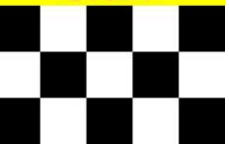
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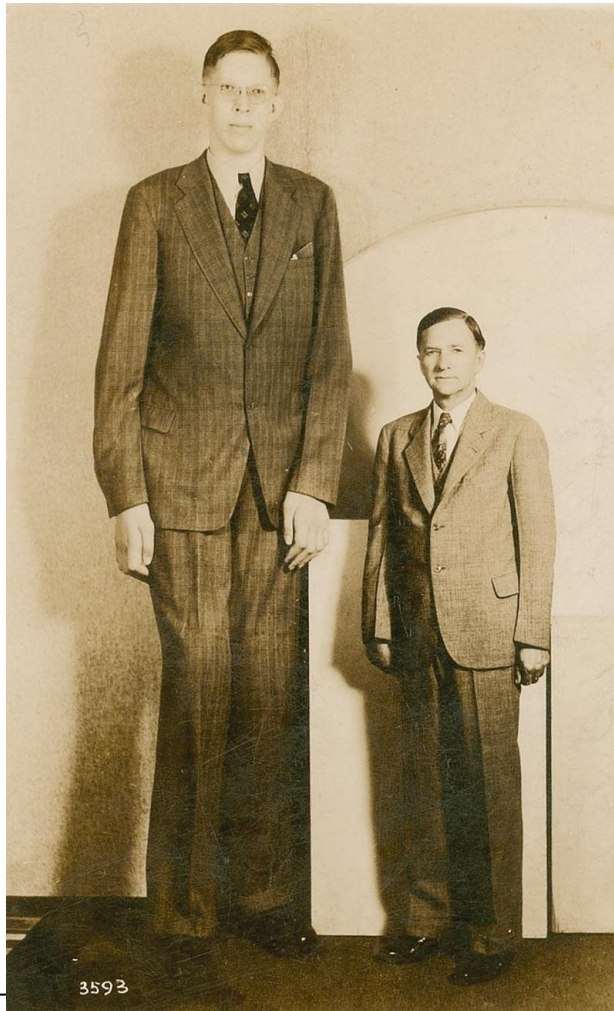
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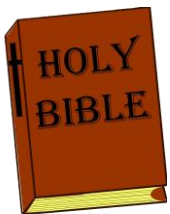
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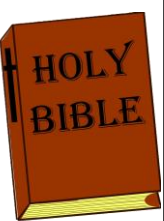
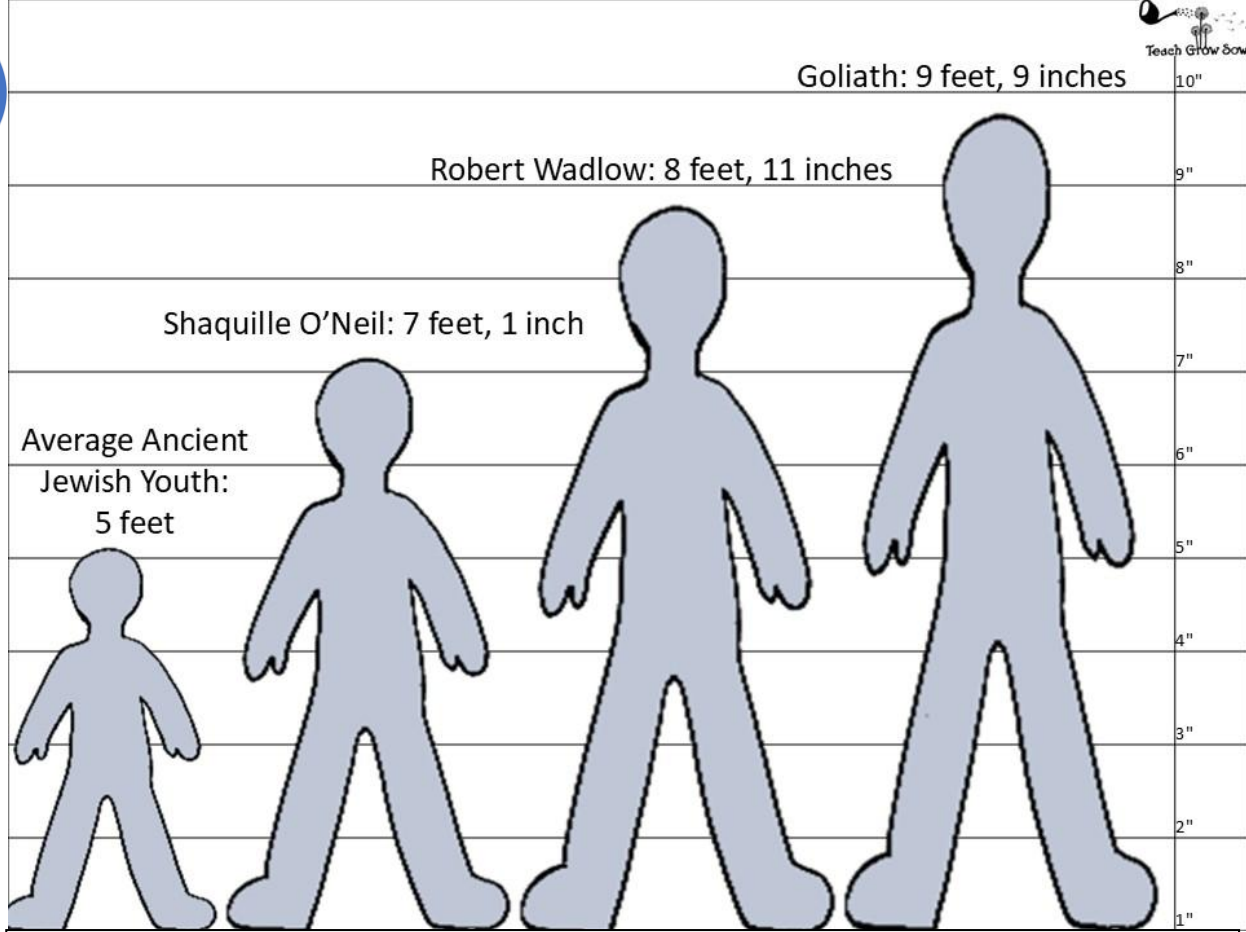
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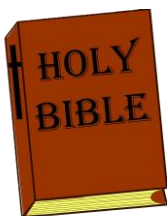
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BIBLE

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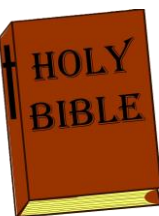
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**Saul**

**David**

**Trusted in God**



**Trusted in the sword**


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**Goliath****David****Rock and sling****Sword and spear**

# David & Goliath



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Q	D	A	V	I	D	O	P	X	C	P
W	R	R	A	D	R	I	L	G	V	H
E	T	M	Z	B	E	A	R	O	B	I
T	Y	Y	X	F	H	U	K	L	N	L
O	U	S	C	G	P	Y	J	I	M	I
H	S	T	O	N	E	S	H	A	L	S
S	I	D	V	H	H	T	G	T	K	T
G	O	F	B	J	S	R	F	H	J	I
N	P	G	L	K	D	P	D	Z	H	N
I	L	U	I	L	S	E	E	A	G	E
L	A	H	O	M	A	W	S	A	F	S
S	K	J	N	N	Q	S	W	O	R	D

DAVID

GOLIATH

PHILISTINES

STONES

SAUL

ARMY

SHEPHERD

LION

BEAR

SLINGSHOT

SPEAR

SWORD