



1 Samuel 17:32 (NIV)  
David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Every year, on "Christ the King" Sunday, we celebrate Jesus Christ as the eternal New Testament king of our hearts and souls. Today's story is about a famous Old Testament king of the people of Israel, an ancestor of Jesus. His name is David.

David is Ruth's great-grandson. There are many stories about David in the Bible, and many Psalms that he wrote. Our Leadership leaf for David is INITIATIVE. Showing INITIATIVE means figuring out what needs to be done and taking action. David shows INITIATIVE in this story.

When we meet David, he is a young boy. Not at all a king yet. He lives with his father Jesse and his seven older brothers in Bethlehem. David takes care of Jesse's sheep. David has practiced some skills while he has been shepherding. He is a good musician. He also has good aim from slinging stones at wild animals that might attack his sheep.

King Saul tells Jesse to send David to help him. He expects that David will play music for him, but young David does a surprising thing. Saul's army of Israelites is fighting the Philistines. A Philistine soldier named Goliath challenges the Israelites to send just one champion to fight him, instead of having the whole armies fight. Goliath is big and strong and confident that he can beat any of the Israelites. David volunteers to fight Goliath. David says that the strength of God will help him defeat the Philistine.

So David goes to fight Goliath. David's brothers and all of Saul's army are watching. Goliath looks scarier than ever. He is wearing a helmet and heavy armor. He is carrying a javelin and spear and has a shield for protection. Saul dresses David in his own armor and helmet. But David can't even walk in the heavy armor made for King Saul. David decides to trust God and take action in his own way. David refuses to wear any armor or to put on a helmet. He waits for the giant Goliath in his regular clothes. He only brings five smooth stones and his slingshot. As Goliath comes toward David, David slings a stone at Goliath's forehead and kills him. Now Goliath is dead and the Philistine army is defeated! David is a hero!

Years later, David became King. He still relied on the strength of God to make God's people strong.

