



ST JAMES'
Church of England
Primary School



Our Christian values

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| Autumn 1 perseverance | The Story of Nehemiah Rebuilding the Wall (Nehemiah 1–6) | The Flood Begins (Genesis 7: 1-10) |
| Autumn 2 compassion | The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18: 12-14) | The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) |
| Spring 1 honesty | The Story of The Widow's Offering (Mark 12: 41–44) | Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10) |
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| Summer 1 peace | The Beatitudes: "Blessed are the Peacemakers" (Matthew 5: 3-12) | Jesus Stops a Storm (Mark 4: 35–41) |
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**Perseverance
is keeping on
trying, even
when things
are hard.**

A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Perseverance

The Flood Begins Genesis 7:1-10

God was sad. Very sad. Everywhere he looked, he saw people making bad choices. Hating each other. Hurting each other. Making a mess of his beautiful world.

'I need to start all over again,' God decided. 'I need to make my world clean.' And that's when he talked to Noah.

Noah was not like the rest. He was a good man and God knew it. So God told him to build a boat. A boat big enough to hold:

Noah,
his wife,
his three sons,
their wives,
a pair of every animal in the world,
and food enough to feed all of them for a very long time!

Noah's family was surprised when he told them what he was going to do.

Noah's neighbours thought it strange of him to build a boat so far from the sea.

And it wasn't easy chasing, and catching, and cleaning up after all those animals.

But Noah was a good man. He did what God told him - even when it was hard.

At last, when they were all tucked safely away in the boat, God shut the door. And then it started to rain.

It rained for forty days.

It rained for forty nights.

It rained harder than Noah had ever seen it rain before.

It rained so hard that the streams, and the rivers, and even the seas burst their banks and shores and began to flood. Soon every sandy beach, every rocky path, every patch of muddy earth had disappeared beneath the water.

And the boat began to float.

It floated above the houses. It floated above the trees. It floated above the hills, and then above the mountains too.

It floated for days and weeks and months.

And then it stopped: stuck at the top of a tall mountain.

Noah opened a window to look out. The water was going down, but the world was far from dry.

So he sent out a dove. And when the dove did not come back, Noah knew that it had found a dry place to build its nest.

'Come out!' God called finally. 'Come out of the boat! The world is dry. The world is clean. And now you and your family and all the animals must have children and fill it full of life again!'

'Hooray!' Noah celebrated. And he thanked God for saving him.

God was happy too. So he painted the world's first rainbow in the sky - to celebrate his fresh, clean world.

And to promise that he would never send a flood like that again.



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A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Perseverance

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall based on Nehemiah 1–6

A long time ago, the city of Jerusalem was in trouble. Its big, strong wall had been broken down, and the gates were burned. Without walls, the people were not safe. Enemies could come and go as they pleased.

Far away in a land called Persia, a man named Nehemiah worked as a cupbearer for the king. One day, he heard about the broken wall in Jerusalem and how sad the people were.

Nehemiah's heart was broken. He wanted to help. He prayed to God and asked for strength. Then, he went to the king and said, "Please let me go to Jerusalem and rebuild the wall."

The king agreed and gave Nehemiah everything he needed for the journey.

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he looked at the broken wall. Stones were everywhere. It was a huge job. But Nehemiah didn't give up. He called the people together and said, "Let's rebuild the wall! God will help us!"

The people cheered and started to work. Some built the gates, some lifted stones, and others watched for danger. Everyone had a job.

But not everyone was happy. Some enemies laughed at Nehemiah. "You'll never finish!" they said. "That wall is too broken!"

Others tried to stop the work and even threatened to attack the workers. But Nehemiah didn't give up. He said, "Don't be afraid! God is with us!" He told the people to work with one hand and hold a sword in the other, just in case.

Day after day, brick after brick, the wall slowly grew taller. The people got tired. Their hands hurt. The sun was hot. But still, they worked.

Nehemiah kept encouraging them. "We're doing God's work," he said. "Let's keep going!"

Even when the enemies tried to trick Nehemiah into stopping, he said, "I'm doing a great work, and I will not come down!"

Because Nehemiah and the people **didn't give up**, they finished building the wall in just 52 days! Everyone was amazed. The wall was strong again, and the people were safe. They had done something incredible—because they worked together, trusted God, and **persevered**.

Moral of the story:

Nehemiah showed that when something is hard, you don't give up. Even when others laugh or try to stop you, keep going. When you believe in what's right and trust God, you can finish strong—just like Nehemiah did.

*So whether you're doing homework, helping a friend, or learning something new—**don't give up!** Keep going with perseverance.*



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Compassion is
being kind and
caring,
understanding
when someone's
having a tough
time.

A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Compassion

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

Jesus was teaching one day when a man in the crowd asked him a question.

'Can you tell me, Jesus, what I have to do to live forever?'

Jesus smiled. 'Love God,' he answered, 'and love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.'

'But who is my neighbour?' asked the man, hoping to trick Jesus. 'Is he just the fellow who lives next door?'

'Let me tell you a story,' Jesus said, 'and I think you will understand.'

'Once upon a time, there was a man - a man like any one of us - who was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Now as you all know, that is a very dangerous road. It's twisty and it's steep, and there's no end of places for robbers and thieves to hide. Well, the robbers were waiting that day. And they grabbed the man. And they beat him. And they took his money and left him to die.'

'Oh dear,' sighed the crowd. They felt sorry for the man.

Jesus went on with his story.

'In a little while, another man came walking down that road - a priest, on his way home from worshipping God at the Temple. He saw the dying man, and what do you think he did?'

'He helped him!' shouted someone in the crowd.

'He saved him!' shouted another.

'No!' said Jesus, firmly. 'He did not. He took one look at that poor, beaten man, then crossed to the other side of road and walked away.'

'Oh my,' the crowd murmured.

'Wait,' Jesus continued. 'Soon another man passed by. He served God at the Temple too. So what do you think this man did when he saw the wounded traveller?'

'He ran for help!' shouted someone.

'He raised the alarm!' shouted another.

'No!' said Jesus, again. 'He did not. Just like the priest, he crossed to the other side of the road and left that poor man to die.'

'Oh no,' the crowd sighed.

'Don't worry,' said Jesus. 'For there was one more man who passed by that day. And he was a Samaritan.'

'A Samaritan?' shouted someone. 'They're different from us!'

'We hate Samaritans!' shouted another.

'And they hate us!' added a third.

'So I've heard,' nodded Jesus. But when this Samaritan saw the man, he did not walk away. No. He bandaged his wounds. He loaded him on donkey. He took him to a nearby inn. And he paid for that man to stay there until he was well.'

Jesus looked at the man who had asked him the question. 'So tell me,' he said, 'which of these men was a neighbour to the man who had been robbed?'

'The third one. The Samaritan,' the man answered.

'That's right,' Jesus smiled. 'Because my neighbour is anyone who needs my help. Now you go and help your neighbour too.'



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A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Compassion

The Parable of the Lost Sheep based on Matthew 18: 12-14

Jesus loved to teach people using stories called parables. One day, He told a story about a shepherd and his sheep.

"There once was a shepherd who had 100 sheep," Jesus began. "He loved every single one of them. Each sheep had a name, and the shepherd knew them all. He cared for them, led them to green grass, and kept them safe from harm."

The children listening to Jesus smiled. They liked the sound of that kind and caring shepherd.

"But one day," Jesus said, "the shepherd was counting his sheep, and he noticed something was wrong. 'Ninety-seven... ninety-eight... ninety-nine... Wait!' he cried. 'One is missing!'"

The shepherd didn't say, "Oh well, I still have 99 sheep." No! He was worried. He loved **each** of his sheep, even the one that wandered off. So, he left the 99 safe sheep behind and went searching for the lost one.

He looked in the tall grass. He checked behind rocks and trees. He listened carefully for a soft "baa." Finally, he heard it—a tiny sound coming from a bush.

There was the lost sheep! It was scared, cold, and stuck in the brambles. The shepherd gently lifted the sheep and held it close. "I've found you!" he said with a big smile.

He didn't scold the sheep or say, "Why did you run away?" Instead, he felt **compassion**—that means he understood the sheep was scared and needed help. He cared more about helping than blaming.

The shepherd carried the sheep all the way home. When he got back, he called his friends and neighbors and said, "Rejoice with me! I've found my lost sheep!"

Then Jesus said, "In the same way, God is full of compassion. When someone is lost or makes a mistake, He doesn't get angry. He searches for them, loves them, and welcomes them back with joy."

Jesus wanted everyone to know that **no one is too small, too far, or too lost to be loved.**

Moral of the story:

Like the shepherd, we should care for others with compassion. When someone is sad, alone, or has made a mistake, we can show kindness instead of anger. Compassion means helping, forgiving, and loving others just like Jesus loves us.

So when you see someone who feels left out or has made a wrong choice, be like the shepherd—kind, patient, and full of love. Because one small act of compassion can bring someone home.



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**Honesty is
telling the
truth, even
when it's hard.**

A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Honesty

Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10

'Jesus is coming!' somebody shouted. 'Jesus is coming to Jericho!' And everybody ran to meet him. Well, almost everybody. For there was one man - one wee little man - who did not run to meet Jesus. And his name was Zacchaeus.

It's not that Zacchaeus didn't want to see Jesus. He did. He really did. But, not only was Zacchaeus short, he was also afraid of the crowd. Not many people liked him, you see. Partly because he was a tax collector. But mostly because he collected more taxes than he was supposed to - and kept what was left for himself.

'Jesus is here!' somebody shouted. 'Jesus is here in Jericho!' And everybody cheered as he walked through the city gates.

Well, almost everybody. For Zacchaeus did not feel like cheering at all. He wanted to see Jesus. He really did. But how could he walk out there in front of all those people he'd cheated? And what would they do if they got hold of him? Then Zacchaeus had an idea. There were trees by the city gates - tall, leafy trees. If he could sneak behind the crowd and climb one of those trees, he could see Jesus - and not be seen himself!

So off he went - out of his house and through the empty streets. And because the crowd was watching Jesus, he had no trouble at all slipping behind them and shinning up a tree.

'Come, eat at my house!' somebody shouted. 'Come, eat at my house, Jesus!' And because it was a great honour to host someone as important as Jesus, everybody shouted at once. Well, almost everybody.

For there was one man - one wee little man - who kept his mouth shut and tried hard not to rustle the branches.

'Thank you very much,' said Jesus. 'You are very kind. But I have already decided where I will eat my dinner.' Then Jesus looked straight at the trees and called, 'Zacchaeus! Zacchaeus, come down! I'm eating at your house today.'

'Zacchaeus?' somebody shouted. 'Jesus is eating with Zacchaeus? He's the worst man in town. There must be some mistake!' And everybody moaned and groaned.

Well, almost everybody. One man - one wee little man - climbed down from the tree, as shocked as the rest. Why would someone as good as Jesus want to eat with someone bad like him? But he was happy too. Happier than he'd been for a long, long time. And so, with a smile spreading across his face, Zacchaeus led Jesus to his house.

'What are they saying?' somebody whispered. 'What are they doing in there?' And everybody gathered around the taxman's door.

That's when Zacchaeus threw open his door with a bang!

'Greetings, everyone!' he shouted. 'I have an announcement to make. I've been talking with my new friend, Jesus, and realize that there are a few things I need to change. I've cheated some of you. I admit that. And I want you to know that I'm sorry. So sorry, in fact, that I will pay you back four times more than I stole from you! What's more, I intend to sell half of what I own and give the money to the poor!'

The crowd was shocked. Never, in their whole lives, had they seen anyone change like that! They stood there with their mouths wide open.

And nobody said a thing.

Well, almost nobody.

Don't you see?' said Jesus to the crowd. 'God has sent me to share his love with everybody - even those who have done some very bad things. That's what I have done. And now Zacchaeus loves God too.'

That's when the crowd began to cheer. Jesus. And Zacchaeus. And the whole town of Jericho.

Everybody.



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**Honesty is
telling the
truth, even
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A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Honesty

The Story of The Widow's Offering based on Mark 12: 41–44

One day, Jesus and His disciples went to the temple. The temple was a special place where people came to pray and give their offerings to God.

There was a large box at the front of the temple where people would drop in money as a gift to God. This money helped take care of the temple and helped people in need.

Jesus and His disciples sat nearby and watched as many people came to give their offerings. Some rich people came forward and put in large amounts of money. They stood tall and proud. The coins made loud clinking sounds as they dropped into the box, and everyone could hear them.

Then, something different happened.

A poor woman came forward. She was a widow, which means her husband had died. She didn't have much money. In fact, she only had two small coins—just a few cents. But those two coins were all she had. She walked quietly to the offering box and gently dropped in her two tiny coins. Then she turned and walked away.

Jesus smiled and said to His disciples, "Did you see that? This poor widow gave more than all the others." The disciples were confused. "But Jesus," one of them said, "she only gave two coins! The others gave so much more."

Jesus explained, "The rich people gave from what they had left over. It didn't really cost them anything. But this woman gave everything she had. She was honest and gave from her heart."

This story is not just about giving money—it's about **honesty** too.

The widow didn't pretend to be rich. She didn't try to hide how little she had. She didn't say, "Look at me!" or try to impress anyone. She was honest about what she could give, and she gave it with love.

Sometimes, people try to act like they have more than they do. They might try to look better than others or pretend to be something they're not. But God sees what's in our hearts.

Jesus showed us that being honest—about who we are, what we have, and how we give—is more important than showing off.

So, whether we give a little or a lot, speak up or stay quiet, do a big job or a small one, we should always be honest and do it with love.

Moral of the story:

God doesn't care about how much we give or how important we look. He cares about our hearts. Being honest and true is one of the most special gifts we can give.



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Forgiveness is
letting go of
feeling angry or
resentful at
someone
(including
yourself).

A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Forgiveness

An Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18:21-35

Peter asked Jesus a question.

'If somebody hurts me,' he said, 'and then says, "I'm really sorry", how many times should I forgive him and say, "Hey, that's OK"?''

Before Jesus could answer, however, Peter offered an answer of his own.

He thought it would sound good.

He thought it would sound big-hearted.

He thought it would be the kind of thing Jesus would like to hear.

'Should I forgive him... seven times?' he said.

It seemed like a lot of times to Peter. But Jesus was not impressed.

'No,' answered Jesus. 'Not seven times. But seventy TIMES seven times!'

Peter did some quick sums. That was a lot of times. A whole lot of times! More times than Peter had ever forgiven anybody.

So Jesus told him a story.

'Once there was a king. And one of his servants owed him money.

Not a little money. Not lots of money. But loads and loads and loads of money - millions and millions and more!

One day the servant was brought before the king. And because he could not pay what he owed, the king commanded that the man and his family should be sold as slaves.

The servant fell to his knees.

"I'm really sorry!" he cried. "Be patient with me, please. Just give me another chance. And I promise I will pay back everything I owe."

The king looked at his servant. He felt sorry for him. And then, much to the servant's surprise, the king smiled and said, "Hey, that's OK." Then he called off the debt, and set him free.

The servant left the palace, celebrating. And that's when he ran into another servant - a servant who owed HIM money.

Not loads of money. Not a lot of money, either. A couple of coins - that's all.

Did the first servant remember what the king had done for him? Not for a minute. He grabbed the second servant by the throat and demanded to be paid.

So the second servant fell to his knees.

"I'm really sorry!" he cried. "Be patient with me, please. Give me another chance and I will pay back everything I owe."

But instead of saying, "Hey, that's OK," the first servant had the second servant thrown into jail!

Word of this got back to the king. And he was so angry that he had the first servant dragged before him again.

"When you came to me and said, 'I'm really sorry,' I called off your debt and said, 'Hey, that's OK.' Why couldn't you do the same?"

And with that, the king had the servant thrown into jail until he could repay what he owed.'

Jesus looked at his friend. 'God is like that king. "I'm really sorry." That's what we say to him - more times than we can count. And even more times than that, he tells us "Hey, that's OK." And all he really wants is for us to tell that to each other too.'

'I'm really sorry,' said Peter. 'I didn't understand.'

And Jesus just smiled and said, 'Hey, that's OK.'



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Forgiveness is
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A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Forgiveness

The Prodigal Son based on Luke 15: 11-32

Once upon a time, there was a kind and loving father who had two sons. They lived on a big farm and worked together every day.

One day, the younger son went to his father and said, "Father, I want my part of the money now. I don't want to wait. I want to go and see the world."

His father was sad, but he gave his son the money. The younger son packed his things and left home. He traveled far away to a new land.

At first, he had lots of fun. He spent all his money on parties, fancy clothes, and new friends. But soon, the money ran out. His new friends left him. He had no food and nowhere to live.

The young man got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry, he wished he could eat the pigs' food. That's when he remembered his father.

He thought, "Even the workers on my father's farm have food to eat. I will go home and say sorry. I will ask to be a servant, not a son."

So, he began the long walk home. He was scared. What if his father was angry? What if he didn't forgive him?

But while he was still far away, his father saw him coming. The father ran to his son, gave him a big hug, and kissed him.

"Father," said the son, "I'm sorry. I made a big mistake. I don't deserve to be your son."

But the father said, "Quick! Bring him clean clothes! Put a ring on his finger! Prepare a big feast! My son was lost, and now he is found!"

The older brother was working in the fields. When he heard music and dancing, he asked what was happening.

A servant said, "Your brother has come home! Your father is throwing a party!"

The older brother was angry. "I stayed and worked hard. No one threw a party for me."

The father came to him and said, "Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But your brother was lost and now he is found. He came back, and we must forgive and celebrate."

And so, the whole family was together again. The father showed love and forgiveness to both his sons.

Moral of the story: No matter how far we go or how many mistakes we make, we can always return home. Forgiveness brings love, peace, and joy.



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Peace is
about being
calm and
content.

A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Peace

Jesus Stops a Storm Mark 4:35-41

It was a perfect day.

The sky was blue. The lake too.

And a gentle breeze whipped the wave tips white and foamy.

Jesus sat at the side of the lake and talked to the people about God.

'God is your Father,' he said. 'He dresses the flowers in beautiful colours. He makes sure the birds have enough to eat. But you are his sons and his daughters. Don't you think he can clothe and feed you too? So trust him, and stop worrying your lives away.'

When Jesus had finished teaching, he was tired. So he called his closest friends, and together they piled into a boat and set off across the lake for home.

Jesus yawned. He stretched. He laid his head down and, to the rhythm of the waves and the rocking of the boat, he fell asleep. It was the perfect end to a perfect day!

And then, suddenly, the day was not so perfect.

The sky turned black. The lake too.

And a wild wind stirred the waves up tall and stormy.

The boat rocked right. The boat rocked left. The boat rocked up and down. The boat rocked so hard, in fact, that Jesus' friends were sure they would all drown.

But Jesus slept right through it - except for the odd snuffle and snore.

'Jesus!' his friends called at last. 'Jesus! Wake up! We're all going to drown!'

So Jesus woke up. Then he sat up. Then he rubbed his eyes and he stood up. It was all anybody else could do to stay on their feet. But Jesus stood up! And then, very calmly he said to the wind,

'Quiet now.' And he said to the waves, 'Settle down.'

And they did!

Then Jesus turned to his friends and said, 'You didn't need to be frightened. You didn't have to worry. All you had to do was trust me. See, everything is calm'

And so it was. The sky was blue. The lake too. And the little waves splashed happily at the side of the boat. It was a perfect day again!

Moral of the story:

Sometimes life feels like a storm. We might be worried about school, feel upset with friends, or be scared of something we don't understand. But when we remember that Jesus is with us, we can find peace in our hearts—even in the middle of trouble.

Peace doesn't mean the storm goes away right away. But it means we can stay calm and trust that Jesus is in control.

So the next time you feel worried or afraid, take a deep breath, say a prayer, and remember what Jesus said: "Peace. Be still."

Let His peace fill your heart—just like He filled that stormy sea with calm.

Key message:

Jesus brings peace that no storm can take away. Trust Him, and He will calm your heart.



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Peace is
about being
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A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Peace

The Beatitudes: "Blessed are the Peacemakers" based on Matthew 5: 3-12)

One day, Jesus went up a hill with His disciples and a large crowd followed Him. Everyone wanted to hear what He had to say. So Jesus sat down and began to teach. This special message is called the **Sermon on the Mount**, and it is full of blessings. These blessings are called the **Beatitudes**.

One of the things Jesus said was:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

The people listened carefully. Some wondered, "What is a peacemaker?"

A peacemaker is someone who brings peace. That means they help people get along. They stop fights, fix problems, and spread kindness. A peacemaker doesn't shout or fight back. Instead, they listen, forgive, and find gentle ways to solve problems.

Jesus wanted everyone to know that being a peacemaker is a very special thing. In fact, He said peacemakers are like **children of God**—because they are doing what God does.

Let's think about what that might look like.

Imagine two friends are arguing over a toy. A peacemaker might say, "Let's take turns," or "Why don't we find something you both enjoy?" Instead of taking sides or yelling, they try to bring people together.

Maybe someone is feeling sad or left out at school. A peacemaker notices and says, "Come play with us!" They make others feel safe and welcome.

Being a peacemaker doesn't always mean everything is easy. Sometimes it's hard work. It takes courage to be kind when others are not. But Jesus promises that those who try to bring peace will be blessed.

Jesus Himself was the greatest peacemaker. He helped people forgive, He healed the hurting, and He showed love to everyone—even those who were unkind to Him. Jesus came to bring peace between people and God, and between each other.

When we choose peace, we are acting like Jesus. We are showing the world what God's love looks like.

Moral of the story:

Jesus calls us to be **peacemakers**. That means we speak kindly, forgive others, and help people get along. We don't always have to win or be right—we choose love instead.

So the next time you see a problem or someone feeling hurt, ask yourself, "What would a peacemaker do?" And remember, when you bring peace, you are showing that you are truly a child of God.

Key message:

Blessed are the peacemakers—because peace is powerful, and those who share it bring God's love into the world.



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Courage is
doing
something
difficult because
you feel it's the
right thing.

A Bible story to illustrate our Christian value

Courage

David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17

Goliath was big. He had to stoop to get through doorways. His head was always bumping up against the ceiling. And his friends thought twice before inviting him to dinner.

Goliath had a big spear. Ten feet long, at least. With a big iron point. And his big bronze armour weighed a hundred pounds or more.

Goliath had a big voice, too.

And, one day, he used it. He stamped out in front of his army of Philistines and shouted across the valley to the soldiers camped on the other side.

'I am Goliath!' he bellowed. 'And I dare any of you to come and fight me. Win the fight, and we will be your slaves. Lose, and you must work for us.'

David was little.

Just a boy, really, who looked after the sheep. When he wanted a break from that, he carried cheese to his brothers in the army. And that's what he was doing one day, when he heard Goliath shout.

David was a little angry.

'Who does that giant think he is?' huffed David. 'Doesn't he know that the Lord God himself watches over us? Why, with God's help, even I could beat that bully.'

So David took a little walk. He went to see the king.

'I want to fight the giant,' he announced. The king almost fell off his throne.

'But you are so little,' said the king. 'And he is so big!'

'A lion is big,' answered David. 'And so is a bear. But when they came after my sheep, the Lord God helped me face them and fight them off. He will do the same with this giant.'

'All right,' the king agreed. 'But at least let me lend you my armour.' The armour was big. Too big. And so heavy that David could hardly move.

So he gave it back. And picked up five little stones instead. And a sling. And his trusty shepherd's staff.

Goliath gave a big laugh when he saw the little shepherd boy.

And he took two big steps.

David ran a little way.

Two more giant steps for Goliath.

And David ran a little further.

They were in the middle of the valley now, and everything was quiet.

Goliath roared a big roar, sucked in a big breath of air, and raised his big spear.

David sneaked his little hand into his little pouch, pulled out a little stone and slipped it in his sling. Then he spun it round his head and let it fly.

And before the giant could say another word, the stone struck him on the head, and he fell with a big thud to the ground.

David's side shouted a big 'Hooray!'

Goliath's side whispered a little 'Uh-oh'

And from then on, some pretty big things happened to the little shepherd boy. He was given a king's reward. He was promised the hand of the king's daughter in marriage. And, one day, he became king himself!

The very best king God's people ever had.