

GOD IS WITH US ALWAYS. DO NOT BE AFRAID.

The verse for this week comes from the **Book of Joshua**. We sang this song in Vacation Bible School and the verse is a wonderful one to memorize so we can repeat it whenever a big problem comes up or we are afraid.

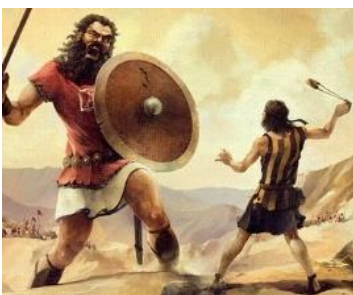
Joshua was a great man of God. He was a brave warrior and God protected him. God said this verse to him before he was to lead the Hebrews into the Promise Land where they would face many enemies. See if you can memorize this verse before this time next week. It may be easy to learn if you watch the music video on *YouTube*.

“Have I not commanded you, be strong and courageous. Do NOT be terrified, do NOT be discouraged. For the Lord your God will be with YOU wherever you go.”
Joshua:1:9 (Watch the music video: [Wherever You Go – Joshua1:9 Pastor Rufus 1](#))

Can you answer these questions from the scripture passage or the song??

1. Who is with us, no matter what?
2. In the verse, what did God command us to do?
3. What did God command us NOT to do?
4. Who is with us wherever we go?

Can you sing with the children on You Tube? This is a wonderful way to learn important verses from scripture.



DAVID AND GOLIATH

The **bible story** we want you to hear is about a young shepherd boy named David. David was the youngest of 8 boys in his family. Because of that, he was left to tend the herd of sheep that his father owned. His brothers were older, and three of them served in the king's army. David would stay out in the hills and pastures and take care of the sheep by himself.

One day his father Jesse sent him to take grain and bread to his brothers who were camped with King Saul's army. King Saul and his army were Israelites, the people who followed God. They were fighting the Philistines, a very mean enemy tribe who had a giant named Goliath. Goliath was over NINE FEET TALL!!! He wore a huge bronze helmet, a coat of metal that weighed two-hundred pounds, and carried a huge bronze javelin with a spearhead that weighed twenty-five pounds!! Every day Goliath would walk out between the two armies and dare anyone from the Israelite army to come and fight him. Whoever won that fight, his army would win the entire war and the soldiers of the other army would become their slaves. No one in the Israelite army was brave enough to fight.

For forty days, twice a day, Goliath would walk out and challenge the Israelites. He said, 'I defy the army of Israel.' He also meant that he defied God as well. That means he made fun of the army and of God....he thought they were wimps and had no one to stand up to him.

When David arrived to give his brothers the food, he saw Goliath strutting and shouting to the army. David was disgusted with this giant who made fun of the Israelites and of God. This is the rest of the story: **You can read it in your own bible: I Samuel 17:32-50.** (Below is one version of the story from The Living Bible).

"Don't worry about a thing,' David replied (to the soldiers). "I'll take care of this Philistine!"

"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul (king) replied. "How can a kid like you fight with a man like him? You are only a boy and he has been in the army since he was a boy!"

But David persisted. "When I am taking care of my father's sheep," he said, "and a lion or a bear comes and grabs a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If it turns on me I catch it by the jaw and club it to death.

I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this heathen Philistine too, for he has defied the armies of the living god! The Lord who saved me from the claws and teeth of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!"

Saul finally consented, "All right, go ahead," he said, "and may the Lord be with you!"

Then Saul gave David his own armor – a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. "I can hardly move!" he exclaimed and took them off again. Then he picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag and, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, started across to Goliath. Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this nice little red-cheeked boy.

"Am I a dog," he roared at David, that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. "Come over here and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals," Goliath yelled.

David shouted in reply, "You come to me with a sword and a spear, but *I come to you in the name of the Lord of the armies of heaven and of Israel---the very God whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you* and I will kill you and cut off your head; and then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And *Israel will learn that the Lord does not depend on weapons to fulfill his plans---he works without regard to human means! He will give you to us!*"

As Goliath approached, David ran out to meet him and, reaching into his shepherd's bag, took out a stone, hurled it from his sling, and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and the man fell on his face to the ground. So David conquered the Philistine giant with a sling and a stonewhen the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran.

Some important questions to think about:

(You can write the answers on the back if you want.)

1. *Why was David so disgusted and angry with what Goliath said?*
2. *Whose reputation was David wanting to uphold and show Goliath and the Philistines who was the most powerful?*
3. *David trusted God to take care of him. Why did he believe God would take care of him in this fight? When had God protected him before?*
4. *Why didn't David wear the armor and take the spear of the soldiers?*
5. *What did David take to fight this huge, mighty giant?*

How many stones did he take? How many did he use?

6. *What happened to Goliath?*

*David had great faith that God would protect him in this scary situation. **We can also have faith that God will take care of us in scary times.** Sometimes God does not use the tools or weapons that people think they need.*

God loves us and loves to listen to our prayers AND to our songs of praise and faith. Singing songs or saying scripture have two very important results:;

1. *God LISTENS to our voices and LOVES to hear our praise and to have us share our fears and needs. We are told to REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS. God answers our prayers in many different ways. I'm sure the Israelite army and King Saul didn't think David had any chance of defeating Goliath---they didn't think David was an answer to their prayers.*
2. *Saying or singing scripture (words from the Bible) give us courage and encouragement. It is a wonderful thing to repeat songs and bible verses...they remind us of how much God loves us and that He will always be there for us.*

Be sure to play the song from YouTube. Many of you already know the words....and that means you know that verse from the Bible.

Wherever You Go – Joshua 1:9 Pastor Rufus

*Another song you will remember from VBS is "I Will Not Be Afraid." Go to YouTube and type in: **I Will Not Be Afraid – Group VBS***

SOME ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO

Make your own Toss and Score Game:

When you are out walking together, or when you are in your yard, find five stones to us. Draw a square on the driveway and put a big G in the middle for Goliath. See who can get the most stones in the box....whoever lands on the G gets double points.

Draw a picture of David and Goliath. OR Draw a cartoon sequence of the story and put in your own dialogue (words that David or Goliath might have said.)

Put on a Play - You can even take a video to share with all of us!!!

Wouldn't it be fun to dress up and put on a little play of David and Goliath? You can find more characters in the Bible - King Saul, David's brothers, etc.

JUST REMEMBER TO LEARN THIS VERSE...SINGING OR SAYING.

***HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU, "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.
DO NOT BE TERRIFIED, DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED
FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO, WHEREVER YOU GO. Joshua 1:9***

Those of us from De Soto Baptist Church - Pastor Richard and all of the VBS helpers and church leaders - we pray for all of you - we pray that you will stay safe and follow the rules - we pray that God will protect you - we pray that God will stop the fear that might creep into your thoughts .

God Loves You-----and so do we!!