

DAVID AND GOLIATH

By Tess Morris

A very long time ago, there were two groups of people known as the Philistines and the Israelites. And they didn't get along very well at all. The Philistines lived on one mountain; the Israelites lived on another mountain... and all they talked about was fighting each other.

Now say hello to Goliath. Imagine him - a man who is taller than any man you have ever seen before, taller than any man in the world in fact. Nine feet tall. Imagine that. Then imagine how much he weighs. Probably more than all of you put together...and then a bit more. He's got brass on his legs for protection and a spear that's even taller than he is. He's the biggest man you will ever see in your life. And he's on the Philistines' side.

Now listen to what he says to the Israelites: 'I am Goliath! Hello down there! You look very small! Like tiny ants! Which one of you tiny ants is going to fight me, eh! I bet none of you can beat me!'

None of the Israelites wanted to fight Goliath. Even their leader, King Saul, said: 'No thanks!'

So who was going to stand up to Goliath?

Now, it just so happened that down the road there was a man called Jesse who had eight sons. Most of his sons were strong and brave and already in the army. But the youngest one, David, was smaller - so he helped his father at home by looking after the sheep.

One day, his father said to him: 'David, I need you to go and see your brave brothers in the army. But you must be very careful, because you're not as brave as them.'

David knew he was just as brave, but he kept quiet and the next morning he set off to see his brothers. He had just arrived when...

Crash! Bang! What was that? David looked up to see Goliath, who was shouting down at the Israelites again. 'Hello, tiny ants! Why have none of you tried to challenge me yet! Come on, come and fight Goliath, don't be scared! Ah, ha, ha!'

Everyone - including David's brothers - was very very scared. But David wasn't scared at all. He said to everyone: 'Yes, Goliath is big, but God is bigger. Much much bigger. I will challenge Goliath...and with God's help I shall defeat him'.

Of course, everyone laughed at him when he said this. Little David fighting Goliath... what a silly idea!



