

Lesson 21: Goliath

1 Samuel 17

4th and 5th Grade Class

Jordan Park church of Christ



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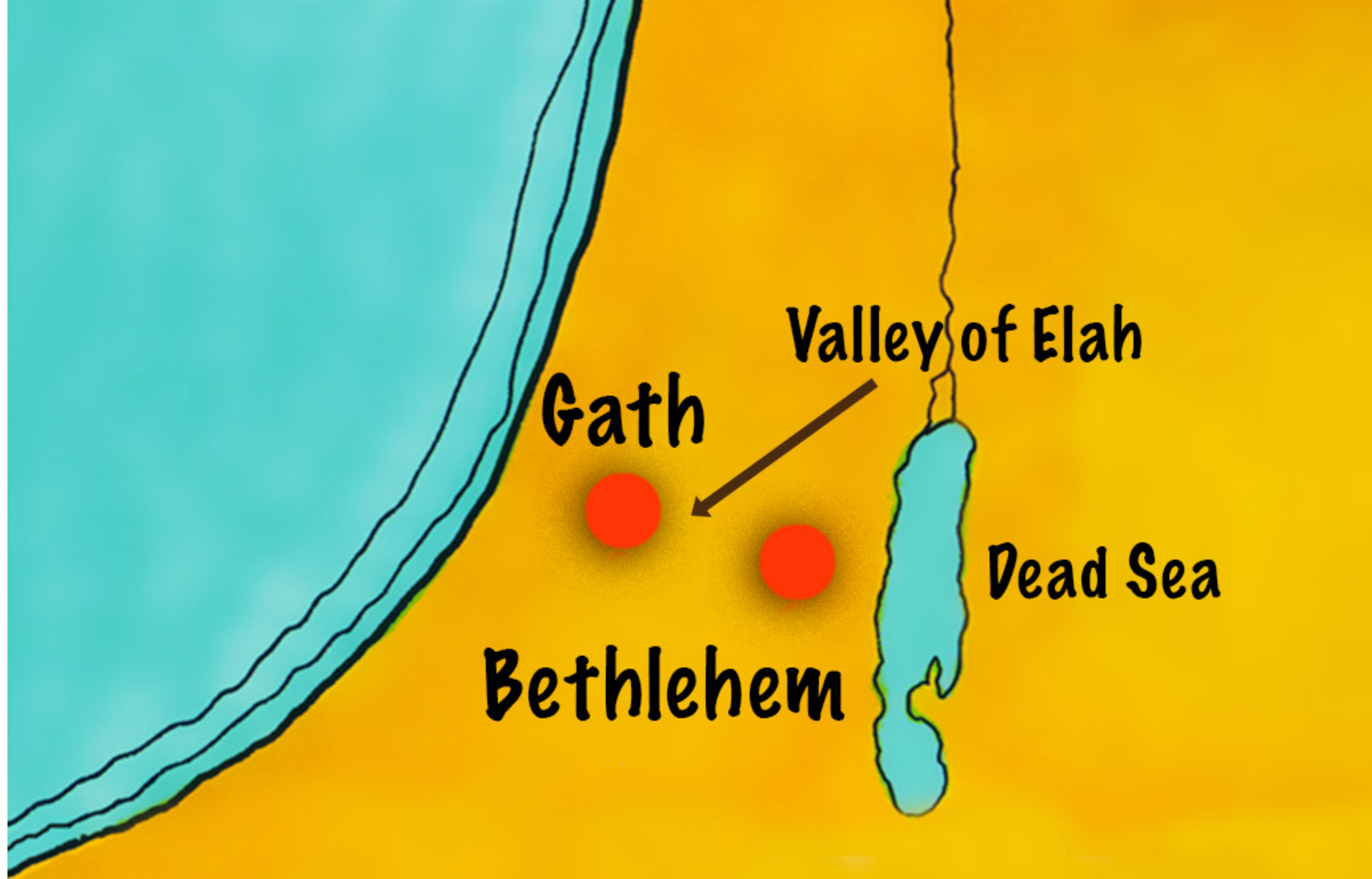
1 Samuel 17: 1-57

DAVID AND GOLIATH

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The Philistines gathered for battle against the Israelites. The Philistines lined up on one hill and the Israelites on another, with a valley between them.

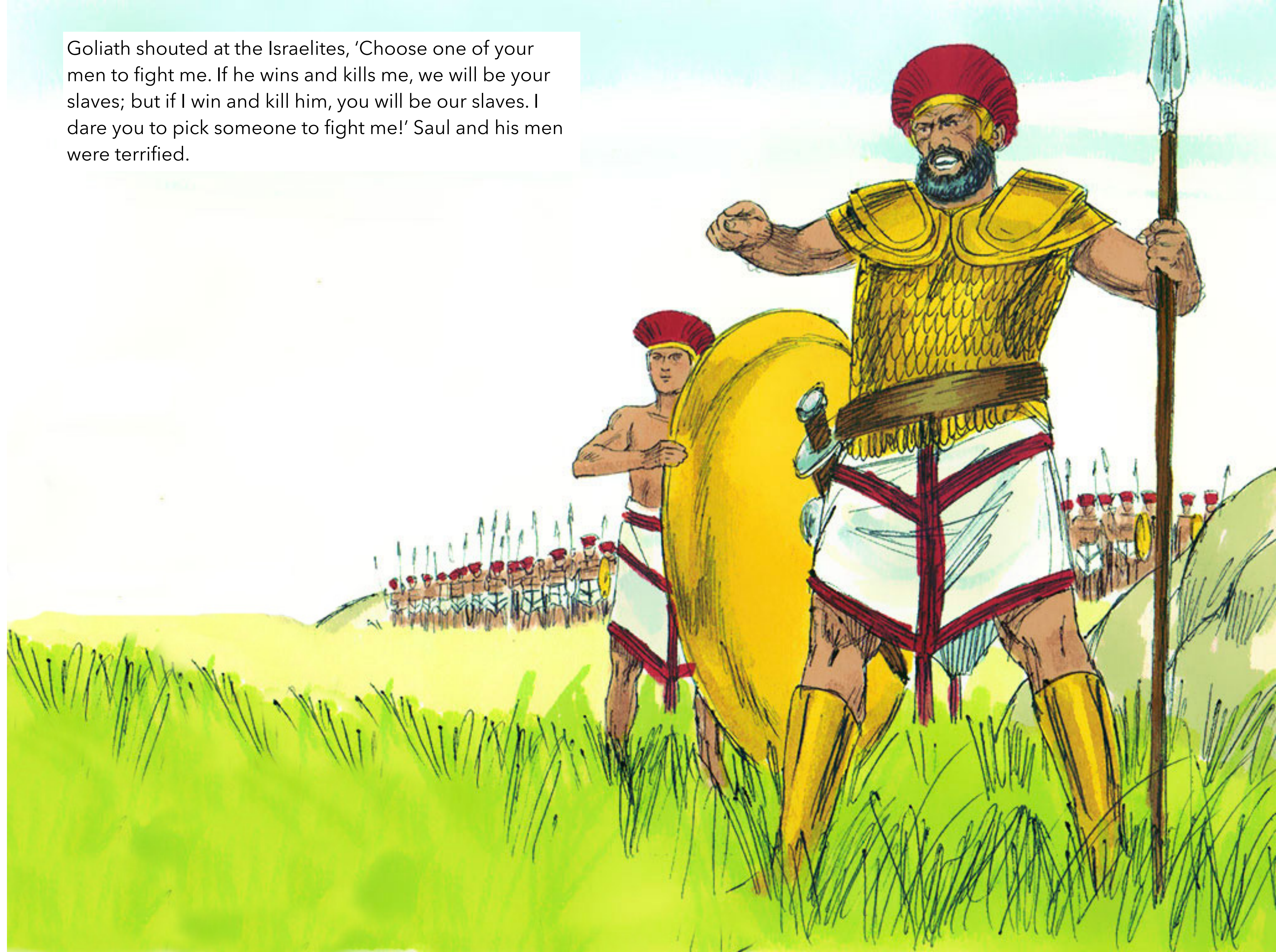


King Saul and the Israelites were camped in Elah Valley. A man named Goliath, from the city of Gath, came out from the Philistine camp to challenge the Israelites.



Goliath was over 7 feet tall and wore bronze armor that weighed about 125 pounds. His legs were also protected by bronze armor, and he carried a bronze javelin. The iron head on his spear weighed about fifteen pounds. A soldier walked in front of him carrying his shield.

Goliath shouted at the Israelites, 'Choose one of your men to fight me. If he wins and kills me, we will be your slaves; but if I win and kill him, you will be our slaves. I dare you to pick someone to fight me!' Saul and his men were terrified.



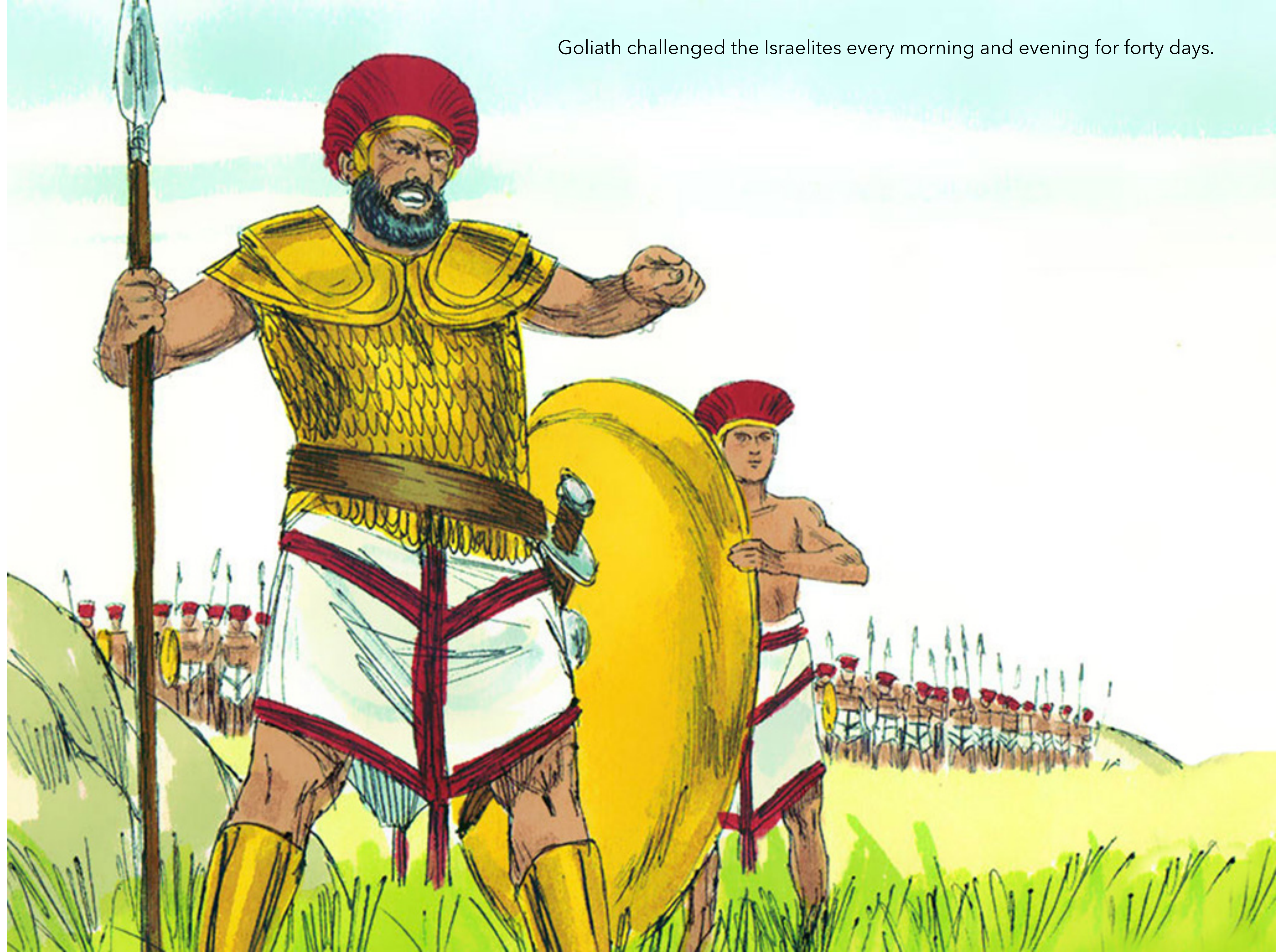


David was back in Bethlehem looking after his father's sheep.

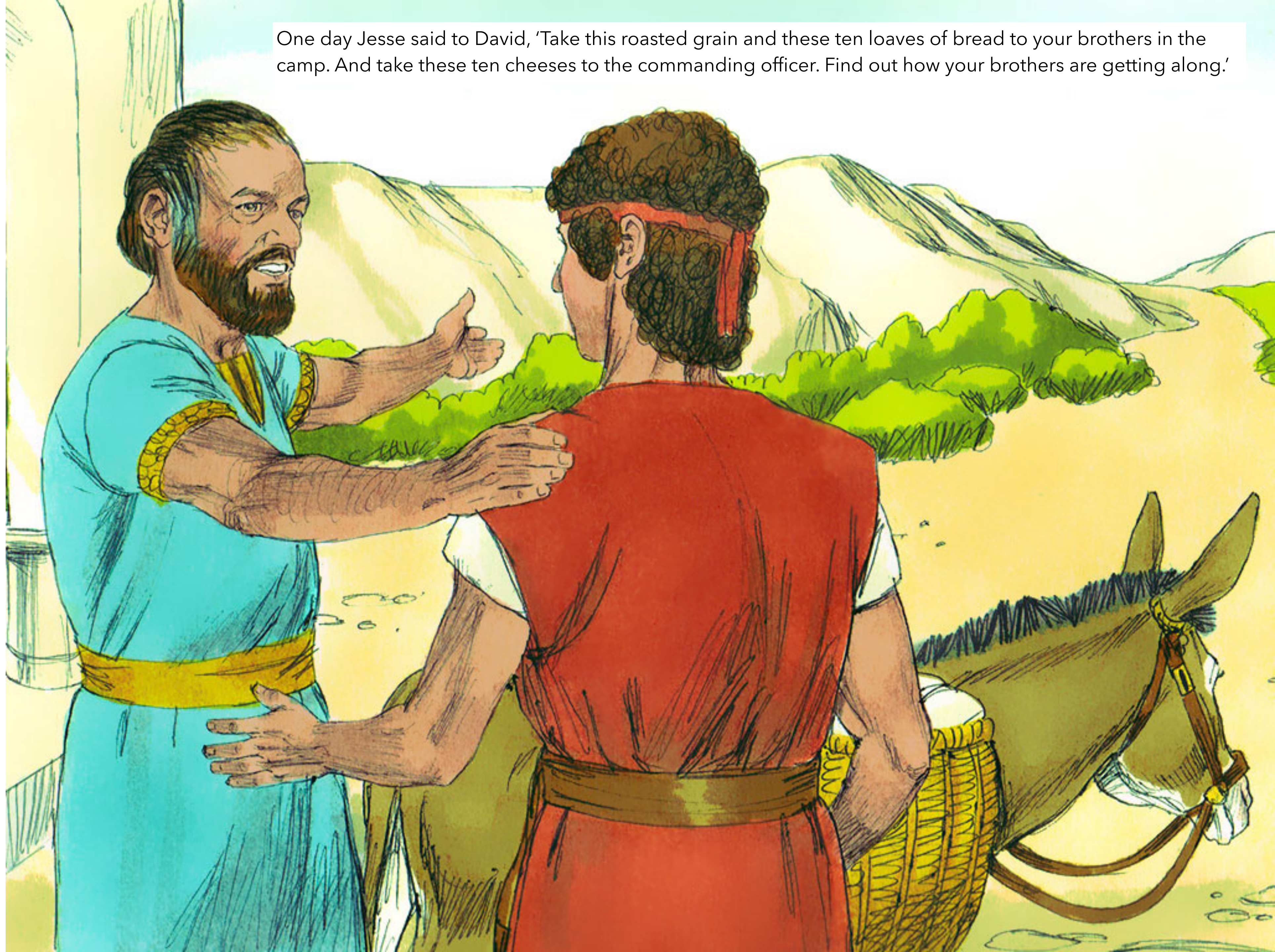
He often had to protect the sheep from attacks by lions and bears. His three oldest brothers Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah were in the army facing the Philistines.



Goliath challenged the Israelites every morning and evening for forty days.



One day Jesse said to David, 'Take this roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread to your brothers in the camp. And take these ten cheeses to the commanding officer. Find out how your brothers are getting along.'



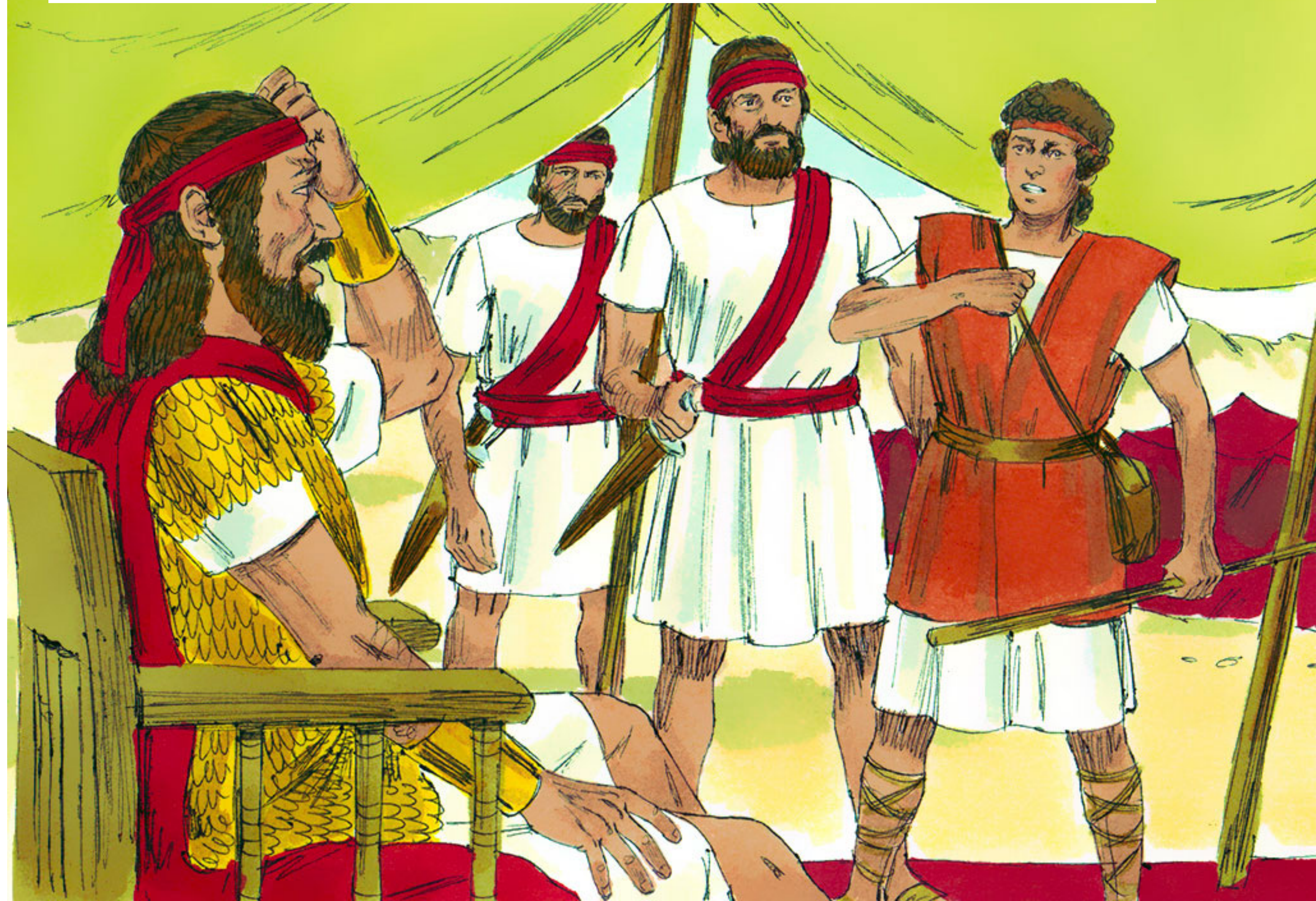
David took the food to the officer in charge of the supplies then ran to the battle line to see his brothers. As he was talking with them, Goliath came forward and challenged the Israelites. When the Israelites saw Goliath, they ran away in terror.





David asked, 'Who is this Philistine to defy the army of the living God?' They told him the man who killed Goliath would get a big reward, marry the King's daughter and his father's family would not need to pay taxes.

David was taken to King Saul, 'Your Majesty,' said David, 'no one should be afraid of this Philistine! I will go and fight him.' 'No,' answered Saul. 'How could you fight him? You're just a boy, and he has been a soldier all his life!'



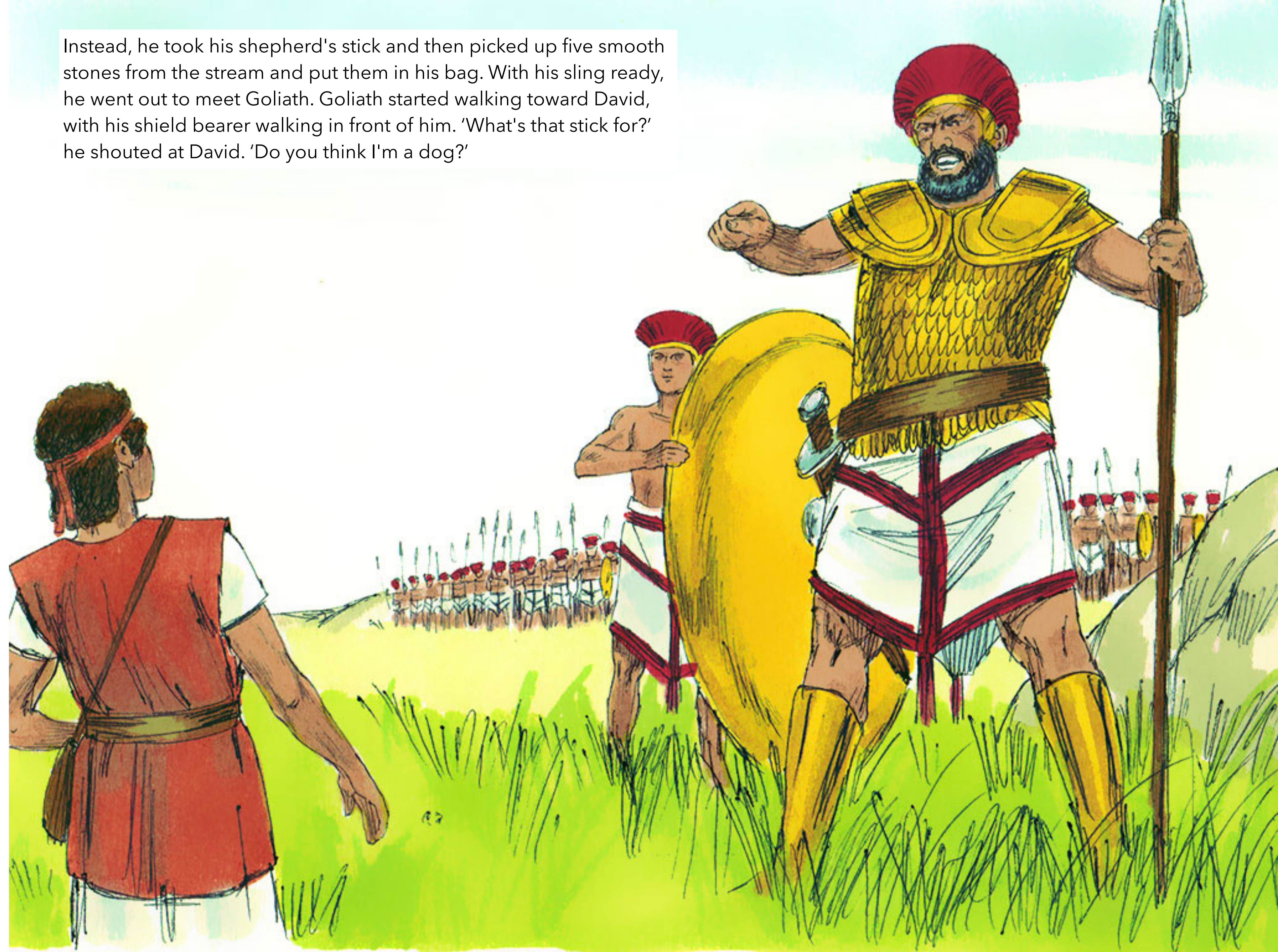


'I have killed lions and bears who attacked my father's sheep,' replied David, 'and I will do the same to this Philistine, who has defied the army of the living God. The LORD will save me from Goliath.'

"Go, and the LORD be with you," Saul replied. He gave David his armor but when David tried it on he said, "I can't fight with all this, I'm not used to it."



Instead, he took his shepherd's stick and then picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them in his bag. With his sling ready, he went out to meet Goliath. Goliath started walking toward David, with his shield bearer walking in front of him. 'What's that stick for?' he shouted at David. 'Do you think I'm a dog?'





Goliath called down curses from his god on David. 'Come on, I will give your body to the birds and animals to eat,' he shouted. David answered, 'You are coming against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty. Today the Lord will put you in my power. I will defeat you and cut off your head.'

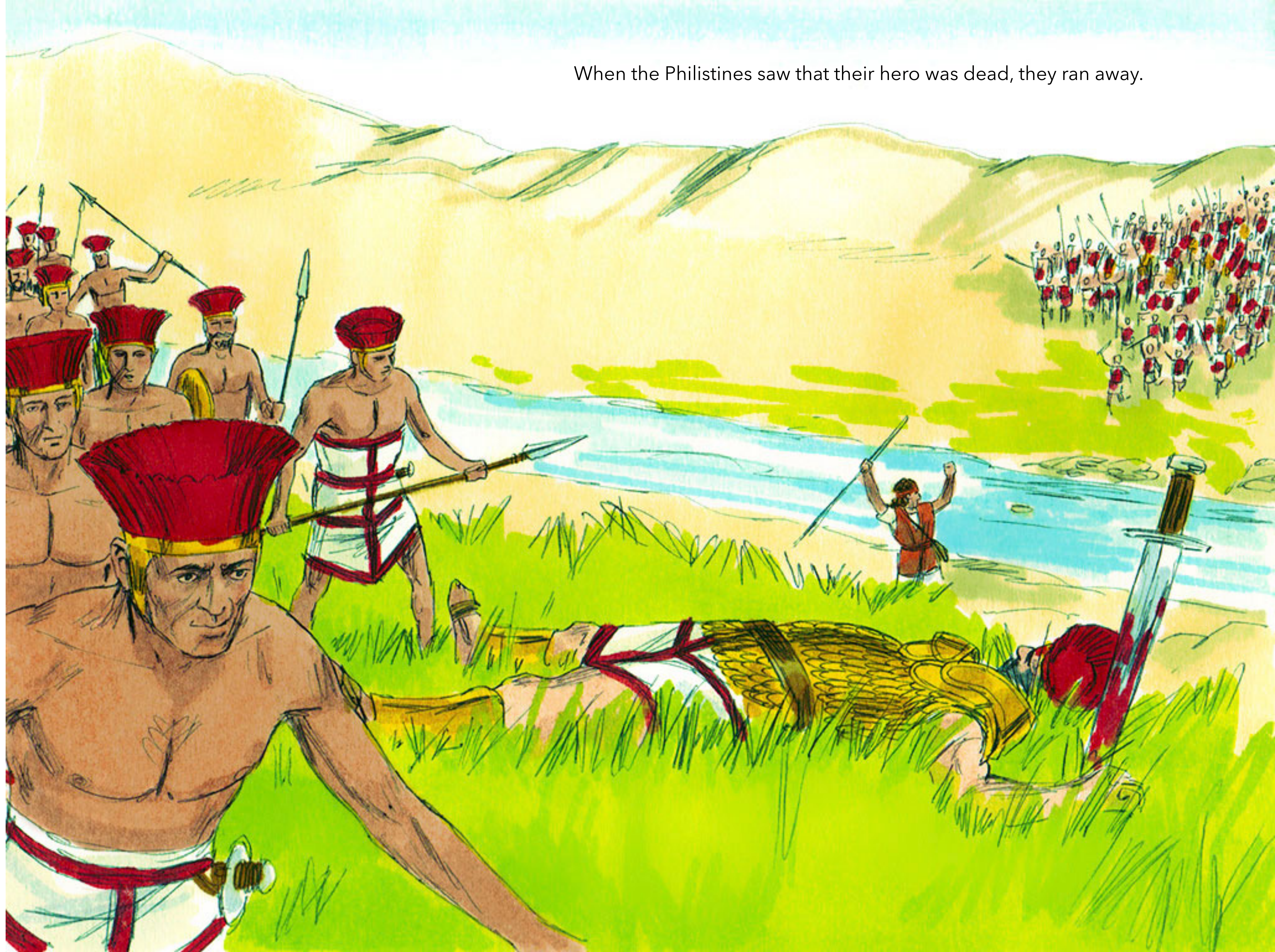


As Goliath started walking toward David again, David ran quickly toward the Philistine. He reached into his bag and took out a stone, which he slung at Goliath. It hit him on the forehead, breaking his skull, and Goliath fell face downward on the ground.

David ran took Goliath's sword out of its sheath, and cut off his head.



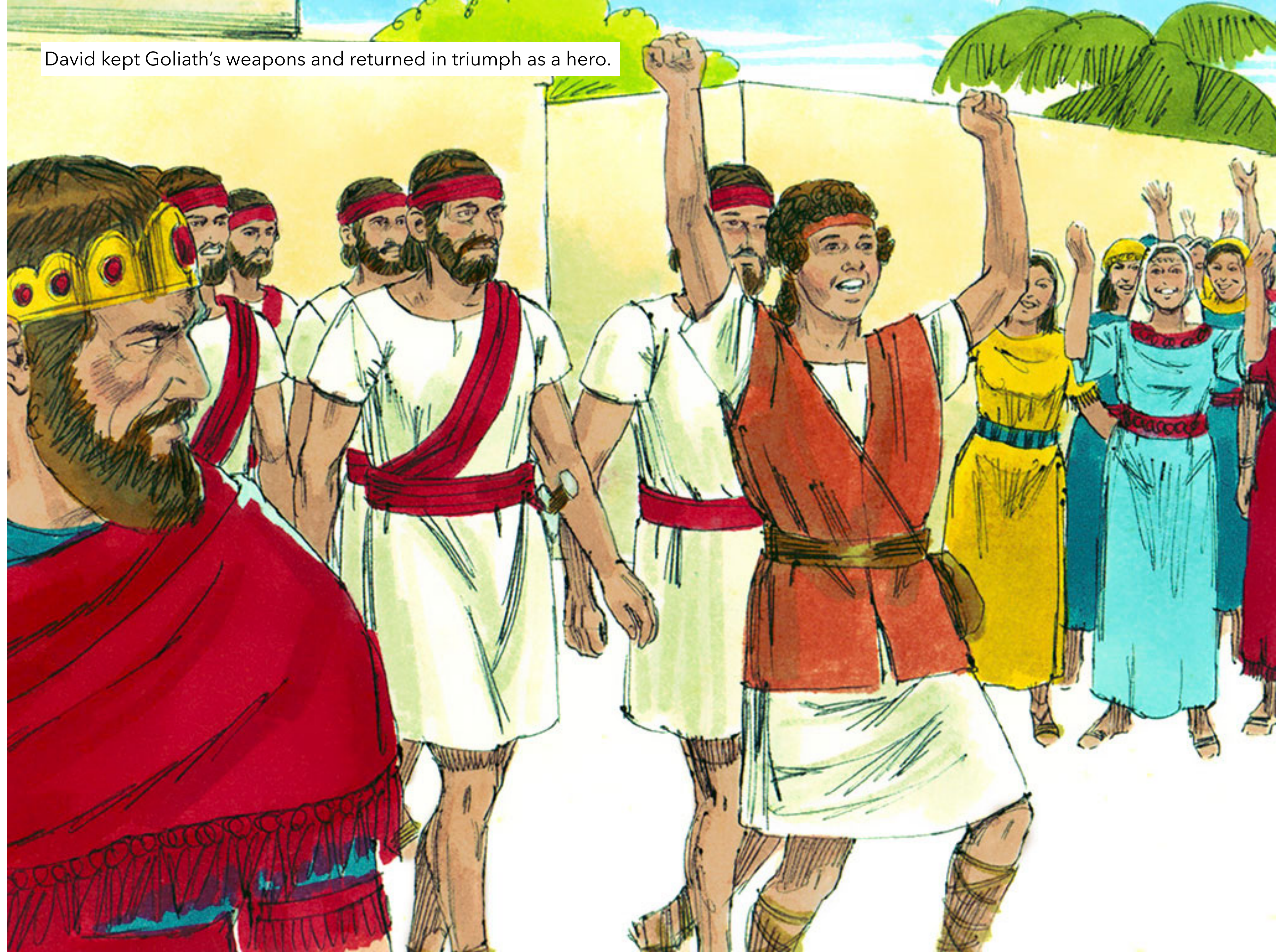
When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they ran away.



The men of Israelites shouted and ran after them, pursuing them all the way to Gath and Ekron in Philistine territory.



David kept Goliath's weapons and returned in triumph as a hero.





BRAVE DAVID v GIANT GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17



David was the youngest of eight brothers. His three eldest brothers were serving in the Israelite army at a time when the Philistines were very strong and powerful. David's father Jesse asked David to take some provisions of wheat and bread to his soldier brothers and see how they were doing.



So early the next morning, David set off for the Israelite army camp at Oak Valley in Judah. David left his bundles of food in the care of a sentry, ran to the troops who were deployed, and greeted his brothers.

King Saul and his Israelite army were assembled on one hill facing the Philistines on the hill opposite.



While they were talking together, the Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath, stepped out from the front lines of the Philistines. This giant was nearly ten feet tall! He had a bronze helmet on his head and was dressed in armor -126 pounds of it! He wore bronze shin guards and carried a bronze sword. His spear tip alone weighed over fifteen pounds. His shield bearer walked ahead of him.

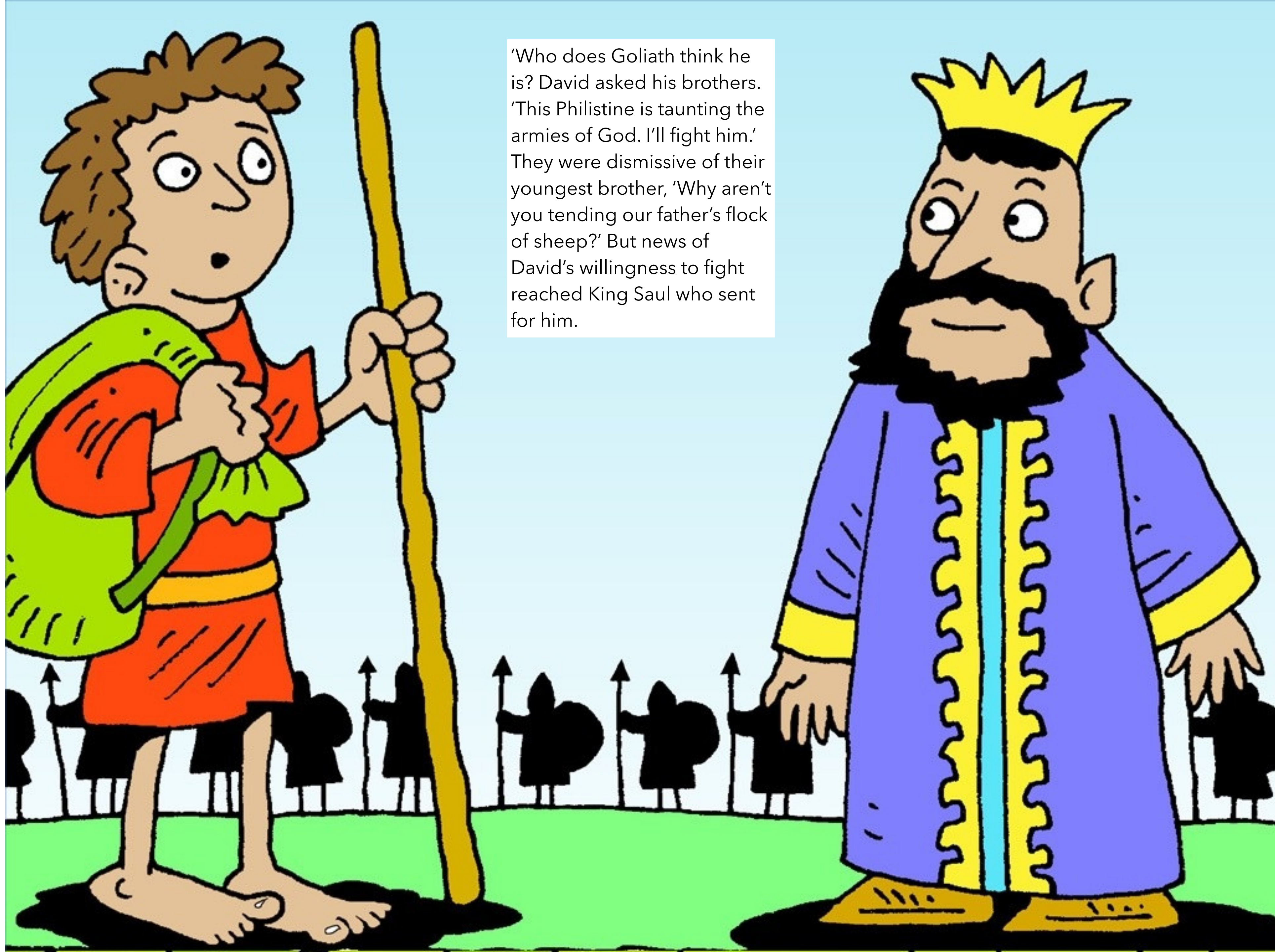


Goliath shouted the challenge he had been making each day. 'Why bother using your whole army? Am I not Philistine enough for you? And you're all committed to Saul, aren't you? So pick your best fighter and pit him against me. If he gets the upper hand and kills me, the Philistines will all become your slaves. But if I get the upper hand and kill him, you'll all become our slaves and serve us. I challenge the troops of Israel this day. Give me a man. Let us fight it out together!'



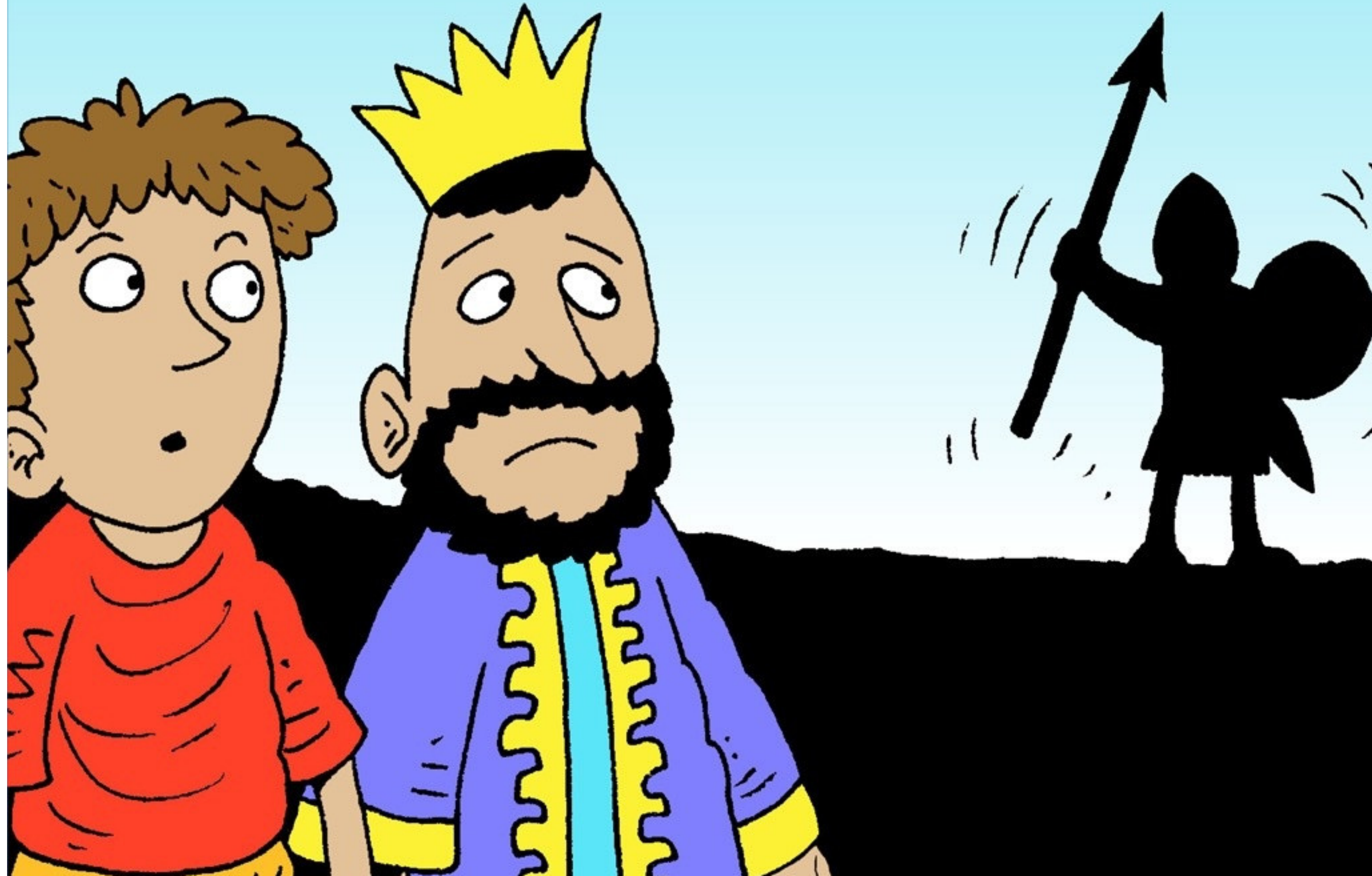
The Israelite army looked at Goliath in fear. The talk among the troops was, 'Have you ever seen anything like this, this man openly and defiantly challenging Israel?' King Saul had offered a huge reward, and his daughter as a bride, for anyone willing to fight Goliath, but there were no volunteers.





'Who does Goliath think he is? David asked his brothers. 'This Philistine is taunting the armies of God. I'll fight him.' They were dismissive of their youngest brother, 'Why aren't you tending our father's flock of sheep?' But news of David's willingness to fight reached King Saul who sent for him.

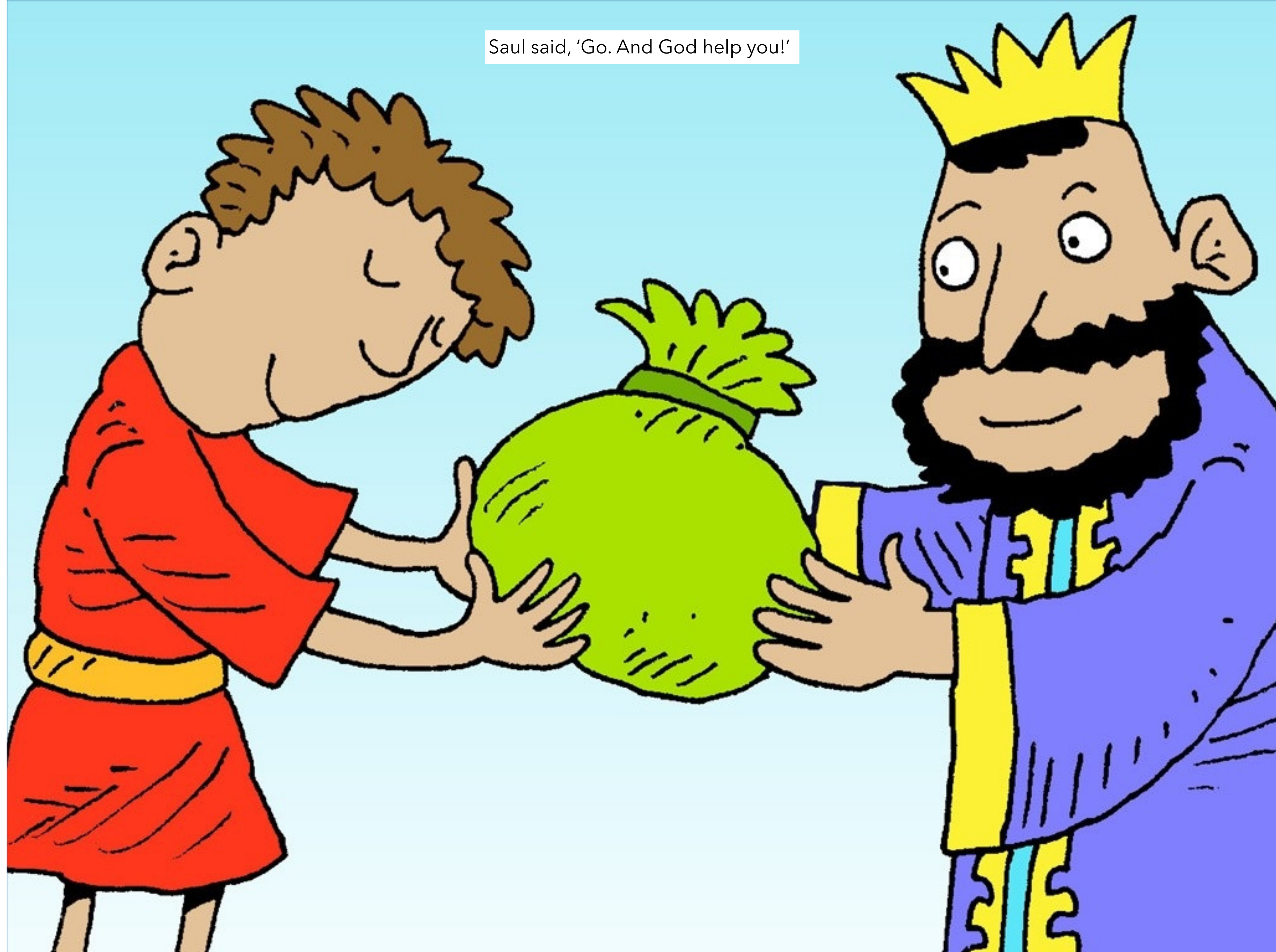
David trusted in God and told the King, 'I'm ready to go and fight this Philistine.' Saul answered, 'You can't go and fight this Philistine. You're too young and inexperienced—and he's been at this fighting business before you were born.'



'I've been a shepherd, tending sheep for my father. Whenever a lion or bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I'd go after it, knock it down, and rescue the lamb. If it turned on me, I'd grab it by the throat, wring its neck, and kill it,' David protested. 'And I'll do the same to this Philistine who is taunting the troops of God. God, who delivered me from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear, will deliver me from this Philistine.'



Saul said, 'Go. And God help you!'



Then Saul kitted David as a soldier in armor. He put his bronze helmet on his head and belted his sword on him over the armor. David tried to walk but he could hardly budge.



David told Saul, 'I can't even move with all this stuff on me. I'm not used to this.' And he took it all off.



In the meantime Goliath the Philistine paced back and forth, his shield bearer in front of him, taunting the Israelite army.



David put his trust in God and set off to do battle.



He took his shepherds' staff and sling with him. The same sling he used to hurl stones at wild animals that came near his father's sheep when he was looking after them.



David selected five smooth stones from the brook in the valley, and put four of them in the pocket of his shepherd's pack.





The remaining stone was loaded into his sling.

David then advanced toward Goliath, who sneered at the youngster coming towards him.



'Am I a dog that you come after me with a stick?' the giant shouted. And he cursed David in the name of his gods.



'Come over here and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals.'





David shouted back, 'You fight me with sword and spear and battle-axe. I fight you in the name of God and His armies whom you curse and mock. Today God will hand you over to me to kill and cut off your head.'

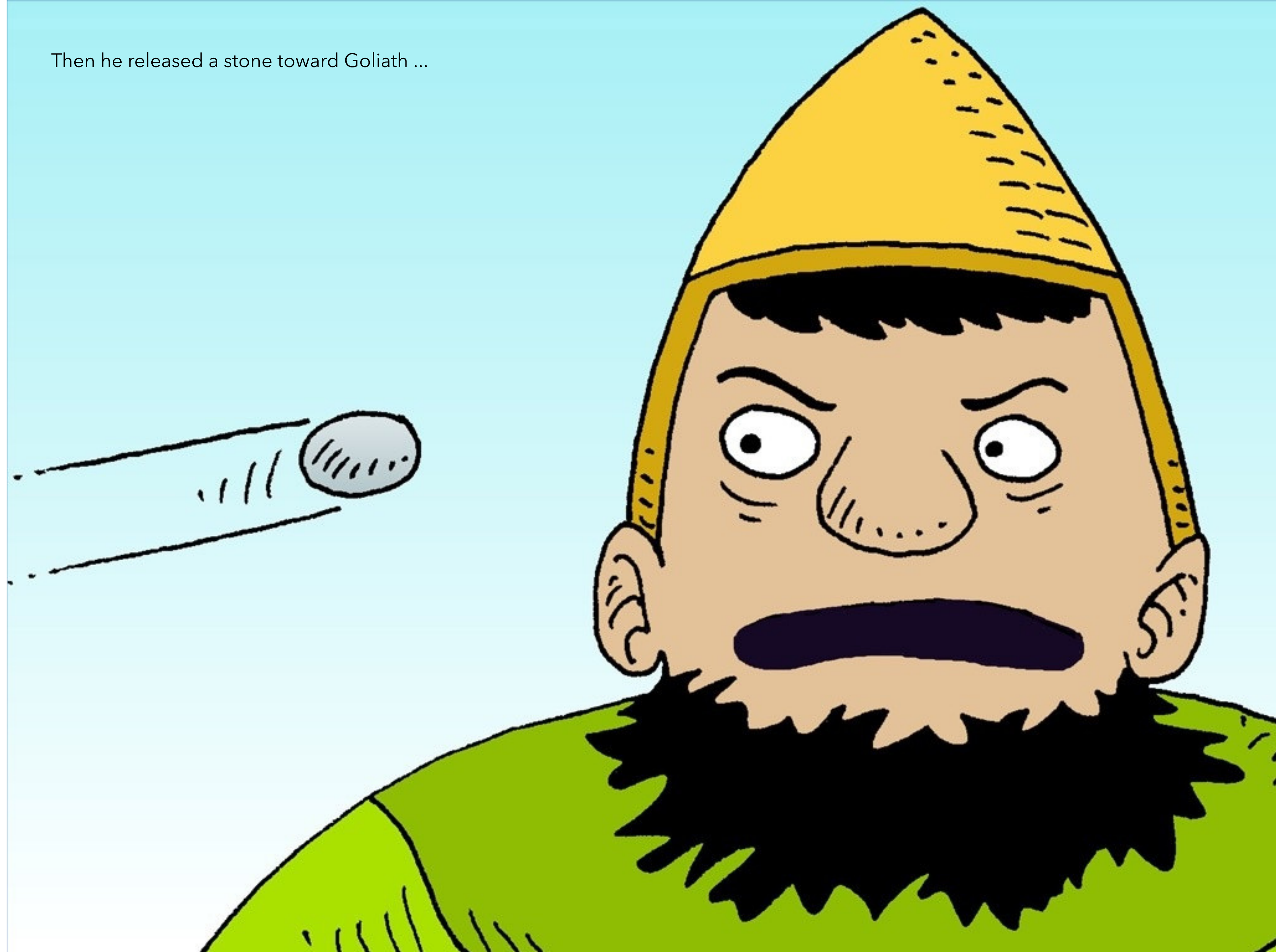
'Then whole earth will know that there's an extraordinary God in Israel. And everyone gathered here will learn that God doesn't save by the sword or spear. This battle belongs to God.'



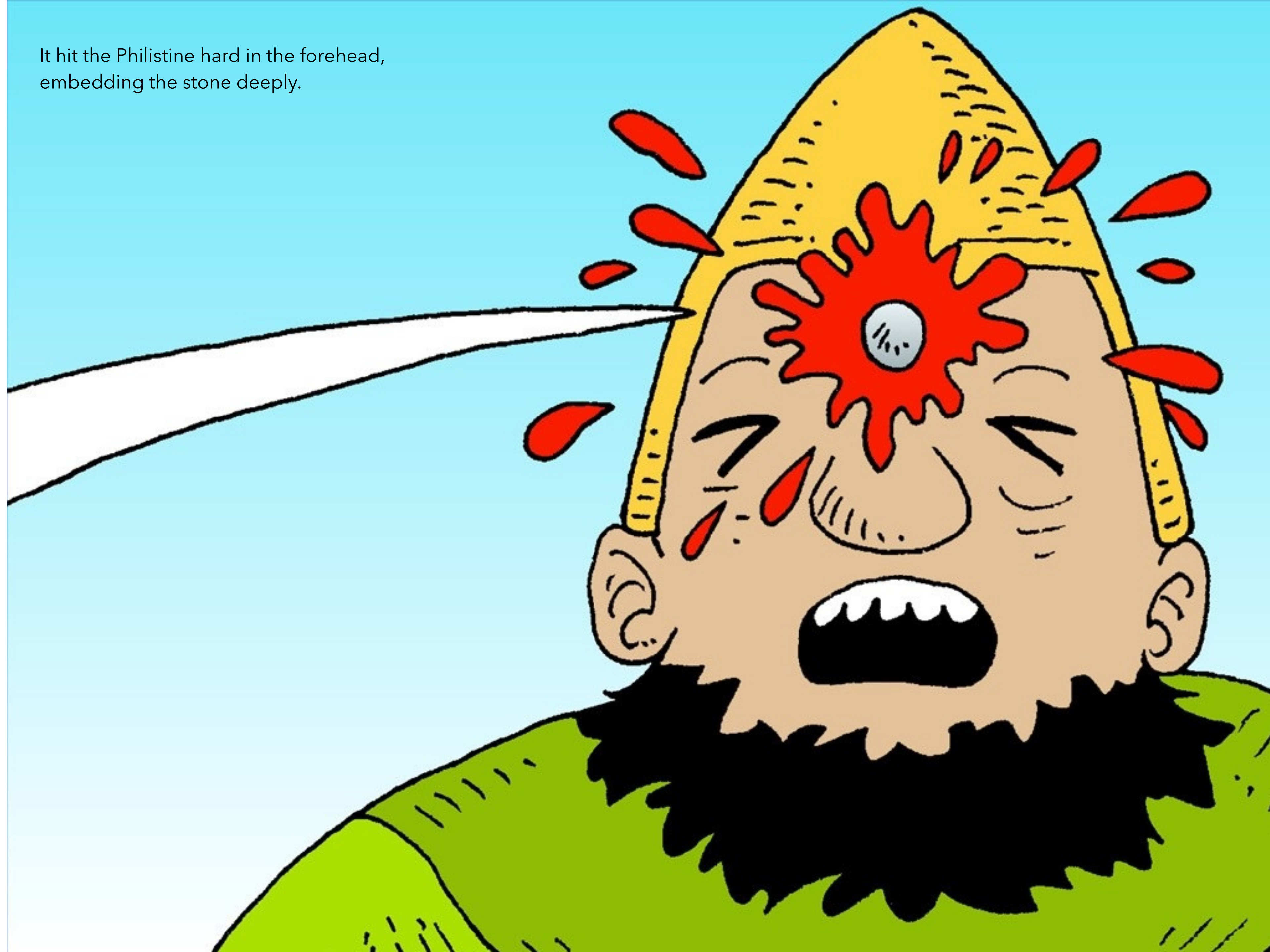


That roused the Philistine who started toward David. David began to swirl his swing round and round, faster and faster ...

Then he released a stone toward Goliath ...



It hit the Philistine hard in the forehead,
embedding the stone deeply.





The Philistine crashed down in the dirt. That's how David beat the Philistine - with a sling and a stone. No sword for David! The young shepherd then took Goliath's heavy sword to cut off his head.



When the Philistines saw that their great champion was dead, they scattered, running for their lives.

The Israelite army were up on their feet, shouting in victory!



They chased the Philistines all the way to the outskirts of Gath and the gates of Ekron. Wounded Philistines were strewn along the Shaaraim road. After chasing the Philistines, the Israelites came back and looted their camp.

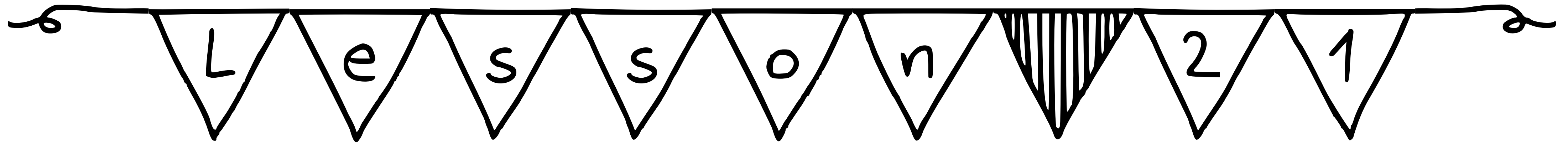


David returned to Jerusalem as a hero.



Saul asked David, 'Young man, whose son are you?' 'I'm the son of your servant Jesse from Bethlehem,' said David. Little did King Saul know that one day, this young man who trusted in God, would become the next King of Israel.





David shows great faith and reliance on God.

1 Samuel 17:36-37 and 17:45-47

David gave God the credit over his victories over the wild animals. God will help you fight your battles too.

“In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Psalms 56:11