

DYNAMIC STEWARDS

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP REVIVAL WEEK

12 - 19 September 2026

LESSONS FROM A GIANT FIGHTER

JUNIORS' SPECIAL EDITION

WITH ACTIVITIES

GOD FIRST

ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ECD	Edison Nsengiyumva
ESD	Vadim Grinenko
IAD	Roberto Herrera
NAD	Michael Harpe
NSD	NakHyung Kim
SAD	Josanan Alves, Jr.
SID	Mundia Liywalii
SPD	Julian Archer
SSD	Jibil Simbah
SUD	Sunderraj Paulmoney
TED	Heli Otamo-Csizmadia
WAD	Paul Sampah
MENA	Amir Ghali
IF	Ebenezer C. Loriezo, Jr.
CHUM	Steve Rose
Ukraine	Konstantin Kampen

PERMISSION

The *Stewardship Revival Week 2026* magazine grants permission for any article (not a reprint) to be printed, for use in a local church setting such as a small group, Sabbath School, or classroom. The following credit must be given: Used by permission of the *Stewardship Revival Week 2026* magazine. Copyright © 2026. Written permission must be obtained for any other use.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The articles in this publication have been revised for the intended audience and nature of the *Stewardship Revival Week 2026* magazine. Unless otherwise stated, the New International Version of the Bible is used.

BIBLE CREDITS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. © Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

DISCLAIMER

The content or opinions expressed, implied, or included in or with any recommended resources are solely those of the authors and not those of the publishers of the *Stewardship Revival Week 2026* magazine. The publishers do, however, advocate these resources on the basis of their rich contributions to the area of stewardship ministry, and assume that readers will apply their own critical evaluations as they make use of them. The *Stewardship Revival Week 2026* magazine is published yearly by the Stewardship Ministries of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.®

Director: Marcos F. Bomfim

Associate Director: Aniel Barbe

Senior Editorial Assistant: Johnetta B. Flomo

DYNAMIC STEWARD Editor: Aniel Barbe – BarbeA@gc.adventist.org

Assistant Editor: Johnetta B. Flomo – FlomoJ@gc.adventist.org

Editorial Assistant: Megan Mason

Layout & design: info@i180.social

Contact us: 12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA
Tel: +1 301-680-6157

gcstewardship@gc.adventist.org
www.facebook.com/GCStewardshipMinistries
www.issuu.com/Dynamicsteward

CONTENTS



CHOSEN BY GOD

4

8



Day 2

WHEN CHALLENGES FEEL TOO BIG



Day 3

AVOID FAILING STRATEGIES

12

16



Day 4

MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE



Day 5

KNOWING THE OWNER

20

24



Day 6

DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT YOU



Day 7

GROW YOUR MUSCLES AND YOUR CHARACTER

28

32



Day 8

USE WHAT IS IN YOUR HANDS



Activities

36

The Author

Pastor Aniel Barbe is the author of “*Lessons from A Giant Fighter*”, inspired by David, his favorite Bible character. Pastor Aniel loves ministering to the younger generation and has spent several years leading Adventist Youth Ministries in his home island of Mauritius and throughout the southern part of the Indian Ocean. He now serves as the Associate Director for the Stewardship Ministries Department at the world headquarters of the Adventist Church in Maryland, USA. His desire is for every child and teenager to learn how to manage life wisely and enjoy the abundant life promised by God. While writing this series, he was blessed to receive firsthand feedback and suggestions from his teenage son Adam.



GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADVENTIST CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES. GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Dear Children and Teens,

It brings me great joy to introduce *Lessons from A Giant Fighter* to you. They were created with much prayer and purpose—because you matter deeply to God and us. You are loved unconditionally, chosen intentionally, and called courageously to live a life that reflects His love and truth.

As you are discovering your life concerning who you are and why you're here, know this: You were made on purpose and for a purpose. God has a special plan for your life—one filled with meaning, strength, opportunity, and uncountable blessings. His call is for everyone, including someone as young as you. He called Samuel to listen and respond as a young boy, and David to rise with faith to lead, even when the odds seemed impossible.

The Bible reminds every young person to remain true to God in 1 Timothy 4:12: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

These resources are designed to remind you that your identity as a child of God is your greatest treasure, and they aim to help you understand what it means to live as a faithful steward of your time, talents, choices, and identity in Christ. They will help you discover how God’s plan can shape your everyday life and give you strength through trials.

Say yes to Jesus’s call and walk boldly with Him in your life journey. You are never alone because His Spirit lives within you. Let your faith be real, your heart be sincere and willing, and your life be a bright light, reflecting Jesus’s character that keeps shining through you so that the world may know Him!

With love and blessings,

Orathai Chureson

Day 1:

CHOSEN BY GOD

Most of us know the story of David, the young boy who defeated the giant Goliath with a slingshot. But do you know that his story started long before this epic battle? Another amazing moment in David's life was when he was chosen by God. Today, I want us to learn how God chooses His giant fighters.

GOD MAKES THE SELECTION

Samuel was a prophet in Israel, and God sent him on an important mission: *"I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king"* (1 Samuel 16:1). Equipped with his horn full of oil, he left Rama and went to Bethlehem.

Arriving there, God guided him to the house of Jesse, and Samuel asked to see his sons. He examined Eliab, the eldest son, and thought, This must be the one! But God said, "Nope, not him!" Jesse introduced six more sons to Samuel. None of them was the one chosen.

Confused, Samuel asked Jesse: "Are these all the sons you have?" (1 Samuel 16:11). Hesitantly, Jesse answered that one son remained; the youngest one was keeping the sheep. Immediately, Samuel asked to go find him and bring him. When the little

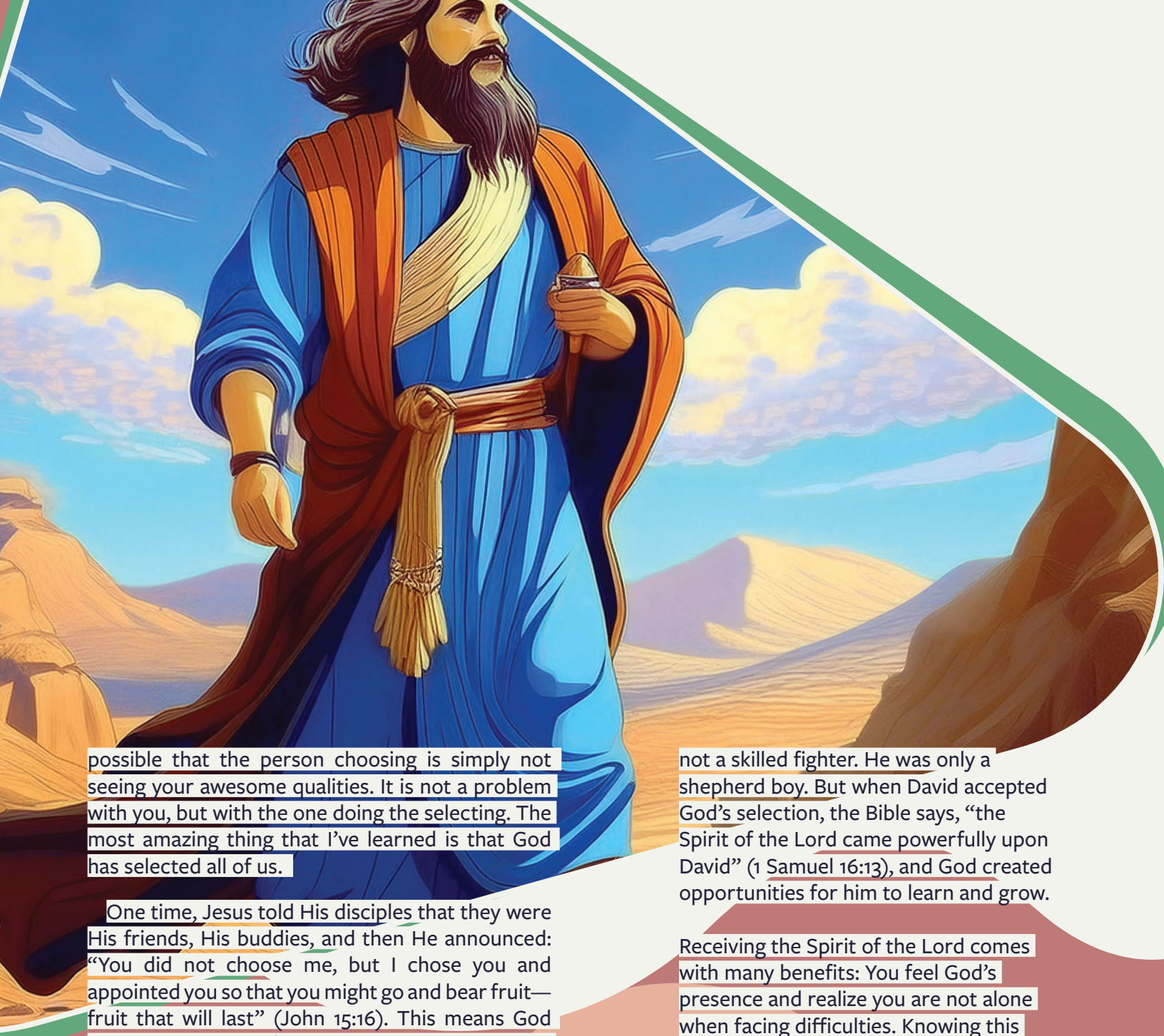
shepherd walked in, God told Samuel: "Rise and anoint him; this is the one" (1 Samuel 16:12). Samuel obeyed and poured oil on David's forehead.

David was not the choice of his dad, his brothers, or even the prophet Samuel. He was chosen by God Himself. Anointing meant God selected him for a task that was very special.

ALL ARE SELECTED

Have you ever been picked last in a game or left out? Well, I have. When I was growing up, when we would create teams to play soccer during recess, the team captains got to pick the players on their teams. They would choose one player at a time and often pick the most talented players or their best friends first. They would often reach their maximum number of players without me being picked. That made me feel sad, and I realized that the right thing is to always include everyone when we are playing or having fun.

As I grew up, here's what I've learned: Just because someone does not pick you, it does not mean you're bad, incapable, or have done something wrong. The person choosing is probably looking for certain qualities that you might not have; some tasks require specific qualities. It is also



possible that the person choosing is simply not seeing your awesome qualities. It is not a problem with you, but with the one doing the selecting. The most amazing thing that I've learned is that God has selected all of us.

One time, Jesus told His disciples that they were His friends, His buddies, and then He announced: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last" (John 15:16). This means God has handpicked all of us to go out on a mission, and He promises good results. How cool is it to know that God has chosen you to be on His team?

THREE BIG LESSONS FROM THE SELECTION OF DAVID

The story of David's selection tells us three things about God's selection:

1. God chooses before you accomplish anything.

He chooses and prepares us for something great. When God chose David, he was

not a skilled fighter. He was only a shepherd boy. But when David accepted God's selection, the Bible says, "the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David" (1 Samuel 16:13), and God created opportunities for him to learn and grow.

Receiving the Spirit of the Lord comes with many benefits: You feel God's presence and realize you are not alone when facing difficulties. Knowing this chases away fear and makes you bold and courageous. The Spirit of the Lord equips us with talents and abilities. We can do things better or simply accomplish new things. It transforms us into better people. Finally, you start sharing Jesus, the Divine Selector, with others.

Sometime after his selection, David became a part-time musician and armor-bearer for King Saul. There is no better place to learn to be a king than to live in a palace; this is precisely where God placed



David. God will always make a way for you to be where you can learn and grow.

2. God does not choose by looking at the outside.

God's selection is not like a beauty pageant or a bodybuilding competition. God reminded the prophet Samuel: *"Do not consider his appearance or his height. . . The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7).

Humans think that to qualify for a mission or a task, you need to look like someone who has performed this kind of task. We often hear adults saying, "You look like a doctor" or "You look like you're going to be a teacher." Ellen White, God's prophetess for our time, tells us in her book *Patriarchs and Prophets* that the prophet Samuel was interested in Eliab because he "more nearly resembled Saul for stature and beauty than the others" (p. 638). However, God told him this was not the right way to choose.

Here is an example from the world of sports to show that outward appearance is not the best way to choose. Have you heard of Muggsy Bogues?

While the average height of an NBA basketball player is 6 feet, 7 inches, Muggsy Bogues was only 5 feet, 3 inches, but he played 14 seasons in the NBA.

Gender, language, social background, or color do not matter for God's selection. He loves everyone, and He chooses those who love Him for great responsibilities. Even if you don't look like one, you can be the one when God has chosen.

3. God's Timing is Different.

Even though God chose David, he did not become king right away. He probably did not fully understand the action of Samuel. David only knew that God had chosen him, and he moved ahead. He had to trust God and be patient for 15 good years before He actually become king.

YOU ARE CHOSEN!

Not everyone knows exactly what they want to do when they grow up, and that's OK. Others will change their mind, and that's also OK. What matters is for each one of us to believe that God has chosen us for something great. At the right time, He will reveal the details and will make it happen. Right now, His Spirit is working in you, helping you grow and prepare for your mission.

Going Deeper

1

Why do you think God chose David instead of his older brothers?

2

What are some good things about your heart?

3

How does it make you feel to know that God has chosen you for something special?

Day 2!

WHEN CHALLENGES FEEL TOO BIG

Have you ever tried really hard for something, like studying, making friends, or doing your chores, but it still felt super hard? Maybe you thought, I'm doing the right thing, so why is it so difficult?

Guess what? You're not alone! David, the young boy selected by God, knew what that felt like. He did what was right: He obeyed his dad, took good care of his sheep, played music to help King Saul feel better, and faithfully carried the king's armor. But one day, everything changed. His father, Jesse, sent him on a simple errand, and suddenly he found himself standing near a battlefield facing a giant challenge!

SCARY CHALLENGES

Today, and the following days, we'll be reading from 1 Samuel 17 to learn about David's big moment. Let's look at the terrifying challenge

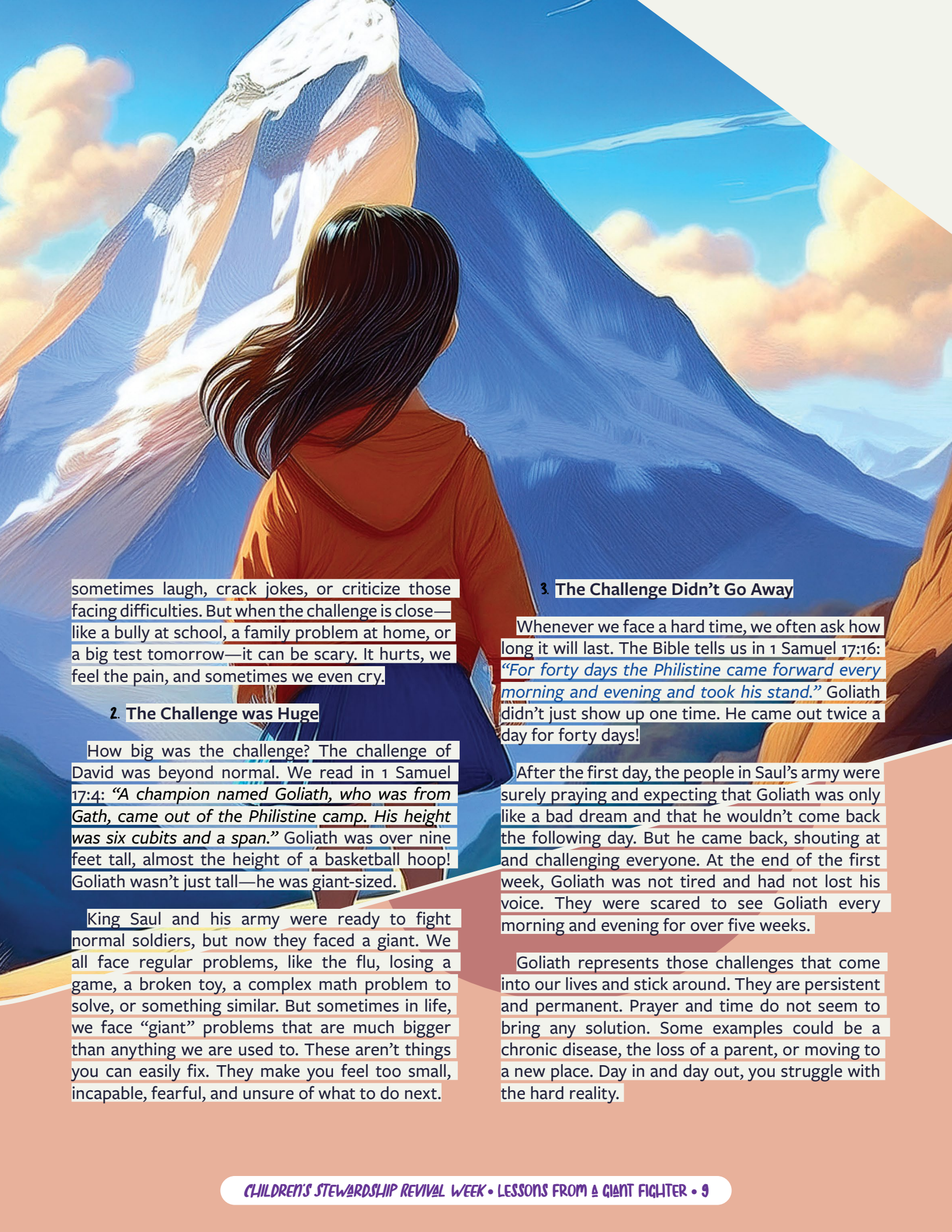
that David faced, and learn how we can face our challenges:

I. The Challenge was Close

We read in 1 Samuel 17:1, *"Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah."*

The Philistines, who lived on the western border of Israel, did not like the Israelites. After making a powerful alliance, they crossed into Israel. They were now inside Israel's territory, ready to fight. Before this, the Philistines were far away, and the Israelites did not worry much about them. But now the danger was close, right in their country.

How we feel about a challenge depends on where the challenge is. Think about it: When it is far from us, it doesn't feel like a big deal. Unfortunately, we



sometimes laugh, crack jokes, or criticize those facing difficulties. But when the challenge is close—like a bully at school, a family problem at home, or a big test tomorrow—it can be scary. It hurts, we feel the pain, and sometimes we even cry.

2. The Challenge was Huge

How big was the challenge? The challenge of David was beyond normal. We read in 1 Samuel 17:4: *“A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.”* Goliath was over nine feet tall, almost the height of a basketball hoop! Goliath wasn’t just tall—he was giant-sized.

King Saul and his army were ready to fight normal soldiers, but now they faced a giant. We all face regular problems, like the flu, losing a game, a broken toy, a complex math problem to solve, or something similar. But sometimes in life, we face “giant” problems that are much bigger than anything we are used to. These aren’t things you can easily fix. They make you feel too small, incapable, fearful, and unsure of what to do next.

3. The Challenge Didn’t Go Away

Whenever we face a hard time, we often ask how long it will last. The Bible tells us in 1 Samuel 17:16: *“For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.”* Goliath didn’t just show up one time. He came out twice a day for forty days!

After the first day, the people in Saul’s army were surely praying and expecting that Goliath was only like a bad dream and that he wouldn’t come back the following day. But he came back, shouting at and challenging everyone. At the end of the first week, Goliath was not tired and had not lost his voice. They were scared to see Goliath every morning and evening for over five weeks.

Goliath represents those challenges that come into our lives and stick around. They are persistent and permanent. Prayer and time do not seem to bring any solution. Some examples could be a chronic disease, the loss of a parent, or moving to a new place. Day in and day out, you struggle with the hard reality.

4. The Challenge was Personal

The army of King Saul came out to fight against an army. But Goliath changed the rules of the battle. We read in 1 Samuel 17:8, *“Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, ‘Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me.’”* Goliath wanted one person to step up. One man had to stand up to take the challenge to win the battle.

With the support of others, it is much easier to face difficulties. So, I encourage you to develop habits of working and doing things as a team. However, many situations require a personal decision or a personal engagement. You can’t always depend on your parents or teachers to decide and do for you. For example, choosing to follow Jesus, telling the truth, or making healthy choices are all personal decisions. When others around you are not making the right decision or doing the right thing, you may need to stand alone. It takes courage to stand up alone.

CHALLENGES FOR GROWTH

When challenges are close to us, feel huge, don’t go away, and need us to take some personal actions, what should we do? Give up? Blame God? Some complain that they would have done better if

everything were easy. The story of David reminds us that hard times can make heroes.

Here are two important lessons to remember when you face your scary challenges:

First, you can be victorious with God’s help.

Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth: “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13). Our loving God and heavenly Father will never allow a problem to destroy you. And He promises His strength for you to go through any kind of challenge.

Second, challenges make you grow. Apostle James wrote, *“The testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything”* (James 1:3, 4). You can compare your challenge with a physical workout. It can be hard, even painful, but you become healthier, stronger, and faster. Facing challenges helps you become wiser, braver, and more faithful.

You can’t stop some “giant” challenges from coming your way, but with God’s help, you can face anything, be victorious, and grow.



Going Deeper

1

What kind of things that make it hard to do good sometimes?

2

What can help us keep going?

3

Have you ever been successful after seeking God's help?

Day 3:

AVOID FAILING STRATEGIES

Do you know what a Japanese puzzle box is? Have you ever tried opening one? Well, a Japanese puzzle box is a special wooden box that opens only if you slide the pieces in the right order. You can twist in all directions, but if you don't follow the right strategy, you might try for hours, and the box won't open. In the end, you might get so discouraged that you give up even before discovering the secret inside. The same can happen when we face life's difficulties. If we use the wrong strategy, we might never solve the problem, and could even make things worse.

Today, we'll learn about failing strategies from the story of King Saul and his army. They had to face a giant challenge, who so happened to be named Goliath. But they used the wrong strategies! Let's look at what they did to avoid the same mistakes:

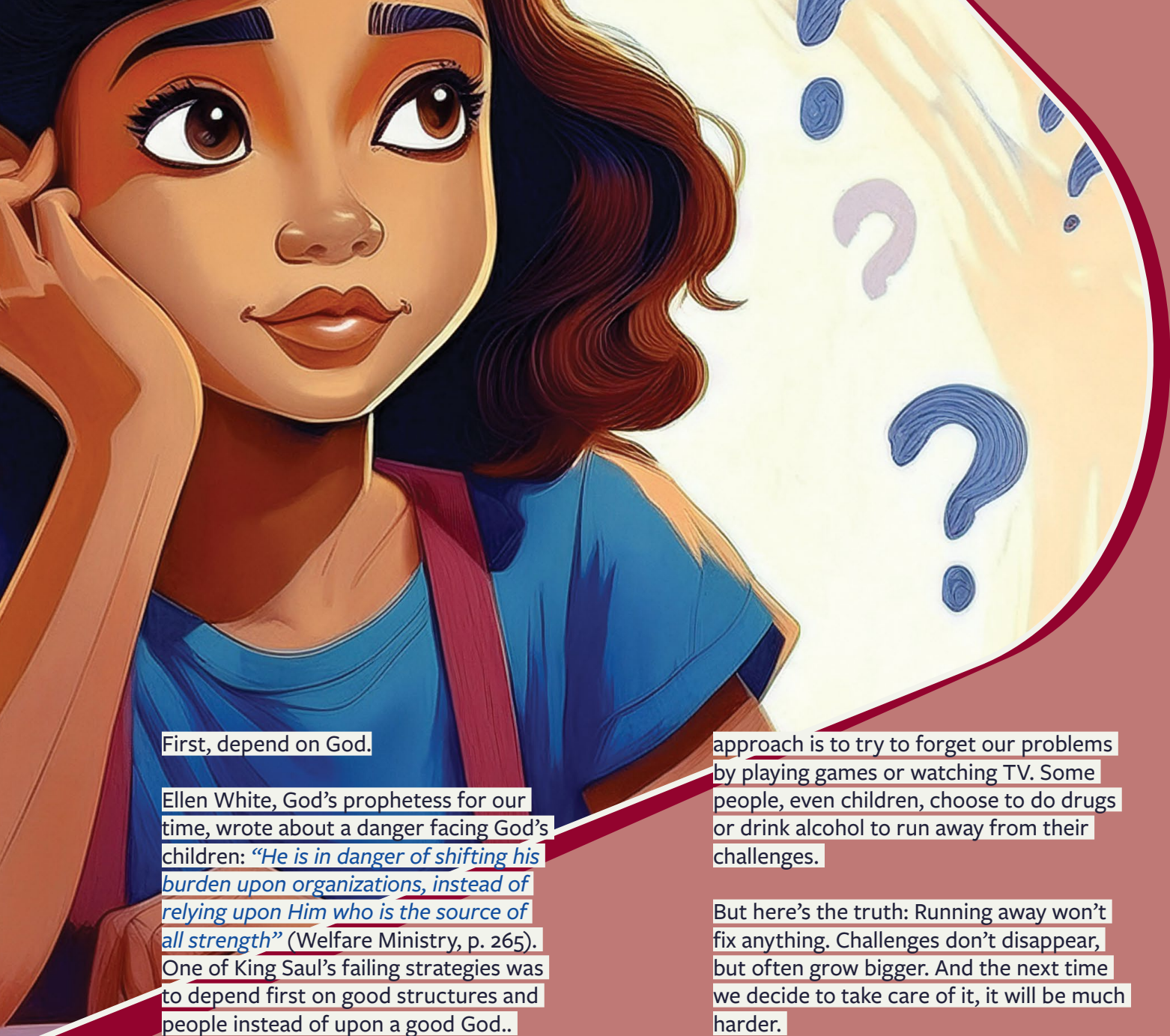
I. Trusting in the Wrong Thing First

When the Philistines invaded the territory of Israel, King Saul had a plan: *"Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in*

the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines" (1 Samuel 17:2). King Saul did something, but he didn't have a positive result.

Israel had an army, and they had a general, King Saul. They had commanders, officers, soldiers, uniforms, and they knew how to march. They had rules and battle strategies. Everything seemed to be ready, but even with all that, they were stuck. Why? Saul trusted first in his army's strength and plans before trusting in God. The best organizations or teams are insufficient to win a giant challenge if God is not the first source of help.

As a young person, you might be part of a loving family, school, church, or group of friends. These are good and essential and can help you grow. But when tough problems come our way, it is not wise to trust first in people or systems around us.



First, depend on God.

Ellen White, God's prophetess for our time, wrote about a danger facing God's children: *"He is in danger of shifting his burden upon organizations, instead of relying upon Him who is the source of all strength"* (Welfare Ministry, p. 265). One of King Saul's failing strategies was to depend first on good structures and people instead of upon a good God..

2. Running Away From the Challenge

When Goliath the giant marched and shouted toward the camp of Israel, how did the soldiers in King Saul's army react? The Bible says: *"Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear"* (1 Samuel 17:24). Out of fear, they turned their backs and ran away.

Sometimes, we do the same when we are scared and worried about our challenges. How does this happen? Sometimes we put things off that should be done right away. When asked to do something we don't like, we reply with: "I'll do it later." Another

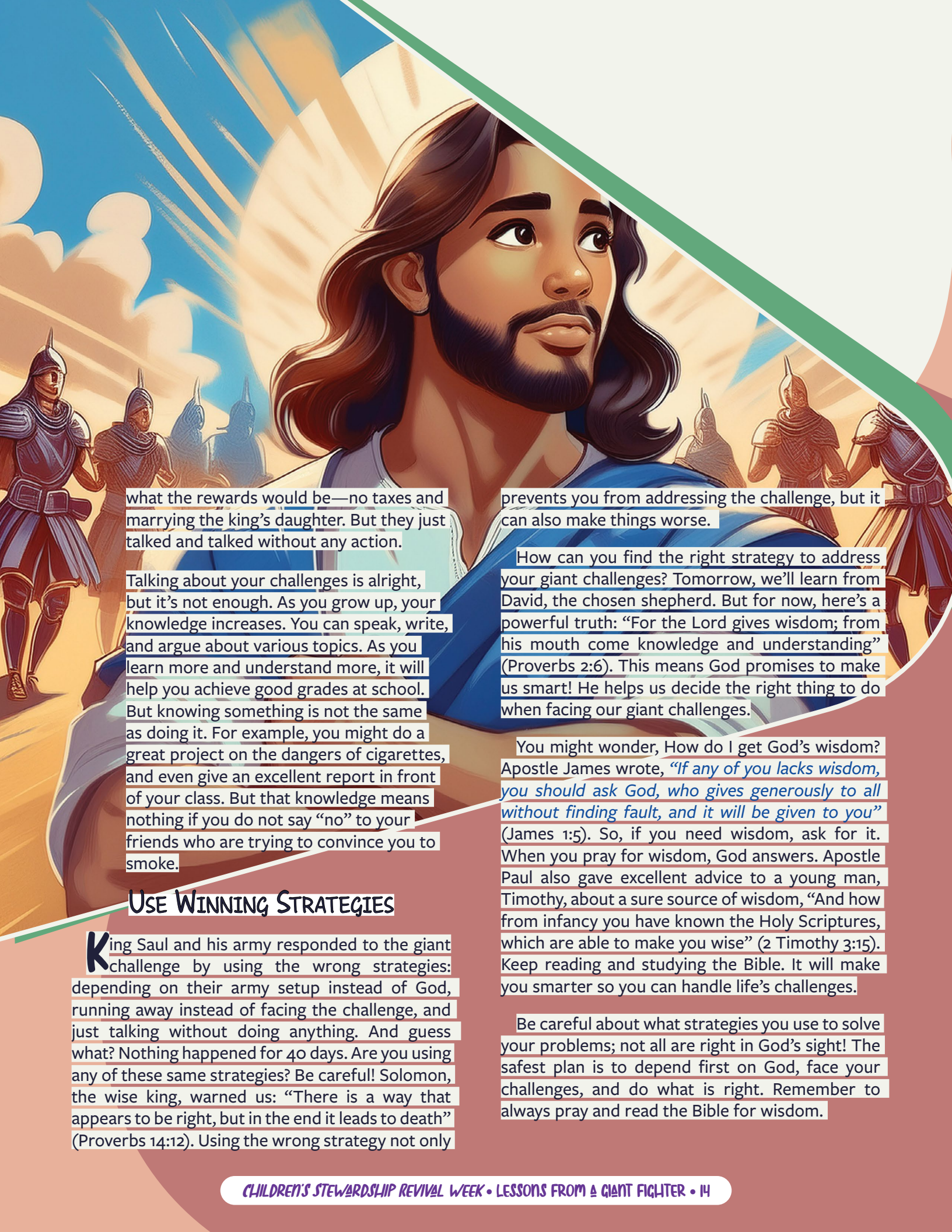
approach is to try to forget our problems by playing games or watching TV. Some people, even children, choose to do drugs or drink alcohol to run away from their challenges.

But here's the truth: Running away won't fix anything. Challenges don't disappear, but often grow bigger. And the next time we decide to take care of it, it will be much harder.

3. Only Talking About the Challenge

The soldiers not only ran away but also just talked about their challenge. We read in 1 Samuel 17:25: *"Now the Israelites had been saying, 'Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.'"*

These soldiers could clearly see the challenge: a giant called Goliath. They knew about the solution: Someone had to stand up and fight the giant. They even knew



what the rewards would be—no taxes and marrying the king's daughter. But they just talked and talked without any action.

Talking about your challenges is alright, but it's not enough. As you grow up, your knowledge increases. You can speak, write, and argue about various topics. As you learn more and understand more, it will help you achieve good grades at school. But knowing something is not the same as doing it. For example, you might do a great project on the dangers of cigarettes, and even give an excellent report in front of your class. But that knowledge means nothing if you do not say "no" to your friends who are trying to convince you to smoke.

USE WINNING STRATEGIES

King Saul and his army responded to the giant challenge by using the wrong strategies: depending on their army setup instead of God, running away instead of facing the challenge, and just talking without doing anything. And guess what? Nothing happened for 40 days. Are you using any of these same strategies? Be careful! Solomon, the wise king, warned us: "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12). Using the wrong strategy not only

prevents you from addressing the challenge, but it can also make things worse.

How can you find the right strategy to address your giant challenges? Tomorrow, we'll learn from David, the chosen shepherd. But for now, here's a powerful truth: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6). This means God promises to make us smart! He helps us decide the right thing to do when facing our giant challenges.

You might wonder, How do I get God's wisdom? Apostle James wrote, "*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you*" (James 1:5). So, if you need wisdom, ask for it. When you pray for wisdom, God answers. Apostle Paul also gave excellent advice to a young man, Timothy, about a sure source of wisdom, "And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise" (2 Timothy 3:15). Keep reading and studying the Bible. It will make you smarter so you can handle life's challenges.

Be careful about what strategies you use to solve your problems; not all are right in God's sight! The safest plan is to depend first on God, face your challenges, and do what is right. Remember to always pray and read the Bible for wisdom.

Going Deeper



1

What are some of the “big rocks” of your daily life?



2

Why do you think we often try to do more instead of praying first?



3

Have you ever prayed when facing challenges and how did it turn out for you?



Day 4:

MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

What does a giant fighter look like? You might think of one of your favorite superheroes who has amazing superpowers. David, God's chosen, who successfully defeated the giant, was no superhero. He was an ordinary kid, just like you and your friends sitting beside you.

The Bible describes David like this: *"David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem"* (1 Samuel 17:14,15). He was a young teen, about your age, caring for his father's sheep. David couldn't shoot webs, crawl on walls, or have superhuman strength like Spider-Man. He did not have the strength, speed, and fighting abilities of Wonder Woman. Neither could

he become invisible, move objects with his mind, or have some fancy gear. Still, he did something extraordinary. Why? David developed some special characteristics. Would you like to accomplish more every day? Let's learn one of David's characteristics today.

I WILL Go

One day, David's dad gave him a simple job: *"Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them"* (1 Samuel 17:17, 18). That's it, just a simple delivery and bringing back news for his father. It was an



ordinary job for a young boy. The distance from Bethlehem to the Valley of Elah was 15 miles, around 23 kilometers, to the southwest. If he left in the morning, David would have returned to Bethlehem by the evening and could sleep peacefully at his home. But he chose to act differently.

When David arrived in Elah, he saw Goliath yelling and scaring the army of Saul. No one was brave enough to face him. David demonstrated a unique quality. He went to the tent of King Saul and spoke these courageous words: *“Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him”* (1 Samuel 17:32).

Without military experience, armor, or a sword, this young man cried out, saying: “I will go. I will fight.” He was ready to step up! One of David’s biggest strengths is that he made himself available. Now, why would he do that?

HE CARED ABOUT OTHERS

Fighting Goliath was not David’s responsibility. He had completed the task his father gave him: He delivered the food and checked how his brothers were doing. But when he saw the desperate condition of Saul’s army, he didn’t just walk away—he offered to help. David was concerned and interested in the welfare of his

brothers and others. This caused him to go out of his way to help.

As we grow, many of us learn to focus on ourselves and avoid getting involved in other people’s business, so we are not considered nosy. This can keep us in our own bubble, blind to the difficulties and needs of others. When we’re OK, happy, and satisfied, it’s easy not to notice that others are hurting or need a helping hand. Apostle Paul disapproved of this selfish attitude. He told his young disciple Timothy that in the last days, *“people will be lovers of themselves”* (2 Timothy 3:2), not showing concern or caring for others, and encouraged him not to imitate such people. Young David became a giant slayer and a national hero because he cared and was interested in the well-being of others.

READY TO GIVE SOMETHING UP

When David decided to fight the giant, he was ready to give up his own time and comfort. He could have peacefully returned to Bethlehem, played his music, or relaxed with his sheep. Instead, he stayed and took a big risk of being hurt and even put his life in danger for others.

Helping others or doing what’s right often means giving something up. We all have limited resources, such as time, energy, and money. When you spend

time helping someone, you have less time to play. When you give a portion of your piggy bank money as offerings for missionaries to go preach to people who don't know Jesus, you have less money to spend on yourself. Do you hesitate to do or attempt something big because you are afraid of what you might lose?

We should be wise in the use of our resources. However, when we help others, give money for God's mission through tithes and offerings, or dedicate our lives to serve Jesus, God promises to reward our sacrifices and bless us (Proverbs 19:17; Malachi 3:9, 10; Mark 10:29, 30). He always finds a way to give us much more than we previously had. It's like the little boy who gave his basket of food to Jesus. Jesus multiplied his food to feed a huge crowd, and the boy had a surplus to bring back home.

READY FOR SOMETHING NEW

David was ready to do something that he had never done before. He had never seen or fought a giant, and had never seen anyone fight one either. But that did not stop him. Even though his brother Eliab made fun of him and told him to go home, David was ready to do something original.

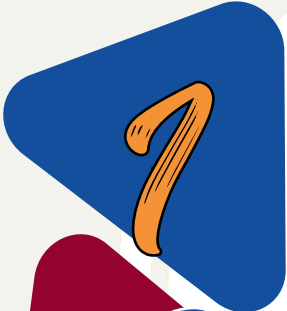
We all have our habits that please us the most. When you see a need or are asked to do something, do you decline to act because it is something new that you've never done before? New things can sometimes be scary, but this should not stop us from doing what is right.

The Bible tells us that God likes doing new and unusual things: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"* (Isaiah 43:19). He would love to use us to do these new things if we say yes. Growth, development, and outstanding achievement happen to those prepared to attempt things they have not done before.

Today, we have learned that David became a giant fighter because he made himself available. He did not wait for someone else to act. He cared for others, was ready to give something up, and was not afraid to try something new. God *"works in you to . . . fulfill his good purpose"* (Philippians 2:13), just like in David. All you have to say is: *"I'm available. Use me!"*



Going Deeper



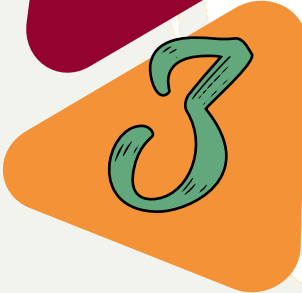
1

What does it really mean to say “Here I am, send me” to God?



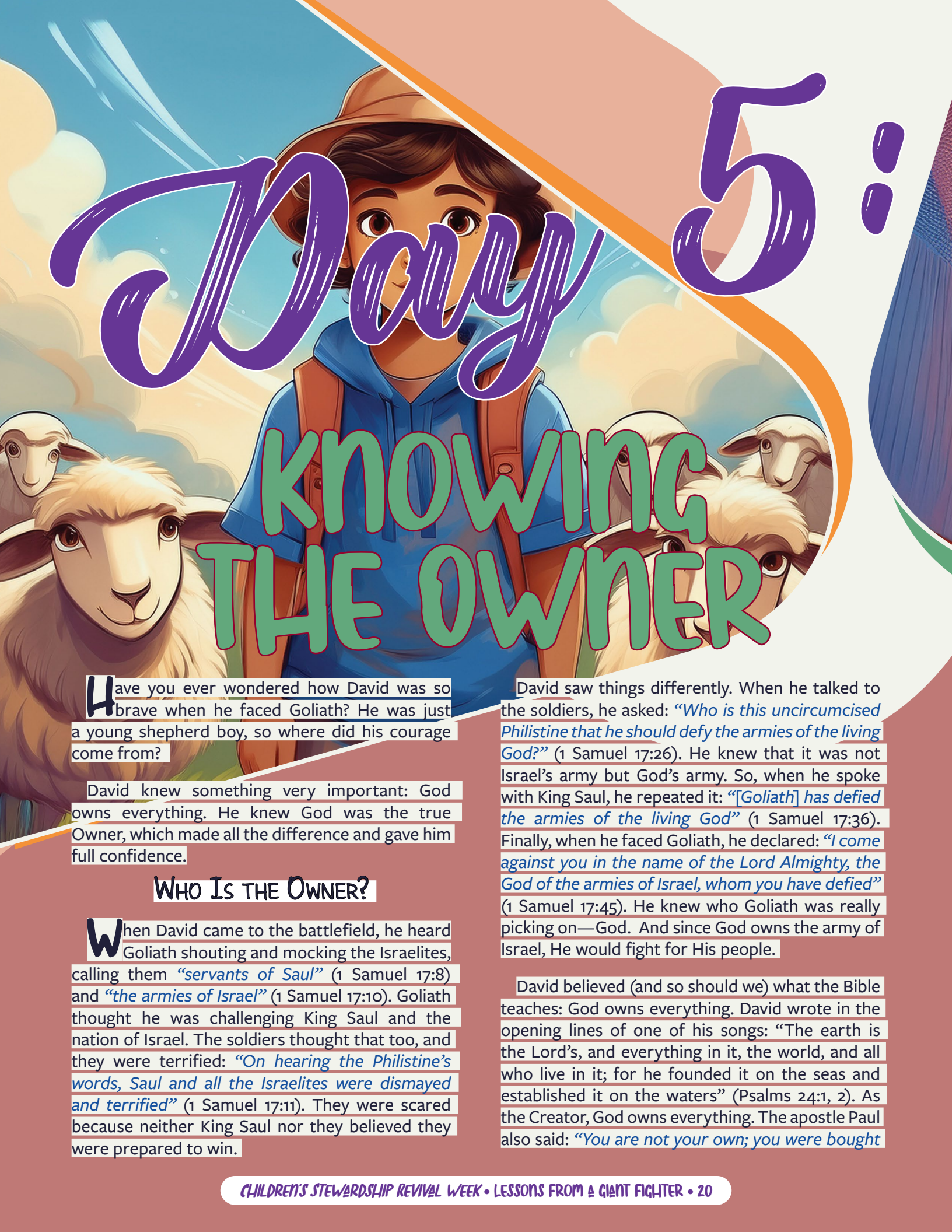
2

How do sacrifice, compassion, and courage work together when we say yes to God?



3

What small step could you take this week to be available to God and others?



Day 5:

KNOWING THE OWNER

Have you ever wondered how David was so brave when he faced Goliath? He was just a young shepherd boy, so where did his courage come from?

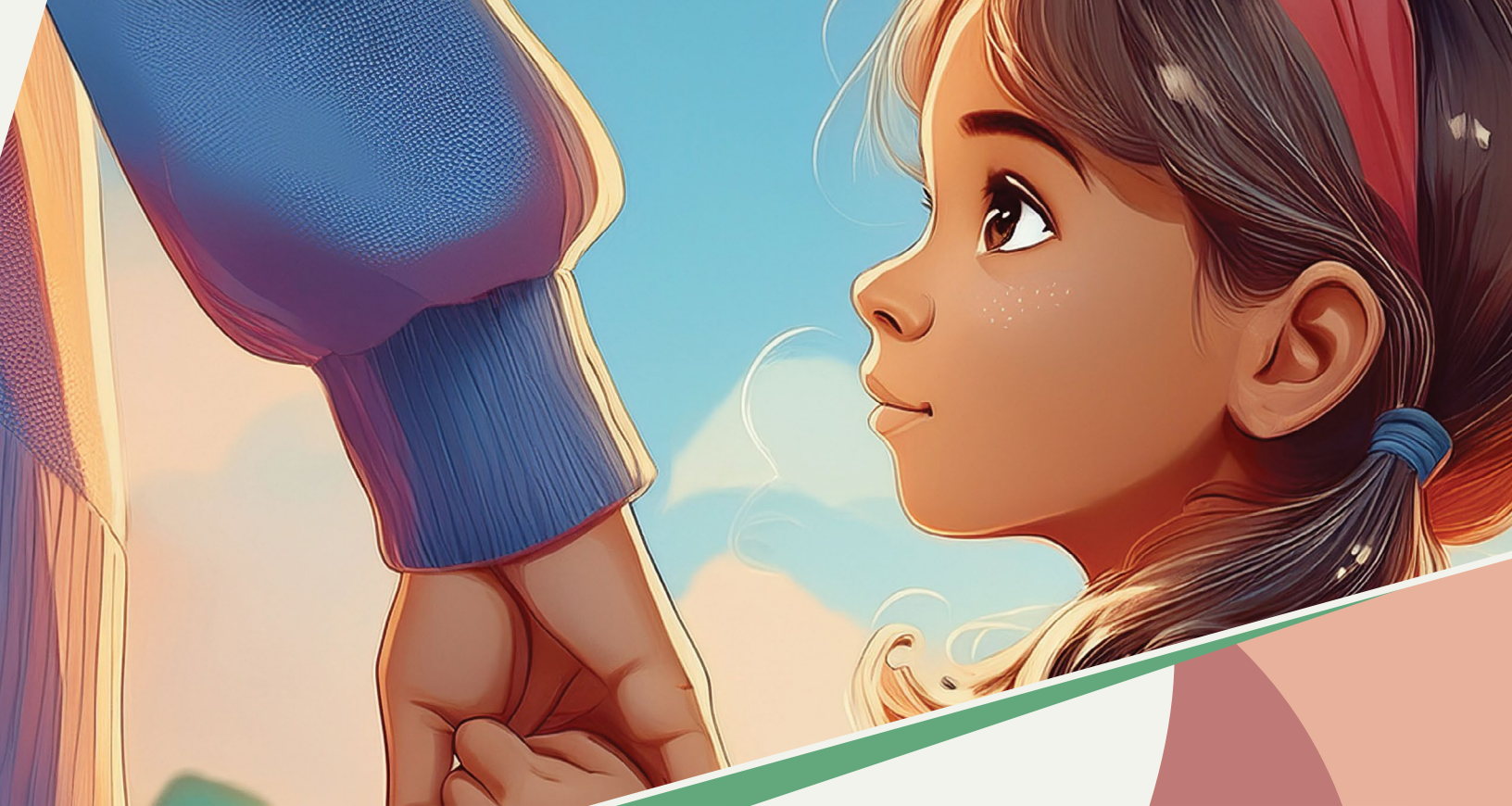
David knew something very important: God owns everything. He knew God was the true Owner, which made all the difference and gave him full confidence.

WHO IS THE OWNER?

When David came to the battlefield, he heard Goliath shouting and mocking the Israelites, calling them *“servants of Saul”* (1 Samuel 17:8) and *“the armies of Israel”* (1 Samuel 17:10). Goliath thought he was challenging King Saul and the nation of Israel. The soldiers thought that too, and they were terrified: *“On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified”* (1 Samuel 17:11). They were scared because neither King Saul nor they believed they were prepared to win.

David saw things differently. When he talked to the soldiers, he asked: *“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”* (1 Samuel 17:26). He knew that it was not Israel’s army but God’s army. So, when he spoke with King Saul, he repeated it: *“[Goliath] has defied the armies of the living God”* (1 Samuel 17:36). Finally, when he faced Goliath, he declared: *“I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied”* (1 Samuel 17:45). He knew who Goliath was really picking on—God. And since God owns the army of Israel, He would fight for His people.

David believed (and so should we) what the Bible teaches: God owns everything. David wrote in the opening lines of one of his songs: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters” (Psalms 24:1, 2). As the Creator, God owns everything. The apostle Paul also said: *“You are not your own; you were bought*



at a price” (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). This means, as one saved by God, we belong to God too—our lives, time, talents, money, and everything else.

Human owners don’t live forever because they are mortals. When they die, their belongings go to someone else. They have no more control and cannot protect their property. Unlike human owners, God, though invisible, never dies. He is the Living God, always watching over what belongs to Him, including you.

WHY GOD’S OWNERSHIP MATTERS?

David recognized God as the Owner of the army and the problems they were facing, and this gave him confidence to face anything.

When King Saul asked David how he could be so brave, he answered: *“The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine”* (1 Samuel 17:37). Since he belonged to God, he knew God would protect him and ensure his victory.

Even when Goliath tried to intimidate David by calling him a puny little dog and threatening to kill him, David did not back down! Why? He trusted that God, the real Owner, would show up: *“The battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands”* (1 Samuel 17:47). David believed that

if God owns the battle, God will fight the battle. The conviction of God’s ownership comes with the assurance of His intervention. He takes care of His own.

The Bible tells us that God’s protection, care, and intervention come with His ownership, kind of like a bundle. Zechariah 2:8 gives us a beautiful picture: *“For whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye.”* When something passes by your eyes, it is hard not to blink. Your reaction is automatic, which is called a reflex. In the same way, when we are in danger, God intervenes right away as if it is His reflex because we are the apple of His eye. We are His precious property.

WE’RE NOT OWNERS — WE ARE STEWARDS

If God owns everything, then what are we? According to the Bible, we are God’s stewards. That means we are managers—people who take care of things that belong to someone else. It started in the Garden of Eden: *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”* (Genesis 2:15). God asked Adam and Eve to take care of His magnificent creation. Apostle Paul wrote that God *“put everything under their feet”* (Hebrews 2:8). God gives us time, money, talents, our body, and everything else—not to own but to manage well for Him.

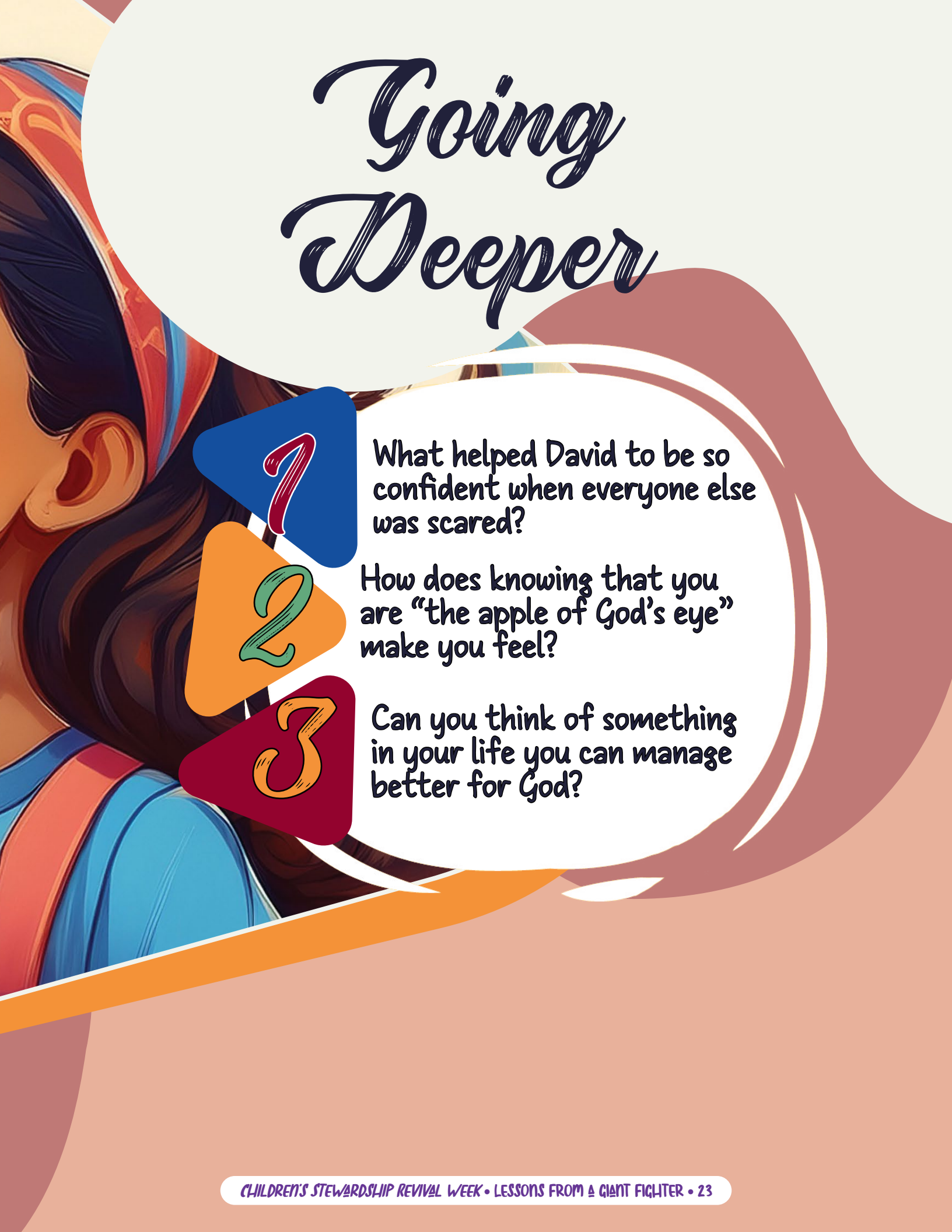


Good stewards do four things:

1. **Remember the Provider.** The Bible invites us to “remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18). Some activities help us remember the Owner. When we keep the Sabbath, we remember the Creator of all things and that time belongs to God. When we return tithes (10% of our earnings) and offerings, we remember that God provides for our everyday needs.
2. **Are Faithful.** “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). Stewards do not make their own rules. Instead, they obey and follow the instructions of the Owner. As long as they are faithful, they don’t have to worry much about results; the Owner takes care of that. The Bible is the guideline for faithful stewards.

3. **Serve and Bless Others.** Stewards apply the principle of caring and sharing with others: “Having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). They search for ways to bless others.
4. **Are Ready to Give a Report.** Jesus told the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30) to illustrate that all who have and will receive something from the Owner will have to one day report how they have used it.

The soldiers in Saul’s army were afraid because they didn’t see God as the Owner of Israel and the battle. When we act like we own everything, trying to control everything ourselves, we’ll feel worried, afraid, and stressed. But when we remember that God owns it all, we live with peace and are courageous, just like David. We’re not owners—we are stewards. The battle belongs to the Lord.



Going Deeper

1

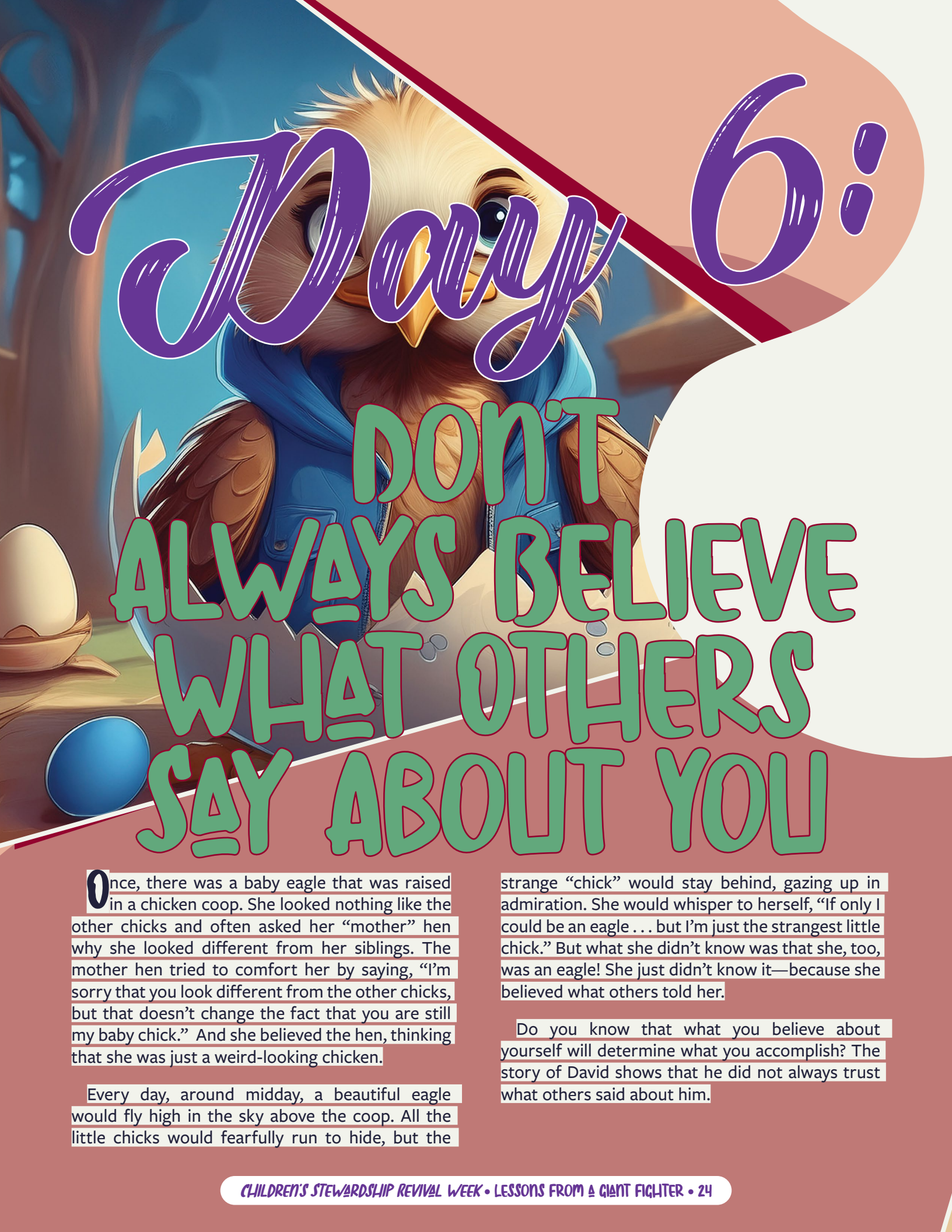
What helped David to be so confident when everyone else was scared?

2

How does knowing that you are “the apple of God’s eye” make you feel?

3

Can you think of something in your life you can manage better for God?



Day 6:

DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT YOU

Once, there was a baby eagle that was raised in a chicken coop. She looked nothing like the other chicks and often asked her “mother” hen why she looked different from her siblings. The mother hen tried to comfort her by saying, “I’m sorry that you look different from the other chicks, but that doesn’t change the fact that you are still my baby chick.” And she believed the hen, thinking that she was just a weird-looking chicken.

Every day, around midday, a beautiful eagle would fly high in the sky above the coop. All the little chicks would fearfully run to hide, but the

strange “chick” would stay behind, gazing up in admiration. She would whisper to herself, “If only I could be an eagle . . . but I’m just the strangest little chick.” But what she didn’t know was that she, too, was an eagle! She just didn’t know it—because she believed what others told her.

Do you know that what you believe about yourself will determine what you accomplish? The story of David shows that he did not always trust what others said about him.

BE CAREFUL OF OTHERS' EVALUATION

On several occasions, people—including his brother, King Saul, and Goliath—told David he could not fight the giant and was not a good fit! He didn't listen to them.

HIS BROTHER

The first one to look down on David was his eldest brother, Eliab, whom he probably most admired and looked to for approval. When David showed interest in what was happening and possibly fighting Goliath, Eliab got mad. The Bible says, “[Eliab] *burned with anger*” (1 Samuel 17:28). Eliab questioned the good intentions of David for coming to the battlefield and blamed him for neglecting his job as a shepherd. He accused David of being proud and “*how wicked [David's] heart is*” (1 Samuel 17:28). No words of affirmation! That must have hurt, especially coming from his family.

THE KING

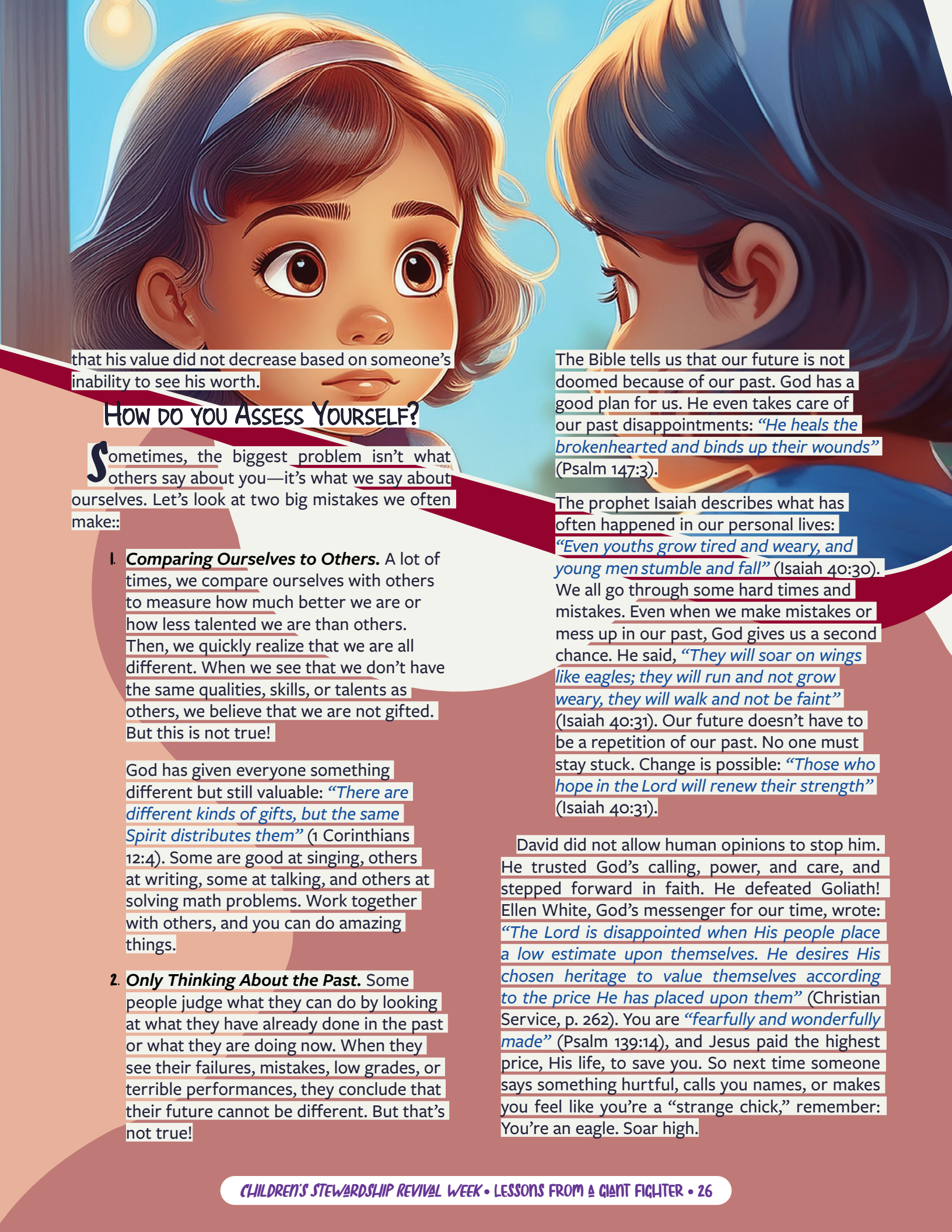
The second one to look down on David was King Saul. When David shared with him that he wanted to fight Goliath, he was probably expecting words of praise, encouragement, and confirmation of the rewards. But what he heard was completely different: “Saul replied, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine and fight him; you are only

a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth’” (1 Samuel 17:33). King Saul questioned David's abilities and experiences. He compared him to Goliath and concluded he was just a boy. Had David believed the king, he would have given up right there, taking the road back to Bethlehem, not the battlefield. But he didn't. Have you interacted with someone in authority, like a teacher, a Pathfinder director, or a pastor who seemed to overlook your potential? Did you persevere in doing what you knew God had chosen you to do?

GOLIATH HIMSELF

The third person who made fun of David was Goliath. He laughed when he saw David and took him for a joke: “*He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him*” (1 Samuel 17:42). He made it clear to David that he despised him: “*You don't look like a giant fighter, and you are surely not one!*” But David knew that he was chosen by God and was convinced that God was calling him to do something.

How people look at us tells us how much they believe in our capacity. When they ignore us or pay little attention to what we have to say, it tells us that we are not important to them. Do we abandon our good plan when this happens? For David, people's view of him was always secondary. He understood



that his value did not decrease based on someone's inability to see his worth.

HOW DO YOU ASSESS YOURSELF?

Sometimes, the biggest problem isn't what others say about you—it's what we say about ourselves. Let's look at two big mistakes we often make::

1. **Comparing Ourselves to Others.** A lot of times, we compare ourselves with others to measure how much better we are or how less talented we are than others. Then, we quickly realize that we are all different. When we see that we don't have the same qualities, skills, or talents as others, we believe that we are not gifted. But this is not true!

God has given everyone something different but still valuable: *"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them"* (1 Corinthians 12:4). Some are good at singing, others at writing, some at talking, and others at solving math problems. Work together with others, and you can do amazing things.

2. **Only Thinking About the Past.** Some people judge what they can do by looking at what they have already done in the past or what they are doing now. When they see their failures, mistakes, low grades, or terrible performances, they conclude that their future cannot be different. But that's not true!

The Bible tells us that our future is not doomed because of our past. God has a good plan for us. He even takes care of our past disappointments: *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds"* (Psalm 147:3).

The prophet Isaiah describes what has often happened in our personal lives: *"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall"* (Isaiah 40:30). We all go through some hard times and mistakes. Even when we make mistakes or mess up in our past, God gives us a second chance. He said, *"They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"* (Isaiah 40:31). Our future doesn't have to be a repetition of our past. No one must stay stuck. Change is possible: *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength"* (Isaiah 40:31).

David did not allow human opinions to stop him. He trusted God's calling, power, and care, and stepped forward in faith. He defeated Goliath! Ellen White, God's messenger for our time, wrote: *"The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them"* (Christian Service, p. 262). You are *"fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:14), and Jesus paid the highest price, His life, to save you. So next time someone says something hurtful, calls you names, or makes you feel like you're a "strange chick," remember: You're an eagle. Soar high.

Going Deeper

1

Have you ever been told you couldn't do something just because of your age, size, or past mistakes?

2

Why didn't David believe what his brother, King Saul, or Goliath said about him?

3

Why is it dangerous to compare yourself to others?



Day 7:

GROW YOUR MUSCLES AND YOUR CHARACTER

Do you know that regular practice and training prepare you for the big moments you will face in life? At a high school track and field championship, a girls' 4x400 relay team was missing one runner. The coach didn't know what to do. So, he turned to the crowd of student supporters and asked for a volunteer..

Then, out of the blue, one girl bravely stepped forward and said she'd like to run. She had never trained for a race before, but it had always been her dream to participate in a real athletic competition. Since there was no other option, the coach let her join the team.

She started off strong, full of energy, running her first few meters confidently. But soon, she got too tired and collapsed. She couldn't finish her part of

the race. She hadn't trained, and her body wasn't ready.

Let's look at how David prepared outside the battlefield—how he built his strength and character long before his big moment arrived.

GROWING IN STRENGTH

When you imagine David fighting Goliath, which image comes to your mind? Do you see him as a weak and frail boy standing fearfully before the giant? No. That's not right! David was young, yes, but he built up great physical strength and endurance.

In 1 Samuel 17:17, 18, we read: *"Now Jesse said to his son David, 'Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and*



hurry to their camp. Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them."

It was a simple task, but not easy. What David had to carry—roasted grain, loaves of bread, and cheese—weighed approximately 30–40 pounds (13.5–18 kg). That's like carrying a full 5-gallon water jug! Many, including teens, can lift more than that, but David had to carry the weight for over 15 miles (23 kilometers). That's more than half a marathon! And his father, Jesse, specifically told him to run to the battlefield. Jesse knew his son had the strength and stamina for the task.

Later, when Goliath came toward him, David *"ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him"* (1 Samuel 17:48). He was quick! David's quick movement and swiftness made it difficult for Goliath to avoid the incoming shot from the sling.

David was in excellent physical condition. That kind of fitness does not come overnight or on the day of battle. It took David time, consistency, and discipline—through hard work, exercise, healthy choices, and avoiding anything that could weaken his body.

We need our bodies to achieve both big and small tasks. We don't have to be giants, but our physical condition truly helps us accomplish much for God. Ellen White, God's messenger for our time, reminds us, *"Strength is a talent, and is to be used to glorify God. Our bodies belong to Him. He has paid the price of redemption for the body as well as for the soul. . . . We can serve God better in the vigor of health than in the palsy of disease; therefore we should cooperate with God in the care of our bodies"* (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 115). God cares about how we treat our bodies.

What good habits can you start today, and which ones do you need to stop to stay strong?

GROWING IN FAITH

David didn't just grow his strong muscles—he also grew his character and faith. Before he fought Goliath, he had already fought other challenges. David told King Saul, *"Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it"* (1 Samuel 17:34, 35). David had developed responsibility and



bravery while doing his job as a shepherd. He did not run away from danger and was ready to risk his life to protect his sheep. These same qualities helped him to stand boldly when he later had to face Goliath. His experience confirms these words: *"By faithfulness in that which is least, they acquire strength to be faithful in greater matters"* (From *Eternity Past*, p. 148).

Most importantly, David learned to trust God: *"The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine"* (1 Samuel 17:37). Every time David had to protect his sheep, he cried out to God. And every time God intervened, his faith in Him grew bigger. So, when he arrived on the battlefield, he was already sure that he could face anything with God. Faith is like a muscle—the more you exercise it in everyday situations, the stronger it gets.

START TODAY!

A lot of people wait for a "big moment" to make a splash. But David did not wait—he got ready by doing small daily tasks faithfully. It's what prepares us for greater tasks.

As believers, we all have a similar mission: to share the good news of Jesus' soon return with the world. Christians can participate by helping others, preaching, and giving of their means. But many wait for a special calling or a big opportunity. In the meantime, they adopt a "wait and relax" attitude.

It is common to think we don't have the talents and means to do and give for mission. Some plan to start serving, preaching, and sharing when their abilities are mature and when they have more money. God's messenger, Ellen White, warns about the danger of such an attitude: *"Many are waiting for some great work to be brought to them. Daily they lose opportunities for showing their faithfulness to God; daily they fail of discharging with whole-heartedness the little duties of life, which seem to them uninteresting"* (Messages to Young People, p. 148).

Start today by serving others, talking about Jesus, returning tithe, giving offerings, and making gifts, even if it is not much. Remember this promise: *"By faithfulness in that which is least, they acquire strength to be faithful in greater matters"* (From *Eternity Past*, p. 148). You don't have to be the strongest, the most talented, or the richest. God just wants you to be faithful in the little, everyday things.

Going Deeper

1

How do small daily choices prepare us for big moments in life?

2

Can you think of one healthy habit you could start or improve this week?

3

David didn't just grow strong physically—he also grew in faith. What are some ways we can grow our faith today?

Day 8:

USE WHAT IS IN YOUR HANDS

Jesus told a story of a master who distributed his wealth among his servants before going on a trip. After some time, the master came back and wanted to know what they had done with the money. After receiving their reports, he rewarded those who used what they received well.

In the same way, God highly appreciated David because he used what he had received well.

DIFFERENT, BUT NOT LEFT OUT

King Saul tried to discourage David from fighting Goliath, but he couldn't stop him. Finally, Saul asked his servant to dress David in his own royal armor and gave him his sword. After all, he must at least look like a small soldier ready for war.

But the armor was too big and the sword was way too heavy!

David took a few steps but quickly came back. Seeing him returning, King Saul assumed that David had finally realized that this fight was not for him. David told the King: *"I cannot go in these . . . because I am not used to them."* He was not used to that kind of equipment, *"so [David] took them off"* (1 Samuel 17:39).

David was a shepherd, not a soldier like his brothers or King Saul. He was different from everyone else on the battlefield—he did not have their ability and experience. Would he quit?

Nope!

Instead, David embraced who he was and chose to act in his own way. He would fight differently, with what he was used to.

We read in 1 Samuel 17:40: *"Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's*



bag and, with his sling in hand, approached the Philistine.” David used his skills and means: his staff (his shepherd’s stick), his sling, and the smooth stones he collected from the brook. And with those simple tools, he became known as a giant slayer, a national hero.

David teaches us that each person is unique. Being different does not disqualify you from doing something great. Sometimes, we feel pressured to dress, talk, walk, study, or grow like others. When you try to mimic those different than you, you’ll feel confused and frustrated. It is wiser to know your skills, talents, and means, and to do things in your own style. You will accomplish much more!

SO . . . WHAT’S IN YOUR HANDS?

A staff, a sling, and some stones in David’s hand changed history and his life. What do you have in your hands? What skills, talents, and gifts have you received to accomplish God’s mission?

There are four ways to discover your gifts and talents:

1. **Pray to God.** Every good gift comes from God. He is, therefore, the best person to reveal and confirm what we have received.
2. **Talk with someone you trust.** Parents, teachers, and friends who know you well know your qualities and strengths. Listen

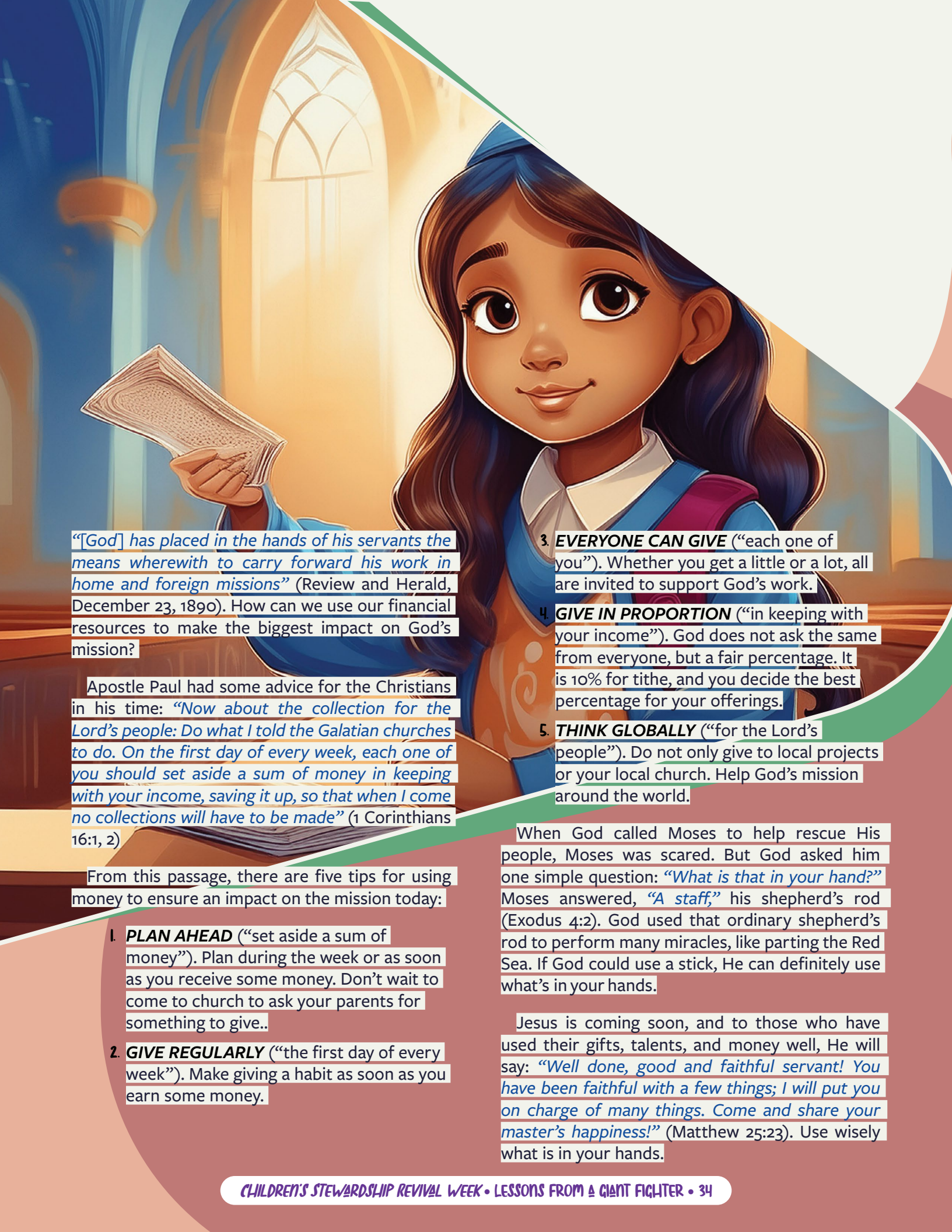
to what they tell you about your gifts and talents.

3. **Try Different Things.** Trial and error help you discover what you are good at and what you enjoy. Explore! Practice! Sometimes, you will fail or won’t like something. That’s fine, it’s part of growing. Remember that a weak performance can be transformed through much practice. David likely took years to practice the sling.
4. **Do a spiritual gift test.** Some quizzes can help you discover what you’re good at. Just be honest; there are no wrong answers. Ask your Sabbath School teacher or Adventurer and Pathfinder counselors to help you find such a test. One example can be found here: <https://kids.mycrosscity.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/92739299-youth-spiritual-gifts-test-1.pdf>.

HOW TO USE WHAT’S IN YOUR HAND?

Having a sling and some stones won’t help if you don’t know how to use them. David knew how to use them. The same goes for the gifts that God has given us. We need to use them the way God has designed.

One special gift that people receive is money. Ellen White, God’s messenger for our time, wrote:



"[God] has placed in the hands of his servants the means wherewith to carry forward his work in home and foreign missions" (Review and Herald, December 23, 1890). How can we use our financial resources to make the biggest impact on God's mission?

Apostle Paul had some advice for the Christians in his time: *"Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made"* (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2)

From this passage, there are five tips for using money to ensure an impact on the mission today:

1. **PLAN AHEAD** ("set aside a sum of money"). Plan during the week or as soon as you receive some money. Don't wait to come to church to ask your parents for something to give..
2. **GIVE REGULARLY** ("the first day of every week"). Make giving a habit as soon as you earn some money.

3. **EVERYONE CAN GIVE** ("each one of you"). Whether you get a little or a lot, all are invited to support God's work.
4. **GIVE IN PROPORTION** ("in keeping with your income"). God does not ask the same from everyone, but a fair percentage. It is 10% for tithe, and you decide the best percentage for your offerings.
5. **THINK GLOBALLY** ("for the Lord's people"). Do not only give to local projects or your local church. Help God's mission around the world.

When God called Moses to help rescue His people, Moses was scared. But God asked him one simple question: *"What is that in your hand?"* Moses answered, *"A staff,"* his shepherd's rod (Exodus 4:2). God used that ordinary shepherd's rod to perform many miracles, like parting the Red Sea. If God could use a stick, He can definitely use what's in your hands.

Jesus is coming soon, and to those who have used their gifts, talents, and money well, He will say: *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you on charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"* (Matthew 25:23). Use wisely what is in your hands.

Going Deeper

1

What are some gifts or talents you think God has already placed “in your hands”?

2

Have you ever tried something just because others were doing it—and it didn’t feel right for you?

3

Why do you think it’s important to plan how we give our money to God’s mission—even if we don’t have much?

Activities

Day 1: CHOSEN BY GOD

Objective:

To help children and teenagers understand that they are all chosen by God for something special, and how God makes the selection.

Opening Activity: The Box Challenge (10 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- 6–8 medium boxes or containers (some should be wrapped or decorated to look appealing, while others should be dull)
- Small “treasures” or notes inside (e.g., “You are chosen!”/“God has a plan for you!”/a small gift)
- 1 plain box with the best or most meaningful treasure inside
- Index cards
- Pens/markers

Instructions:

- Show the kids the boxes (some should be flashy, shiny, or colorful; others dull or plain).
- Ask: Which one do you think has the best gift inside? Why?
- Let them vote and then open each one.
- The flashiest boxes have small, ordinary things (e.g., paperclip, crayon).

- The plainest box has a special note like, “God doesn’t look at the outside—He looks at the heart. You are chosen!”

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: “Chosen by God”

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

- “People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

Group Discussion: (10 minutes)

- Why do you think God chose David instead of his older brothers?
- What are some good things about your heart?
- How does it make you feel to know that God has chosen you for something special?

Reinforcement Activity: Heart Tags (10 minutes)

- Give each participant an index card or heart-shaped cutout.
- Ask them to write or draw one thing about their heart (kindness, love, creativity, helpfulness) that they think God values in them.
- **Optional:** Collect the hearts and place them on a board or wall labeled “Chosen by God.”

Prayer:

Pray to thank God for choosing each person for something special.

Day 2:

WHEN CHALLENGES FEEL TOO BIG OBJECTIVE:

Objective

To help teenagers and children understand that life brings challenges, but with God's help, we can keep doing good and come out victorious.

Opening Activity: Obstacle Overcomers (20 minutes).

Materials Needed:

- Space to set up a simple obstacle course (indoor or outdoor)

Add Challenge Stations where participants will pick up an Obstacle Card prepared in advance. On each card, the participant can read about a real-life challenge they might face and also a Bible truth.

- Everyday objects (cones, chairs, ropes, pool noodles, cardboard boxes, etc.)
- Index cards or paper with written obstacles (see explanation below)

Instructions:

1. Set up the Obstacle Course before the beginning of the program.

The obstacle course should include physical challenges like:

- Crawling under a rope
- Jumping over cones
- Balancing on a line
- Going around boxes

REAL-LIFE CHALLENGE

BIBLE TRUTH

Someone is mean to you.	God is with me.
You're afraid to speak up for what's right.	I can do the right thing with God's help.
You feel like giving up.	God gives me strength.
You're tired, but someone needs your help.	Jesus didn't give up—and neither will I!
You failed at something you tried.	

2. Children complete the Obstacle Course and collect the Obstacle Cards.

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: "When Challenges Feel Too Big"

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Group Discussion: (10 minutes)

- What kind of things make it hard to do good sometimes?
- What can help us keep going?
- Have you ever been successful after seeking God's help? Invite someone to share.

Prayer:

Have prayer to conclude.

Day 3

AVOID FAILING STRATEGIES

Objective:

To help children and teenagers understand that not all actions and reactions are appropriate when facing challenges and difficulties, and that they can rely on God's wisdom to respond wisely.

Activity: The Jar of Priorities (15 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- A large, clear jar or container
- Big rocks (labeled with "God," "Prayer," "Bible," "Wisdom")
- Medium-sized pebbles (labeled "School," "Friends," "Chores," "Activities")
- Sand (representing distractions and busy work: social media, games, etc.)

Instructions

- Present the empty jar.
- Say: “This jar represents your life. You only have so much room, just like your time, energy, and attention. Now, let’s fill it and see what matters most.”
- Start with the sand.
 - Begin pouring the sand (distractions) into the jar first.
 - Add the pebbles (chores, school, friends).
 - Try to add the big rocks (God, prayer, Bible). They won’t fit now.
- Say: “When we fill our lives with distractions and even good things but leave God for last, we find there’s no room for what matters most. We get overwhelmed and exhausted.”
- Empty the jar and refill it in order.
 - Start by placing the big rocks in the jar first.
 - Then add the pebbles, letting them fill in around the rocks.
 - Finally, pour the sand—it will fit around everything else.
- Say: “But when we start with God, prayer, and His wisdom, everything else fits into place. We don’t need to do more—we need to do what matters most first.”

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: “Avoid Failing Strategies”

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God” (James 1:5).

Group Discussion: (10 minutes)

- What are some of the “big rocks” of your daily life?
- Why do you think we often try to do more instead of praying first?
- Have you ever prayed for a particular challenge, and how did it turn out for you?

Prayer:

Have prayer to conclude.

Day 4

MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

Objective:

To help children and teenagers understand that one of the first steps to living an abundant life and making an impact in God’s mission is being available to Him.

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: “Make Yourself Available”

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8).

Activity: The Open Hands Challenge (20 minutes)

To help participants reflect on three essential heart-postures of availability—letting go (sacrifice); reaching out (compassion); stepping forward (new beginnings)—complete the following activity.

Materials Needed:

- Small index cards or sticky notes (at least 3 per person)
- Pens or markers
- A large open space or room corners marked as: LET GO, REACH OUT, and STEP FORWARD
- A large cross or symbolic center area

Instructions:

1. Say: “Being available to God isn’t just saying yes with our mouths—it’s showing yes with our hearts, habits, and hands. God often calls us to let go of something we love, care deeply about others, and walk into something new or scary. Let’s reflect on that together.”
2. Pass out three cards per person. Have them reflect and write:
 - Card 1: LET GO
 - Write one thing that might be hard for you to give up if God asked you to (e.g., fear, comfort, time, popularity, your plans).
 - Card 2: REACH OUT

- Write one person or group of people you feel God may be nudging you to care for, love, or serve.
- Card 3: STEP FORWARD
 - Write one thing God might be calling you to try that feels new, unknown, or uncomfortable (e.g., a conversation, a leadership role, mission work, prayer, etc.).
- 3. Designate three corners or spaces: 🕊️ Let Go; ❤️ Reach Out; 🦶 Step Forward
- 4. Invite the participants to walk to each station one by one. At each, they:
 - Place their card face down
 - Spend a moment in silent prayer, saying: “God, help me trust You with this.”
 - Optional: Play soft worship music in the background to create a reflective atmosphere.

Group Discussion: (10 minutes)

- Which of the three was the hardest to write? Why?
- What does it really mean to say “Here I am, send me” to God?
- What small step could you take this week to be available to others?

Prayer

Have prayer to conclude.

Day 5

KNOWING THE OWNER

Objective:

To help children and teenagers understand that in order to cope with their fears and move boldly in what they choose to undertake, they must acknowledge God’s ownership over their lives and everything, because God takes care of what He owns.

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: “Knowing the Owner”

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

“For whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye” (Zechariah 2:8).

Discussion Questions: (10 Minutes)

- What helped David to be so confident when everyone else was scared?
- How does knowing that you are “the apple of God’s eye” make you feel?
- Can you think of something in your life you can manage better for God?

Activity: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts— Part 1: (20 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- Print a copy of the Spiritual Gifts Survey for Kids for each participant (see Survey below) or download from <https://kids.mycrosscity.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/92739299-youth-spiritual-gifts-test-1.pdf>.
- A pen per participant

Instructions:

- Distribute a copy of the Spiritual Gifts Survey for Kids and a pen to each participant.
- Remind all participants to include their names on the survey sheet.
- Explain the points system to participants: Never (1), Seldom (2), Sometimes (3), Often (4), and Always (5).
- Read aloud the statements of the survey (1–30), explaining any terms as needed.
- After everyone has completed up to Statement 30, collect the survey sheets.

Prayer:

Have prayer after the survey is collected to wrap up.

This checklist is created to help elementary-age children discover their spiritual gifts as presented in Romans 12:6–8 of God’s Word.

Leader—Read the following 49 statements to the participants and ask each to answer by choosing one of the five following responses:

Never (1), Seldom (2), Sometimes (3), Often (4), and Always (5)

1. I see things as being either right or wrong, good or evil. _____
2. I love to work with my hands, and I’m good at it. _____
3. I find great joy in learning. _____
4. I love to talk almost all the time. _____
5. Giving to others makes me joyful. _____
6. I get great joy from accomplishing something. _____
7. I get sad and angry when bad things happen to people. _____
8. I am frank and outspoken. _____
9. I find great joy in helping others. _____
10. I love teaching people about things. _____
11. I am very happy and have a balanced personality. _____
12. I do everything with all my heart. _____
13. I thrive on competition; I always want to be first or best. _____
14. I look for the good in people and ignore the bad. _____
15. I tend to be a little negative. _____
16. I am usually shy and easily embarrassed. _____
17. It’s easy for me to speak and to express my thoughts clearly. _____
18. I like to tell people “good job.” _____
19. I am very imaginative. _____
20. It’s very important that my friends are loyal to me. _____
21. I find great joy in showing love to someone who is hurting. _____
22. I feel that I am right most of the time. _____
23. I like helping others before I help myself. _____

24. I have strong convictions and opinions. _____
25. I have a very positive outlook on life. _____
26. I do not have a lot of friends, just a few best friends. _____
27. I enjoy leading and telling others what to do. _____
28. I am eager to please and be obedient. _____
29. I get angry when people break the rules and get away with it. _____
30. I like to keep my room neat and tidy. _____
31. I love explaining the whole story to people. _____
32. I notice what people can do well, and I tell them. _____
33. I like to save money rather than spend it. _____
34. I'm good at expressing myself; I love to speak in class. _____
35. I enjoy peace and try to avoid conflict. _____
36. I tend to be strong-willed and stubborn. _____
37. It's hard for me to say no when people ask for my help. _____
38. I am very independent. _____
39. I love helping people know how to solve their problems. _____
40. I am good at making money. _____
41. I am confident and enthusiastic. _____
42. I find it hard to stand up and defend myself. _____
43. I want to be obedient and feel guilty when I'm disobedient. _____
44. I like doing really nice projects for people. _____
45. I think I know more than many of my friends. _____
46. I get along well with my parents, neighbors, and friends. _____
47. I quickly help when I see a need. _____
48. I love leading and organizing when I'm in a group. _____
49. I prefer playing in non-competitive sports. _____

To determine which gift(s) each participant might have, add up the following numbers under each gift below and calculate the results. The gift(s) with the largest number may indicate that child's particular spiritual gift.

Prophecy (Perceiver):

Characteristics – discerning, judging, sensitive

Add the totals for questions 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 36, 43

Total =

Serving:

Characteristics – practical, observant, detailed

Add the totals for questions 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 37, 44

Total =

Teaching:

Characteristics – logical, systematic, factual

Add the totals for questions 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 38, 45

Total =

Exhortation (Encouragement):

Characteristics – edifying, positive, expectant

Add the totals for questions 4, 11, 18, 25, 32, 39, 46

Total =

Giving

Characteristics – generous, hospitable, resourceful

Add the totals for questions 5, 12, 19, 26, 33, 40, 47

Total=

Leadership (Administration)

Characteristics – Thorough, organized, responsible

Add the totals for questions 6, 13, 20, 27, 34, 41, 48

Total =

Mercy (Compassion)

Characteristics – Emotional, personal, joyful

Add the totals for questions 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49

Total=

Day 6

**DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE
WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT
YOU**

Objective:

To help children and teenagers learn not to listen to negative messages about themselves, and to understand that they are all wonderfully made and gifted by God.

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: “Don’t Always Believe What Others Say About You”

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well” (Psalms 139:14).

Discussion Questions: (10 minutes)

- Have you ever been told you couldn't do something just because of your age, size, or past mistakes?
- Why didn't David believe what his brother, King Saul, or Goliath said about him?
- Why is it dangerous to compare yourself to others?

**Activity 1: Discovering Your Spiritual Gift—
Part 2: (20 minutes)**

Instructions:

- Redistribute the Spiritual Gifts Survey for Kids form and pens to each participant.

- Read aloud the remaining statements of the survey (31-49), explaining any terms as needed.
- Remind participants about the points system: Never (1), Seldom (2), Sometimes (3), Often (4), and Always (5).
- After everyone has completed the form, guide participants in adding up the scores under each gift category. Assist anyone who needs help with this calculation.
- Encourage children to share their findings with their parents or a trusted church leader.

Prayer:

Lead a dedication prayer, asking God to help children use their spiritual gifts for His purpose.

Day 7

GROW YOUR MUSCLES AND YOUR CHARACTER

Objective:

To help children and teenagers grow stronger through daily habits and choices that prepare them for life's big moments.

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: “Grow Your Muscles and Your Character”

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

Activity 1: The Daily Choice Challenge (10 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard or large poster paper
- Markers
- Prepare a “Habit Tracker” worksheet (or journals/paper for each person)

Instructions:

1. Start by brainstorming a list of “big moments” that children or teens might face. Write responses on the board or poster. Examples:
 - Final exams
 - Dealing with peer pressure
 - Making spiritual decisions
 - Facing mental health challenges
2. Next, ask students to suggest three daily habits that could help someone prepare for those moments. Examples:
 - **Big Moment:** Being offered drugs. →Daily Habit: Practicing saying no and choosing good friends.
 - **Big Moment:** Failing a test. →Daily Habit: Studying daily, asking for help, and building self-worth outside of grades.

Activity 2: Personal Habit Tracker (15 minutes)

1. Distribute 3 weekly Daily Habit Tracker worksheets per child.
2. Explain the three categories on the worksheet:
 - Mind (e.g., reading, journaling, cultivating positive thoughts)
 - Body (e.g., sleep, exercise, eating well)
 - Spirit (e.g., prayer, reading the Bible, acts of kindness)
3. Explain how to use the Daily Habit Tracker. (See instructions below).
4. Instruct students to choose and write 3 daily habits for each category. If time is short, ask them to write at least one habit per category and complete the rest at home.
5. Encourage participants to continue to use the Daily Habit Tracker worksheet after this activity.

DAILY HABIT TRACKER - WEEK ____ TO ____

Mind	Habit 1							Habit 2							Habit 3						
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Body	Habit 1							Habit 2							Habit 3						
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Spirit	Habit 1							Habit 2							Habit 3						
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7

Tracker Instructions:

- Write the start and end dates for your tracking week.
- Each day, check off or color the box for each habit you completed.
 - Use one color to mark when you completed the habit.
 - Use a different color if you did not.

3. At the end of the week:

- Reflect on your progress.
- Thank God for your successes.
- Pray for strength to keep growing next week.

Prayer:

Have prayer to conclude.

Day 8 USE WHAT IS IN YOUR HANDS

Objective:

To help children and teenagers appreciate their uniqueness and understand that a successful and impactful life in God's mission comes from wisely managing the gifts, talents, and resources they have received.

Presentation of Message: (20 minutes)

Title: "Use What Is in Your Hands"

Bible Verse to Learn: (5 minutes)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

Group Discussion: (10 minutes)

- Why do you think David chose to use a sling and stones instead of King Saul's armor and sword?
- What are some gifts or talents you think God has already placed "in your hands"?
- Have you ever tried something just because others were doing it, and it didn't feel right for you?
- Why do you think it's important to plan how we give our money or resources to God's mission—even if we don't have much?

Activity: The “I Promise” Card (10 minutes)

Materials Needed

- Printed copies of the “I Promise” card (children’s version) for each participant. Download available here: <https://stewardship.adventist.org/simplified-children-commitment-card.pdf>. Print on thick paper or cardstock for durability.
- One pen per participant.

Instructions:

- Distribute the “I Promise” cards and pens to each child or teen.

- Read each item on the card aloud, explaining its meaning as needed.
- Invite participants to reflect and personally decide to make each promise.
- Encourage each participant to keep their “I Promise” card in a safe and visible place (e.g., Bible, mirror, desk) as a reminder of their promises.

Prayer:

After everyone has completed their cards, lead a dedication prayer over the commitments made.

GOD FIRST

I PROMISE:



SPEND TIME talking to Jesus when I first wake up every day.

☐



Ask Jesus to help me **FORGIVE** and **LOVE** others because it can be really hard.

☐



Choose **HEALTHY HABITS** so I can listen to God’s voice.

☐



TELL all my friends and family about Jesus.

☐



Make **SABBATH** extra special by getting ready.

☐



Faithfully **RETURN** God’s **TITHE** which is 10% of whatever income He **FIRST** gives to me.

☐



PROMISE a percentage (____ %) of my income as regular offering.

☐

WITH GOD’S HELP: _____ DATE: _____

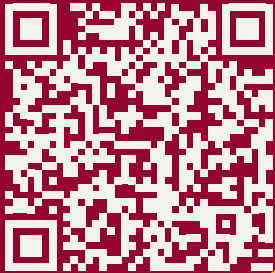
 **STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES**

LESSONS FROM A GIANT FIGHTER

Lessons from a Giant Fighter is a series of eight messages inspired by story of David, the one who defeated the giant Goliath. At its core, the series emphasizes that we are all chosen by God and have received what we need to live abundantly and make a meaningful impact in His mission. Through David's example and God's grace, all can cultivate the right mindset, make meaningful choices, and engage in life's defining actions. This series is primarily designed to inspire children and teenagers and is recommended for the Children's Stewardship Revival Week 2025.



**DOWNLOAD
ACTIVITIES FOR LFC**



**GENEROUS ACTS -
CHRISTIAN
STEWARDSHIP DRAMAS**

