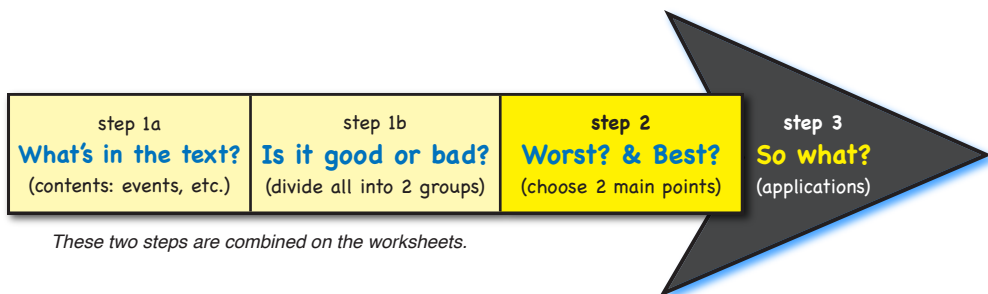


*Opening comments overheard in a Bible Teaching Methods class at imaginary Quest Bible College*

**Dr. Ed** (on using the PLUS Bible Study method)

We may all think that we know the story of David and Goliath well, but how many of us have actually studied it systematically? The PLUS method that we are using today has three or four steps, depending on whether you combine or separate the first two. The arrow graphic shows the steps. Once we get started, you will catch on quickly, [See the worksheets.] but are there any questions up front on how the method works?



**Frank** (on some things being both good and bad)

Well, frankly it can be difficult to decide if a happening in the Bible is good or bad? The killing of Goliath, for instance, is considered good since we side with David and Israel, but the beheading would have been ugly. Was it really necessary? I think it is possible to put the same event on both sides of the worksheet. Isn't that a problem?

**Dr. Ed** (on the beheading and discussion)

No, it's not. The beheading is, in fact, included on the negative side of our answer sheet, because the severed head must have looked grotesque. Yet, the fact that Goliath's own sword was used is placed on the positive side, because it reminds us that the Philistines attacked Israel (17:1), rather than Israel attacking the Philistines.

The more important point in this is that discussion of controversial issues is encouraged in PLUS Bible studies in order to better understand everything in the passages.

**Ichiro** (on disliking arguments)

Yes, but is it good to argue? Most people in Japan quickly agree, rather than disagree like here in America. So discussion can be difficult for Japanese Christians.

**Dr. Ed** (on the need to disagree sometimes)

Yes, there are cultural differences and problems with argumentative people, but I still believe that open discussion is usually good. What if David had quickly agreed with his older brothers (17:28-30) or King Saul (17:33-37) and simply gone home? Sometimes exercising faith requires us to disagree with others, even in church. Arguing is often bad, but quickly giving in to whatever others say can be an even bigger problem.



*Caution: this is the answer sheet or study leader's note page. Use the blank worksheet for personal and group studies.*

NEGATIVES	POSITIVES
<i>bad, dangerous, difficult, evil, inadequate, sad, sinful, ugly, etc.</i>	<i>good, blessings, clean, healthy, joyful, safe, well done, wise, etc.</i>
a.) Goliath was a giant (4-7).	a.) Goliath made King Saul look small (4-11).
b.) Jesse was old and unable to fight (12).	b.) Old Jesse was still able to help (12, 17-18).
c.) David was just a lowly helper (12-20, 22).	c.) Three of Jesse's sons were in the army (13).
d.) David had to go many places (15-20).	d.) David was helpful in various ways (15-20, 22).
e.) The cheeses may have been heavy (18).	e.) David arrived at just the right time (20-21).
f.) The men of Israel were afraid (11, 24).	f.) David talked with his brothers (22-23).
g.) Even King Saul was afraid of Goliath (11).	g.) David was not afraid (24-26, 37, 45-47).
h.) Saul tried to hire a champion (25-26).	h.) David was righteously indignant (26, 45).
i.) David's brothers did not understand him (28).	i.) David was noticed because of his question (26).
j.) David was still just a youth (33, 55-58).	j.) David's brothers could not stop him (28-29).
k.) Shepherding sheep was dangerous (34-37).	k.) David was brought to King Saul (31-32).
l.) Saul's blessing was hypocritical (37).	l.) God had prepared David to fight (34-37).
m.) Saul's armor did not fit David (38-39).	m.) David wisely rejected Saul's armor (38-39).
n.) Goliath cursed David by his gods (43).	n.) There were smooth stones in the brook (40).
o.) Most people do not trust in the Lord (45-47).	o.) David's trust was in the Lord (37, 45-47).
p.) David needed a sword but didn't have one (50-51).	p.) David was able to use Goliath's sword (50-51).
q.) Many people were wounded or killed (52-53).	q.) David only had to use one of the stones (40, 49).
r.) Goliath's head must have been grotesque (54).	r.) The invaders were driven away (1, 51-55).
s.) Saul did not know who David was (55-58)	s.) The Lord was glorified rather than David (46-7, 58).
t.) Chapter 17 is very long (17:1-58).	t.) Chapter 17 has a happy ending (17:49-54).
u.) Saul became jealous of David (18:1-9).	u.) Jonathan became David's close friend (18:1).
<b>What are the biggest negatives in the passage?</b>	<b>What are the biggest positives in the passage?</b>
<i>Goliath was bad, but the worst thing was the fear</i>	<i>David was not afraid of Goliath,</i>
<i>and unbelief of God's people.</i>	<i>and God used David to bring a great victory.</i>

## APPLICATIONS

- 1.) I will not be afraid of the gigantic opposition that I face like Saul and the others were.
- 2.) Rather, since the battle is the Lord's (17:47), I will trust in the Lord like David did,  
and stop fleeing from my personal Goliaths.

*Commentary from various perspectives as overheard in a Bible Teaching Methods class at imaginary Quest Bible College*

**Dr. Ed** (on the key questions in the PLUS method)

The top reasons I love the PLUS Bible Study method is because there are two great questions asked near the end of each study. These are about the biggest negative and positive in the passage. Today, we will use these questions to help see what is really important in the story of David and Goliath. How would you answer?

**Wes** (on children being too focused on Goliath)

I believe the worst thing in the story was the unbelief of the Israelites, but that is not the answer I got from the boys in my cabin at camp. To them, the only big problem was the Philistine bully, Goliath. So my point about the sinfulness of the Israelites being unwilling to trust God was difficult to get across.

**Dr. Ed** (on the connection between fear and unbelief)

Maybe using different terms would have helped. Notice that 17:11 and 17:24 do not say that the people had a problem with unbelief, even though they did. Instead, it says that they were afraid. They were fearful because of their unbelief. Their fears grew as they focused on Goliath rather than on the greatness of God.

**Wes** (on the importance of being willing to fight)

Actually, I talked about the greatness of God when we got to the second question, the one about the greatest positive in the passage. One wise guy in the class said that the best thing in the chapter was that David did not miss, but the others said that it was David's brave willingness to face the giant. When I asked them why David was so brave, they said that it was because he trusted God. So we all agreed that David's faith and willingness to face Goliath were the best things in the chapter.

**Cal** (on the importance of God in the story)

Wes seems to give all the credit to David. What about God? The Lord had prepared David to face Goliath long before he did so. Remember what David said about having killed a bear and a lion (17:34-37). That was part of God's preparation. The Lord gave David years to practice, and enabled his stone to hit the mark when it needed to do so. Therefore, I believe the best things in the chapter are what God did! Let's not forget that the battle is the Lord's (17:47).

**Dr. Ed** (closing comments to balance out what Wes and Cal said)

As usual, Wes emphasized the human side, in this case what David did, and Cal emphasized what God did. Yet, they are both correct as long as they do not totally deny what the other said. Regarding applications, we should think biblically (as Cal said) and act bravely like David (as Wes said). Are there any bullies or giants in your life that YOU have been running away from? They are not as big as they seem!