



Fingringhoe

Church of England (VA) Primary School

Christian Value for Spring Term 1 – January 2025 – February 2025

Courage

This half term we will be focusing in school on the Christian Value of Courage.

Being courageous can mean different things to different people.

For example, one person may think it is easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of courage to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find courage to overcome them.

Talk to your family about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
 - Who or what helps us find courage
- Is there someone that we admire because of the courage that they have shown?

Read 'The courage of David the shepherd boy' (Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17) to find out what God said about courage.

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his oldest brother in the Israelite army, he heard an angry, booming voice thunder across the fields.

"I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer, he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my staff and sling. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned it to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched courageously to face Goliath.

The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day that no-one would forget, when the courage of a shepherd boy saved a nation.

Words of Wisdom

'Courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear.'

Nelson Mandela