

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, You sent David to save the Israelites from Goliath and You sent Your Son Jesus to save me from my sins. Forgive me for the ways I make bad use of Your name, especially when I do not call to You for help in times of trouble. Help me to make good use of Your name and always to trust in You. Amen.

Memory

1. "Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God" (Exodus 20:7).
2. "O LORD, listen to my prayer and hear my plea for mercy. When I'm in trouble, I call on You because You answer me" (Psalm 86:6-7).

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Emmaus Bible Lessons
Series 1: The First Three Commandments
Study #06 of 13: David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

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Grace Lutheran Church – Rev. Erik J. Rottmann, Pastor
Versailles, MO 65084
USA

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Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #06 of 13

Second Commandment *David and Goliath*



God says to you in the second commandment,
"Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God"
(Exodus 20:7).

THIS MEANS you must never make bad use
of God's holy name.

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 17:1, 3-11, 26, 37, 40-51

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. Why were the Israelites afraid of Goliath the Philistine?

Goliath made the Israelites feel afraid because he was very large, he had many weapons, and he wanted to hurt them. Goliath was so fierce that no one would fight him. Goliath called to them every day, "Choose a man and let him come down to me," but these words made the Israelites forget God's Words and feel even more afraid. The Israelites felt certain that anyone who fought Goliath would be killed.

2. Who stepped forward to fight for Israel? Why wasn't he afraid?

David stepped forward to fight for Israel. David did not feel afraid of Goliath because David had faith in God his heavenly Father. David said, "The LORD, Who saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, will save me from this Philistine."

3. In what way did the Israelites make bad use of God's name? How does David make good use of God's name?

The Israelites made bad use of God's name because they threw away God's gift of faith. Without faith, they did not pray to God when they were in trouble. By not calling upon God's name in prayer, the Israelites also forgot God's promises to be their God and watch over them always. Because the Israelites did not call upon God during these troubles, "they lost their courage and were terrified."

David trusted God. David made good use of God's name by saying to everyone, "The Lord... will save me." David knew that God would always be with him, protect him, and give life to him, even if Goliath won the battle. (David knew he would live eternally with God.)

Even while Goliath was insulting God's name and speaking evil about God, David made good use of God's name by speaking about the LORD God. David told Goliath, "I come to you in the name of the LORD of armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you

insult. Today the LORD will put you into my hands: I will strike you down... Then this whole assembly will know that the LORD can save without sword or spear, because this is the LORD's battle." With these words, David made good use of God's name in two ways: The first good use of God's name was David's confident warning that God would defeat Goliath. The second good use of God's name was David's promise to the Israelites that they would be saved.

4. David made good use of God's name in several ways. What are some ways you also can make good use of God's name? Have you done this? Why or why not?

Sometimes people make good use of God's name by praying to God their heavenly Father when they are in trouble. (Prayer is one of the best uses you can make of God's name.) Other times, people make good use of God's name by speaking about God's promises, just as David did here. (Many Christians today speak confidently about God's name when they say the Apostles' Creed.) Perhaps there are also times when you are like the Israelites in this story, feeling afraid and doubting God will care for you. Such fears and doubts will make people wonder whether you trust God and His promises. Such fears and doubts are sin. Such fears and doubts dishonor God's name.

5. God sent David to save His people from Goliath the Philistine, even when the Israelites made bad use of His name. What special comfort and promise does this story also give to you?

God has wonderful comfort for you in this story! Through this story, God your heavenly Father wants you to know that He will always care for you, just as He cared for the Israelites. God will care for you even when you are guilty of fear, doubt, failing to pray, and other bad uses of God's name. Just as God sent David to save the Israelites, God also sent Christ Jesus to you in order to save you. Jesus made good use of God's name for you, just as David did for the Israelites. Jesus defeated your sins for you, just as David defeated Goliath. Jesus gives you peace, just as David gave the Israelites peace by ending the war with Goliath and the Philistines.