

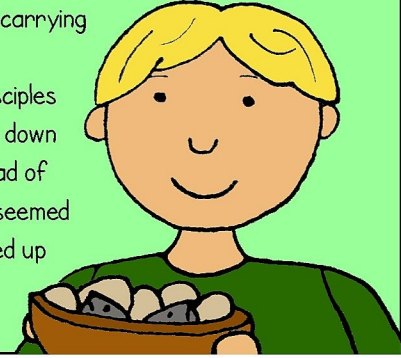
Even Kids Can Do Big Things

The Boy Who Gave His Lunch To Jesus

(John 6:1-15)

There was once a little boy who went to listen to Jesus when he was preaching on the mountainside. Jesus taught about many great things, and attracted a very large crowd of people. The whole mountainside was covered with people who had come to listen to Jesus. There were over 5,000 people there! As the day wore on, the people began to get hungry, but there wasn't any food anywhere, and the nearest town was a long ways away. The little boy had a small lunch that his mom had given him before leaving home. But all he had was 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. He thought about whether or not to offer to share his lunch with other people, but there were so *many* people, and so little food, that it didn't seem like it would be much of a help to share it.

Then one of Jesus' disciples came to him and asked him if he would come to where Jesus was. The boy followed, carrying his basket of food. The disciple presented him to Jesus and showed Jesus the food that the boy had with him. Jesus took the food from the boy and lifted up. Then Jesus prayed to his Father, and handing the food to his disciples he told them to begin handing it out to the people. What happened next was an incredible sight. As the people sat down and began taking the food and passing it around, they were surprised to find that the food never finished. Instead of having the amount of food getting smaller and smaller as people ate, instead it was getting bigger and bigger. It seemed like the more the people ate, the more food there was. When everyone had eaten their fill, the disciples gathered up all the left over food and filled 12 baskets full. That day the little boy learned a great lesson. He learned that Jesus can take little things and use them in big ways!



Samuel Hears God Calling

(1 Samuel 3:1-21)

Samuel was a young boy who worked in the temple. He worked with a man named Eli, who taught him many things about God. One night Samuel woke up because he thought he heard Eli calling him. He went to Eli to see what he wanted, but Eli told him he was not the one who called him. This happened 3 times. Finally Eli told Samuel that it must be God's voice that is calling him. Eli told Samuel to go back to bed, and instructed him by telling him that the next time Samuel hears the voice calling his name, he should answer by saying, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening". God spoke to Samuel and told him many things. God gave him messages to deliver to people, and many people came to Samuel to learn what God wanted to say to them. Samuel grew to become a great prophet of God.



A Simple Servant Girl

(2 Kings 5)

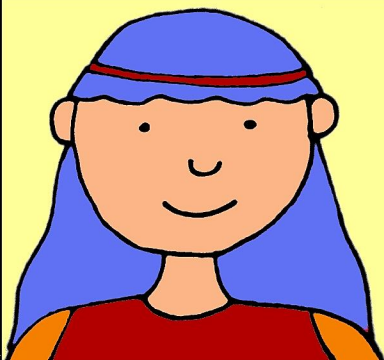
There once was a little girl who had been kidnapped and taken far away from her family. She became the servant of a man named Naaman. Now Naaman was a powerful man and a commander of a great army. He was a courageous soldier, but he was also very sick with leprosy. One day, this servant girl told Naaman's wife about God, and told her that there was a great prophet of God in Israel who could heal Naaman of his leprosy. Naaman listened to this little girl and went to Israel to see the great prophet Elisha. Elisha told Naaman to wash in the Jordan river seven times. When Naaman came out of the water the seventh time, he was completely healed! Because of this young girl, Naaman came to see that the God of Israel was the one true God, and he put his trust in Him.



The Boy Who Saved Paul's Life

(Acts 23:12-22)

Paul was a great missionary who took the good news of Jesus to many towns and cities. There were several people who did not like Paul. They had him thrown in prison. One day 40 men gathered together to make plans about how to kill Paul. But Paul had a young nephew who over heard these men talking. The young boy was very brave and went to the prison to warn the guards so that they could protect Paul. Because of the courage of this young boy, Paul's life was spared.

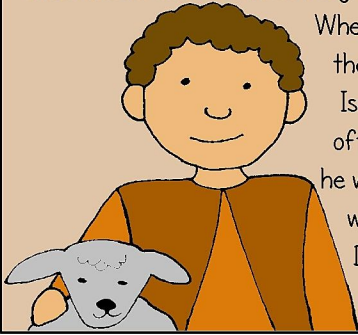


David Kills a Giant

(1 Samuel 17)

David had many brothers who were a lot taller and stronger than he was. Because David was the youngest and the smallest of his brothers, he was given the job of watching after the sheep out in the field while his brothers went off to war or did other more important jobs.

One day, David's father sent him to go to the battlefield to take food and supplies to his brothers. While David was at the battlefield he saw a big giant, named Goliath who came out to oppose the Israelite army. Goliath shouted out to the Israelites demanding that they send out a warrior to fight him, but when the Israelites saw how big Goliath was, they were too afraid to go out and fight him.



When no one came forward to fight him, Goliath began shouting out all sorts of bad things about the Israelites and about their God. When David heard what Goliath was saying about God, he was furious. And when he saw that none of the Israelites were brave enough to fight Goliath, David decided that he needed to take action. David had a sling that he often used to chase away wild animals that would attack his sheep. David found 5 smooth stones to use in his sling. Then he went to face Goliath. Goliath laughed when he saw the little boy coming out to fight him. But David told Goliath that it wasn't about strength or might, he was certain of victory because he was fighting on the Lord's side.

David hit Goliath with a rock, right on the forehead. He killed Goliath and won a great victory for the Israelites. David grew up to become a great king of Israel.

The Boy King

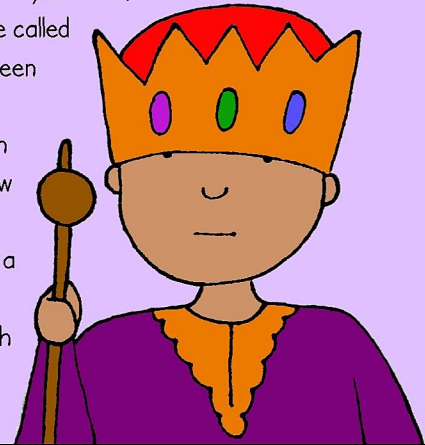
(2 Kings 11)

Joash was just a baby when his father, the king, died. His grandmother, Athaliah wanted to be queen, so she told her servant to kill all the king's sons so that she could be the ruler. But when the servant came to the palace they could not find baby Joash anywhere because his kind aunt had taken the baby and hid him in the temple.

For six years Joash lived with his aunt in the temple, always hiding from the evil queen. When Joash turned seven years old, God told the priest of the temple that it was time to tell the people about the king's son who was still alive. So he called together a large crowd of people and told them about Joash. They people were overjoyed. They did not like queen Athaliah, and were glad to hear that their young prince was still alive.

The temple priest brought Joash out from hiding and showed him to the people. Then he put the king's crown on Joash's head and made him king. The people shouted for joy and cried together, "God save the king!" They blew trumpets and shouted and sang.

Athaliah heard all the noise and went to the temple to see what was going on. There she saw the little boy with a crown on his head standing by the great pillar where only kings could stand. She was very angry but there was nothing she could do. The soldiers would not listen to her anymore. They took Athaliah away, and brought Joash to the palace to make him their king. Joash was only 7 years old when he became king, but the temple priest helped him and taught him how to be a good king and to rule the people in such a way that would honor God.



These are all true stories about children in the Bible times. These children were willing to obey God and to serve him in little ways. And God took the little they had to offer and used them to do big things!

Remember: You are never too young to serve God. In fact, the Bible says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). And in Jeremiah 1:2 God says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart. . .do not say, 'I am only a child', you must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."

God has great plans for you and wants to use you to make a difference in this world. By reading God's word, talking to God in prayer, and obeying all that He tells you, I can guarantee that God will use you for His glory, no matter how young you are.