

Jesus fought for us

In the time of the Old Testament, there were lots of battles. But when two armies had a battle, lots of people would get killed. So sometimes, each army would choose their best fighter. He would be called their champion. Then the two champions would fight each other. And whichever champion won that fight, their army would win the battle.

A group of people called the Philistines wanted to take over the land of Israel. Their champion was called Goliath. He was big and strong. Every day he shouted, “Who will fight me?” But Israel’s army was afraid. No one was brave enough to fight Goliath. Israel did not have a champion!



One day a young man called David brought food for his brothers, who were in Israel’s army. While he was there, Goliath shouted, “Who will fight me?” David saw that no one was brave enough to fight Goliath. He said, “I will be Israel’s champion! I will fight Goliath!”

The king wanted to give David a sword and some armour. But David said no. He went to fight Goliath in his normal clothes. He only had a sling and some stones.



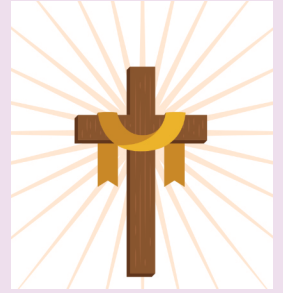
Now read the rest of the story in **1 Samuel 17 verses 41-51**.

We are in a battle too. Our battle is against Satan. Satan hates God and he hates everything good. His weapon is death. Satan is bigger and stronger than us. He is like Goliath. And we are like Israel’s army. None of us can fight him. None of us can beat death.

Father God saw that we could not win the battle against Satan. So he sent Jesus came to be our champion. Jesus fought Satan for us.



When Jesus died on the cross, it looked like he had lost the battle. But just like David killed Goliath with his own sword, Jesus used death to beat Satan. When Jesus came back to life on Easter Sunday, he won the battle for us. He beat Satan, and he beat death.



Jesus is our champion! He has won the battle. That means we have won too! So we do not need to be afraid of Satan. And we do not need to be afraid of death, because death is not the end. If we trust Jesus, we will have a new life after we die. We will live forever with God.



How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is your champion? What do you want to say to him about this?



Jesus set us free

The people of Israel were slaves in Egypt. Their lives were very hard. They cried out to God for help. And God heard their cry. He sent a man called Moses to set his people free.

Moses went to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. He said, “Let my people go, so we can worship God.” But Pharaoh said no. So God made terrible things happen in Egypt. He did this to show that he was stronger than Pharaoh. But Pharaoh kept saying no.



Finally, God gave Pharaoh one last chance to let the people of Israel go. Moses told Pharaoh that all the oldest sons in Egypt would die that night. But God would protect the oldest sons of the people of Israel. They would not die. Pharaoh still said no. He would not let the people of Israel go.



Now read the rest of the story in **Exodus chapter 12 verses 21-42.**

There are two pictures here that tell us something about Jesus.

The people of Israel were slaves to **Pharaoh**. He was in charge of them. They could not say no to Pharaoh. So God sent **Moses** to set them free. Then they could worship God and be his people.

The Bible says we were slaves to **sin**. Sin was in charge of us. We could not say no to sin. So God sent **Jesus** to set us free. Now we can worship God and be his people.



“Jesus said, “The truth is, everyone who sins is a slave—a slave to sin.” (John chapter 8 verse 34, ERV)





“Your sins can be forgiven because of what Jesus has done. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin.” (Acts chapter 13 verses 38-39, NIrV)

The people of Israel were saved by the **lamb**. The lamb died and its blood kept them safe. Because of the lamb, God protected the people of Israel, and they stayed alive. This is how they were set free from **Egypt**.

We are saved by **Jesus**. He died and his blood washed away our sin. Because of Jesus, God forgives our sins, and we have a new kind of life. This is how we are set free from **sin**.



“You were set free from an empty way of life... You were bought with the priceless blood of Christ. He is a perfect lamb.” (1 Peter chapter 1 verses 18-19, NIrV)



How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has set you free from sin? What do you want to say to him about this?



Jesus took away our sin

In the beginning, God made us and breathed his life into us. Everything good comes from him. When we do bad things, it takes us away from God and his goodness. And it leads us towards death.

God told the people of Israel to live his way. But he knew they would sometimes do bad things. So he gave them a way to be forgiven. He told them to bring a **sin offering** once a year to say sorry for the bad things they had done. The sin offering was an animal. The animal was killed, and the people were forgiven.

This reminded the people that sin was a big problem. The animal had to die because of their sin. And it also reminded them how much God loved them. Their sin was taken away. They could come back to God and his goodness.

Hezekiah's Sin Offering

Much later, a man called Hezekiah became king of Judah. By then the people had forgotten about God. They did lots of bad things. They did not look after God's Temple. And they did not bring sin offerings any more.



Hezekiah was a good king. He did what was right. Hezekiah cleaned the Temple and fixed things that were broken. Then he called all the people together. He brought a sin offering for all the bad things the people had done. Then the people remembered God. They said sorry to God and praised him again. They were happy that God had forgiven them.



You can also read this story in **2 Chronicles chapter 29 verses 1-3 and verses 20-30.**



The people of Israel had to give sin offerings again and again. But this was just a picture of what Jesus would do in the future.

Jesus died to be a sin offering for the whole world. He died once for everyone. He died to take away our sin forever. Now we can be forgiven. We can come back to God and his goodness. And we can live forever with him after we die.

So we do not have to bring sin offerings to God any more. Jesus is our sin offering. That means we can always be forgiven because of what Jesus has done for us.



“Jesus is not like those other priests. They had to offer sacrifices every day, first for their own sins, and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus doesn’t need to do that. He offered only one sacrifice for all time. He offered himself.” (Hebrews chapter 7 verse 27, ERV)



“Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross... By his wounds you were healed. You were like sheep that went the wrong way. But now you have come back to the Shepherd and Protector of your lives. (1 Peter chapter 2 verses 24 and 25, ERV)



How does it make you feel to know that Jesus died so you can be forgiven? What do you want to say to him about this?



Jesus helped us as our brother

God wanted his people to look after each other. He said that if a man had more than he needed, he should make sure his family were looked after. If someone in his family was in trouble and could not help themselves, he should help them. This man was called a family redeemer.

If someone needed money, they could sell their land to their family redeemer. The family redeemer would pay a fair price. And after 50 years the family redeemer would give the land back.

If a woman's husband died, she would become poor. So she could ask a family redeemer in her husband's family to marry her. He would look after her and her children. He would save her from her troubles.

Ruth and Boaz

A woman called Naomi lived with her daughter-in-law, Ruth. Both their husbands had died. They were very poor.

God's law said that people should leave some food in their fields for poor people. So Ruth went to gather food in a field nearby. The owner of the field was called Boaz. He was a rich man. And he was a family redeemer in her husband's family. Boaz saw that Ruth was looking after her mother-in-law. He wanted to help too. So he was kind to her and gave her extra food.



Now read the rest of this story in **Ruth chapter 3 verses 7-10** and **chapter 4 verses 13-17**.



God loved us so much that he became one of us. Jesus was born as a baby and grew up to be a man. He is part of our human family. The Bible says he is like our older brother. It also sometimes calls the church 'Jesus's bride'. This is a picture to remind us that Jesus loves us and looks after us like a husband.

We were in trouble because of our sin. We were poor because we could not be friends with God. Jesus came to be our family redeemer. He helped us when we could not help ourselves. He saved us from our troubles.



"Jesus, the one who makes people holy, and those who are made holy are from the same family. So he is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters... Jesus himself became like them and had the same experiences they have. Jesus did this so that, by dying, he could destroy the one who has the power of death—the devil. Jesus became like these people and died so that he could free them."
(Hebrews chapter 2 verses 11 and 14-16, ERV)



"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, who was born from a woman and lived under the law. God did this so that he could buy the freedom of those who were under the law. God's purpose was to make us his children."
(Galatians chapter 4 verses 4-5, ERV)



How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is your family redeemer? What do you want to say to him about this?

