

Our school: together and apart

Reflections for 'school' at home: Courage



A note for parents and carers:

At school, your child will be used to taking part in collective worship every day (they might call it 'assembly'). This is not the kind of worship that some of you might have been part of in a religious building. In church schools this collective worship is planned to be:

- **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with
- **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development, creates an opportunity to gather around and reflect on a common theme and 'feeds' their inner being;
- **Invitational:** in school, children and teachers are invited to pray, think, or reflect, it is the child's or teacher's choice how they respond.

At this time, many children will be missing the familiar routines of school. One way in which we can help to keep that sense of normality is by offering these resources to schools to share with their school community at home. Please be clear: these ideas are for you to use, adapt, or not use at all. You choose!

We plan to produce these resources for the weeks that schools are 'at home' and would love to know if there's anything that your school community at home would appreciate. You can find our contact details on the [Diocesan website](#).

Jane Whittington & Rachel Boxer

Theme: Courage

- Look at the picture overleaf, or online ([here](#)) What do you think this shows? Have you ever felt like this?
- The story today is a familiar story to many, and tells of the shepherd boy David's fight with a 'giant' named Goliath. It can be found in the Bible in 1 Samuel chapter 17, but there is a 'read-out-loud-and-join-in' version included on page 3.

Things to talk about together:

- What did you have to do this week that you found difficult? How did you get the **courage** to do it?
- Who have you seen in the news, or read about this week who has shown **courage**?
- Do you ever find it difficult to be **courageous**? Is it easier to show **courage** when you have someone alongside you? The photo of the two elephants reminds us that a little bit of encouragement can go a long way.
- What or who might inspire you and give to the **courage** to carry on?
- Nelson Mandela was Prime Minister in South Africa and is an inspirational leader. You can see a statue of him in London on the South Bank (photo [here](#)) He spoke these words: 'The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.' Do you agree with what he said?

Things to do together:

- **Share the story** together (p3), joining in at least the actions for David and Goliath.
- **Find & decorate a small stone** as you'll need it for the reflective activity. Use felt pens or paint (Sharpies work best, but are permanent pens, so use with care!). Decorate with hearts, a rainbow, or whatever is a reminder to 'take heart' and be courageous. If you can, using a mixture of PVA (white) glue and water over the top when your stone has dried will act as a varnish and give it a shine. You will need this stone for the reflection activity.
- **Create a piece of 'doodled' artwork** like Hannah Dunnet's examples [here](#), with words and pictures inspired by the events of the story of David & Goliath.
- **Watch Captain Tom Moore** complete his 100th lap of his garden (BBC News clip [here](#)), which helped him to raise over £31 million for NHS charities. He could've said 'I'm too old to make a difference.' Did he show **courage** in doing something quite ordinary, like walking? What would you ask him if you could? Is there anything small you could do (safely!) that would make a big difference or give someone **courage**?
- Are there people you know who are 'just' doing their jobs, but showing great **courage** at this time. Maybe **write them a card or a letter** to give them some **encouragement**.

Things to reflect on or pray about together:

Find a small stone if you haven't done so already & hold it in your hand

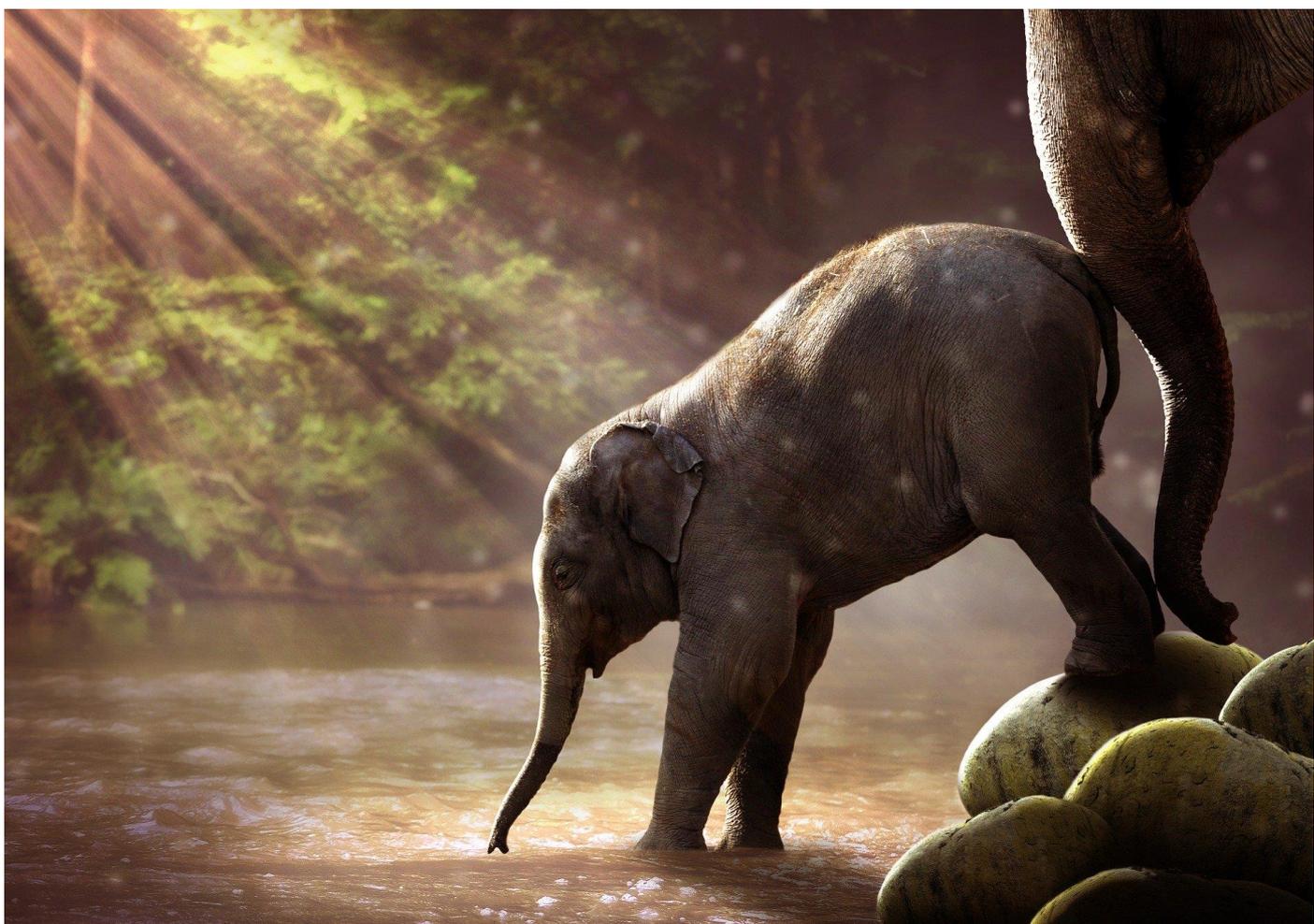
...think about how small things can sometimes make a big difference...

...your stone might be a reminder of the story of how God gave David courage to face Goliath....

...it might be a reminder that a little bit of courage – and encouragement! – can go a long way...

...think about the things that you might need to show courage to do at this time...and if you want to, give them to God and ask for his help...

...keep your stone as a reminder of all these things.



David & the big bully

This is a join-in version of the story, with words in the story that trigger some actions: use as many or as few as you like, but at least do the actions for David and for Goliath. There are a few extra actions within the story for the animals!

Word(s)	Action(s)
David	Say "Hurray!" and punch hand in the air
Goliath	Say "You big bully!" and wag your finger, as if telling off
God	Point upwards
soldiers	Salute and say "Sir! Yes sir!"
five small stones	Sing '1,2,3,4,5', & count on fingers, as in the nursery rhyme

David was a young boy, a boy who looked after sheep [baa!] but a boy who listened to God and knew that He would use him in very special ways.

His brothers were all big and strong, and were soldiers in King Saul's army. David was only a shepherd boy, so wasn't allowed to go to fight, but every day would go out with his small shepherd's bag and his slingshot to do whatever it would take to keep his sheep [baa!] safe.

King Saul's soldiers were powerful and strong, but the enemy army was *enormous* and wherever they went, everyone was afraid of them. The Philistines' champion was a giant named Goliath who each day stood on top of the hillside and made fun of King Saul's soldiers. 'You think you're stronger than me?! You puny little Israelites!' Goliath jeered. 'Send your mightiest soldier out to face me and you'll see who's the champion! And when we win, you will *all* be our slaves!!!!'

Before long, the Israelite army were cowering in their tents, worn down by the taunts of Goliath, and believing that he was indeed unbeatable.

One day, David was sent out to the battlefield with food for his brothers and he saw Goliath standing on the hilltop, jeering and laughing at the frightened army of King Saul. David couldn't believe what he saw and said to King Saul – 'Don't you know who we are? We are the army of the mighty God, who fights on our side.

Goliath is no match for our God! Can't you see he's just a big bully?! So I, David, will fight him. The God who has helped me protect my sheep [baa!] against the bear [ggrr!] and the lion [roar!] will give me **courage** and fight with me against this bully.'

He took his slingshot from his small shepherd's bag and went to the bubbling brook to select five small stones. Then David walked right up to Goliath with only his sling and five small stones as his weapon.

When Goliath saw him, he laughed out loud at how small and ridiculous David looked: 'What use are those stones going to be against my mighty sword?!' he jeered. But David took no notice and put one of his five small stones into his sling. As Goliath laughed on, David swung the sling around his head and let the small stone fly. It flew across the battlefield towards Goliath and struck him right between the eyes [donk!]. Then Goliath fell to the ground, dead.

The Israelites were victorious – and all because a young boy, whose name was David, knew that God helps those who need **courage** to stand against injustice.