Role Models

Lesson: (You can read this to the kids or put it in your own words).
Read 1 Samuel 17:38–58

Have you ever watched a friend go through a difficult time, fight a hard battle, and you thought—wow, they handled that really well? Or maybe, another friend went through a struggle and they didn’t handle it so well. Which of those friends would you choose as a role model? Who handled their problem better? Who came out on the other side of the conflict or problem with more integrity and character?

Whether we are helping others or need God’s help in our own struggles, we can learn a lot from other people’s stories. People who fight the “Thule” in their life with courage and strength are great role models. Their stories can help us, even if our problems are different than theirs.

David had more problems than just Goliath. First, his brothers didn’t believe in him, didn’t respect him. And King Saul, who the bible tells us wasn’t a very good king, listened to David, but you can tell by what he says to David that he doesn’t really trust God to help him. He tries to make David wear his armor, which is of course too big and awkward. David can’t even move in the stuff.

Goliath was decked out in heavy armor (see vs. 5 and 6) so it makes sense that Saul would think David needed full warrior armor. And, Goliath had a long javelin with an iron point that weighed fifteen pounds, which he was ready to throw at David’s little head. Saul was just trying to help, although he was misguided.

But David knew that God was the one who would win the battle for him. He just had to show up, be brave and do whatever God told him to do.
So David ditches the armor, and just goes and gets five smooth stones. He also had a shepherd’s staff, which was like a whittled club that he could hold in his hand or throw. And a slingshot, which he knew how to use with plenty of skill. David strolls out on the battlefield, and Goliath starts laughing. Until David starts in with some trash talking of his own (see vs. 45–47). Talk about confidence! He was dead sure that God would not only help him, God would give him victory and help him kill Goliath.

Which, as you can see from the story, he does! One stone, flung from David’s skillful slingshot, and he hits Goliath right between the eyes! He knocks him out, then runs up to grab Goliath’s sword and chop off his head. Talk about courage!

When we’re up against tough situations, we can figure out how to act by emulating people who handled adversity well. David is someone we can look to as a role model. He didn’t back down in the face of challenges, but met them with courage, knowing God would help him.

Obviously, if we want to emulate David, it doesn’t mean we should get a slingshot and start pegging people with rocks! Instead, we should use him as a spiritual role model, and a model of courage and faith under pressure. We can face our challenges with courage and strength because like David, we know God is with us.

David really knew what it meant to trust God and not be afraid. Who do you know who is like him? And how can you be a role model of faith and courage to others?
Questions:
Who are your spiritual role models? What specific characteristics do you want to emulate?

In what ways should we emulate David? How was he holy, courageous, humble? Who should we avoid emulating?

In the book “Invasion”, what were Colt’s strengths?

What were his weaknesses? In what ways can he be a role model as we face struggles in our life?

Who are you a role model to? How could you step up to that role?
Activity:
Dress up like your character

Using the ID cards assigned in week 1, dress up like your character. Create costumes at home, or get together with your group to do it. Look at the pictures online at www.facebook.com/chaosnovels click on the “art” tab to see what some DC Comic cartoonists have imagined the characters to look like and maybe get some ideas.

Go to www.facebook.com/chaosnovels between Feb 22nd and March 1st and post photos of people in your group dressed in costume. Along with each of your photos, be sure to post your church name.

Submit photos of people in your group dressed in costume to get points for your group. You may post one entry for each student in your group. (A photo with 3 students will receive points for each student, not just each group.)

10 Points will be awarded for each character
5 points will be awarded for each participant (so get as many people as you can to represent as many characters as you can).

100 points will be awarded for most creative costume
250 points will be awarded for best representation of character
1) **Colt McAlister** had his world turned upside down when his parents were killed by a drunk driver. He left his San Diego home to live with his grandfather, and now instead of surfing, Colt spends his free time trying to hunt down his parents’ killer. Colt could have been a movie star. Like most of the leading men, he’s short but handsome, with piercing blue eyes, bronze skin, and a mess of blonde hair that tells everyone he’s spent most of his summers on a surfboard.

2) **Oz Romero** might only be sixteen years old, but he already looks like he’s ready for the National Football League. The only problem is that Oz has no interest in playing football. He’s the oldest son of “Lobo” Romero, the head of a CHAOS (Central Headquarters Against the Occult and Supernatural), a top secret private military operation tasked with saving the world from all the creepy crawlies that go bump in the night, and Oz spends most of his time training for a future career hunting monsters, aliens and anything else that threatens the safety of his loved ones.

3) **Danielle Salazar** might look like a teen pop star, but she doesn’t act like one. She spends most of her free time playing video games like Zombie Extermination Squad or figuring out the best way to hack into encrypted databases -- for research purposes only, of course. She just wants to make sure she knows all the tricks so nobody can break into hers.

4) **Lily Westcott** A natural beauty, Lily is the 16 year old adopted daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Westcott. Her birth parents were killed in an automobile accident when Lily was young, but she’s convinced that she wants to become a professional musician because of her father, who had been a radio DJ at KNIX-FM, a crowned jewel of country music radio. She looks like a walking Barbie Doll, with long blonde hair that hangs down to the small of her back, large blue eyes, and full lips.

5) **Murdoch McAlister** (The Phantom Flyer): Though Murdoch McAlister is 85 years old, he could pass for a man in his fifties. He was a war hero who fought the Nazis during World War II as part of an experimental anti-occult assault force called CHAOS. McAlister was also the model for a comic book hero called The Phantom Flyer, a propaganda magazine geared toward boys to both raise money for the war effort and keep America’s young men enthusiastic about joining the cause to topple Hitler and the Japanese. Murdoch is Colt's paternal grandfather.
6) **Aldrich Koenig** is the President of Trident Biotech, a branch of the multi-national conglomerate, Trident Industries. Under his watch, Trident Biotech created new technology that helped Parkinson’s and epilepsy sufferers overcome their debilitating illnesses. However, the same biochips also gave Trident Biotech access to their minds, allowing the company to turn innocent victims into sleeper cell agents forced to do Trident’s bidding much like puppets must obey their master. Koenig is also a Thule, a shapeshifting breed of alien from the planet Gathmara, though he normally takes his human form. Koenig comes from a military background, and fought as a Nazi military commander during the Second World War.

7) **Lohr** Though most people would confuse him for Big Foot, Lohr is a Tharik from the planet Nemus. Lohr fought alongside Allied forces during World War II, where a German shell exploded, claiming Lohr’s arm and leg. Colt’s grandfather, Murdoch McAlister, was the first to find Lohr as he lay bleeding in the snowy mountainside outside Bastogne. A team of doctors, led by Nikola Tesla, fused robotic components to Lohr’s body, giving him a mechanical arm and leg, as well as a second head. Thariks are long-lived, with life expectancies well over 200 years, so it comes as no surprise that Lohr is still active in the military despite being over 100 years old.

8) **Thule** A shapeshifting race that looks like humanoid lizards with six arms. They come from the planet Gathmara.

9) **Arconian** Large, semi-reptilian creatures. Very territorial. Tribal markings that are not merely tattoos or brands, they are carved into their thick hides. Many on this planet have fused machinery to their bodies.
ALIEN WORLDS

1) Gathmara: Home to the Thule and the Rorak. Dense vegetation on the limited land, much like a rain forest.

2) Undar (Latin for water): A planet near Gathmara that is mostly water, with very little land. It is home to the Undarians, a race of aquatics people with skin colors that range from blue to green with bright markings like tropical fish while others look like tiger sharks.

3) Nemus (Latin for tree): Heavily forested planet where the Tharik live. On Earth, Tharik are referred to as Sasquatch or Big Foot.

4) Yarix: Known as the fire planet, its home to creatures that can handle extreme heat that makes Arizona look like a winter wonderland. He comes from a race known as the Cendarian.