

News Story Summary

Captain America turns 75 this year, and Marvel has commissioned the building of a 13-foot statue of the superhero to celebrate. The statue will be unveiled at San Diego Comic-Con and then moved cross-country to Brooklyn's Prospect Park for dedication. Senior vice president for Marvel Paul Gitter said, "For the past 75 years, Captain America has inspired generations of fans serving as the ultimate global icon for freedom, strength, and doing the right thing." The statue, which weighs a ton, will feature a movie quote from *Captain America: The First Avenger* and a pose that showcases the comic hero's impressive strength and stoic form. Gitter added, "Captain America's signature shield also takes prominence, paying homage to his heroism, indestructible power, and determination."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Captain America's 75th anniversary.")

Focus Attention

Invite the group to listen as you share the news summary about the Captain America statue. Ask them to talk about other comic book heroes and the reasons we idolize their fantasy powers and skills. Ask: *What is the danger of mixing fantasy with reality?*

Point out that today's session focuses on the familiar biblical narrative of David and Goliath. As a young man, David overwhelmingly defeated the hero of the Philistines, Goliath, with a sling and five smooth stones.

Challenge

Remind the group of the news story about the Captain America statue. Ask: *What does Captain America rely on for his victory? Who did David rely on for the victory?* Remind the group that God enabled David to defeat Goliath. State that Jesus enables us to be delivered from sin and the power of sin. Challenge the group to consider how they can demonstrate confidence in Jesus and His power during the next week.