Date: 1/19/19

Title: Underdog or Top-dog

Theme: When Jesus comes, He will take those who love Him more than the things of this world.

Object: Picture of David and Goliath, measuring tape to illustrate 9 ft 9 in. tall.

Text: 1 Sam 17:45&47 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, … All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s...”

How many have ever heard of an underdog?

How many like underdogs?

What do you think an underdog is?

Most of you think of an underdog as a way of pushing a kid on a swing.

You get behind the swing, run forward really fast, run under the swing and push it up with all your might and yell “Under-doggie!!”

That’s a fun underdog, but that’s not where the word “underdog” originally came from.

The word underdog is used in a sporting event or competition to describe the team that is not expected to win.

And the reason I’m thinking of that word this week is that the New England Patriots, our football team, are the underdog in the AFC Championship game tomorrow against the Kansas City Chiefs.

That means that most people expect the Patriots to lose. (3 point underdogs.)

People think that the word “underdog” came from the old days when they had dog fights.

The dog that ended up on the bottom in the fight was the underdog. He lost the fight.

The dog that ended up on the top in the fight was the top-dog. He won the fight.

So a competitor or a sports team that people expect to lose the game is called the underdog.

And that’s what the Patriots are in the game tomorrow.

Does that mean that Patriots’ fans are going to give up? No!!

We’re going to cheer all the more for our team, and we hope they’ll play all the harder to prove that they’re the top-dog rather than the underdog.

Now that Bible tells a story about someone who was a real underdog: his name was David.

And he was going into a fight with a giant Philistine named Goliath.

The Bible says that Goliath was a giant of a man. He was 9 ft, 9in. tall. [Get out measuring tape to illustrate his height.] His armor weighed 125 pounds. (That’s as much as Grandma.) And the tip of his spear weighted 15 pounds. So Goliath had a sword, a spear, a shield, a helmet, and armor to protect him. And he was over 9 ft tall and strong as an ox.

What about David. He tried on the king’s armor but it didn’t fit. He has no armor, no helmet, no sword, no spear. All he had was his slingshot and five smooth stones.

Who do you think was the underdog in this fight?

Everybody thought Goliath was going to win and David was going to lose.

Here’s a picture of what the Bible describes. [Show picture.]

But you know what? David had a secret weapon that nobody could see: God was on his side.

Who do you think won this battle? It was the underdog David.

God helped him sling a stone right at the giant’s head where there was no armor. [Show on picture.]

Goliath fell down and David won the fight.

When the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they all ran away and the Israelites chased them back to their own land.

You know, kids, without Jesus on our side, we’re the underdogs.

Satan is like the giant Goliath, and he wants to take you down.

But like David, we have a secret weapon that no one can see.

When we love Jesus and trust Him and make Him our Savior and Lord, He gives us the victory over Satan and sin.

The battle is the Lord’s! How many want to be on the winning side with Jesus?

Let’s pray that Jesus will take us from underdogs to top-dogs when he comes again.

