

The Story of Samson

"Faith, Honesty & Obedience to God"

"Lord God, remember me. God, please give me strength one more time".

Judges 16:28

We are still in the book of Judges. Remember, the Israelites are not being ruled by a king at this time, but governed by Judges. We learned about Deborah & Gideon. Today we are going to hear about Samson.

God blessed Samson with a very special ability or gift. Can you think of any special abilities or talents you might be blessed with? *(Singing, steady hands, reading, teaching?). Let the kids share for just a few minutes.

- We must learn to use our God given abilities wisely.

Explain that Samson was blessed with the ability to be very strong. But, did he use his strength wisely? Let's read Samson's story and find out.

Read: *"The Story of Samson"* out of the Action Bible. *It's 20 pages, so it will take a while.

Discussion:

Samson had exceptional physical strength given to him by God.

However, despite his divine gifts, Samson often struggled with being rebellious and giving in to moral compromises. He frequently went against God's commandments, giving in to temptations, eventually resulting in his downfall.

God gave Samson incredible physical strength to serve Him.

GOD'S GIFTS ARE UNIQUE AND PURPOSEFUL

Like Samson, God gives all of us unique skills or talents. Let's look at some ways we can use these abilities to honor Him:

- **Creativity:** We can use our creative talents to create things that share God's message. This might be writing a book, making a movie, composing a song, or any other creative expression.
- **Leadership:** If we're good leaders, we can use this skill to guide others towards God. This might mean leading a Bible study group, starting a prayer group at school, or mentoring new believers.
- **Compassion and Empathy:** We can use our ability to understand and share the feelings of others to show God's love to people around us.

Our goal should be to use whatever gifts God has given us to serve Him and bring glory to His name.

THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE

Compromise is a sneaky danger that leads us from God and His plan for our lives.

Despite his divine calling and supernatural strength, Samson shows us an unfortunate example of giving in to compromise and disobedience.

He ignored God's commands by marrying a Philistine woman and allowing his enemies to trick him through his misplaced trust in Delilah.

We face many daily temptations that try to make us compromise our faith. Things like viewing unsuitable content, listening to ungodly music, or participating in risky behavior. *Peer pressure can tempt us to align with popular trends rather than standing firm in what we believe is right or wrong.*

We must stay alert, remain committed to following scripture's commands, and make our relationship with God first priority. Standing firm on the Bible's teachings will guard us against spiritual compromise and equip us with strength when temptation comes our way.

THE ENEMY WILL TRY TO TRICK US

- Do you know what it means to trust someone? To believe in something that is true. Who can we trust? *(Mom, Dad, Grandparents). Remember the one person you can always trust is God and the truth is found in the Bible.

Samson was tricked by Delilah. He let her beauty and his love for her cloud his judgment. He let his guard down and believed her when he shouldn't have.

Delilah was a sneaky and deceptive person. She asked him three times about his strength's secret, using different manipulative strategies each time, like feeding his ego or implying it was a trust test.

When all else failed she lied to him and pretended to love him using his feelings towards her. Eventually, Samson fell for her tricks.

- The Bible warns us that our enemy, Satan, is always trying to trip us up and lure us into sin. He uses fear, deceit, and lies to twist our thoughts, emotions, and actions, drawing us away from God's commands. His ultimate aim is to make us turn our backs on God and choose a sinful path.
- **1 Peter 5:8** tells us, "*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*"
- We should always be on guard against three forces: the Devil, our own sinful nature (the Flesh), and the World around us. These forces aim to distract us from God and His plans for our lives.
- Like Samson, we can easily fall for these traps, so we must be vigilant and rooted in our faith.

GOD GIVES SECOND CHANCES

Do you know what repentance means? *To truly be sorry for something and turn away from doing that behavior again.*

In the end, Samson lost his sight. He was blind. But he realized what he had done wrong. He repented and asked for God's forgiveness. Even though Samson kept making mistakes and disobeying God, God never abandoned him and continued to use him to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. In his final desperation, Samson turned to God, who answered his prayer, giving him the strength to bring down the Philistines' temple.

Conclusion

We all make mistakes. We stumble, we fall, we stray from God's path.

But God is a God of second chances, third chances, and so on.

His love for us is unconditional, and His mercy is unending. When we mess up, we can turn back to Him, and ask for forgiveness. God's grace is always sufficient for us.

Samson reminds us that while we may slip sometimes and fail, God's love & mercy remain constant, offering us the grace to start again. We must use our God-given gifts responsibly, avoid compromises that may lead us astray, & be vigilant against the enemy's traps.

Review Questions:

Go over review questions sheet.

Memory Verse:

"Lord God, remember me. God, please give me strength one more time". Judges 16:28

Close in Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gifts you have given each of us to use to help others know more about you. Help us to trust and obey you. Keep us faithful to You and to not be tricked by those who do not know you.

In Jesus' name – Amen.

Craft:

Samson Hand Puppet

What you will need:

Paper Lunch Bags, White Paper or Tan Paper to Match the Paper Bag, Yarn, Scissors

Magic Markers or Crayons, Glue or Double-Sided Tape, Wiggle Eyes

How to Make the Paper Bag Samson Puppet:

1. Before class print out the strong arms patterns and make copies. If you have younger children, cut out the arms.
2. In class have your children color the arm patterns and glue them to the side of the bag.
3. Wind yarn around a book about five times and then pull it off and tie it together in the center. Cut the ends. Have your children glue or tape the hair to the puppet.
4. To finish have them draw on clothes and wiggle eyes.

Provided by Daniellesplace.com



Videos:

Samson & Delilah

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjuRHkK1UDY2Py8x37jjL_4sd-f2x_V77

<https://www.Saddlebackkids.com>

Worship Video: "Everlasting God" by Lincoln Brewster

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jP2nz6PG8KM&list=PLjuRHkK1UDY2Py8x37jjL_4sd-f2x_V77&index=2

Veggie Tales –Minnesota Cuke and the Search for Samson’s Hairbrush

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/407436838804/veggietales-minnesota-cuke-and-the-search-for-samson-s-hairbrush>

coloring pages

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://truewaykids.com> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children. And to <https://daniellesplace.com> for great craft ideas.

Story of Samson Review

Who told Samson's mother that Samson should never cut his hair?

An Angel - A soldier - A priest



What did God give to Samson?

Money - donkeys - great strength

From what group of people did Samson deliver the Israelites?

Egyptians - Philistine - Moabites

With what Philistine woman did Samson fall in love?

Delilah - Esther - Ruth



What did the Philistine woman do to Samson that caused him to lose his strength?

Poison his food - Cut his hair - Force him to drink wine



Samson's Arms



