

Old Testament

Samson

Judges 13-16

Younger Verse

Speak the truth to each other. Zechariah 8:16

Older Verse

Speak the truth to each other. Zechariah 8:16

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Sing "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty". Use hand motions too! Explain that today we will learn about a man that was very strong. God was his strength.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

After Gideon's time, there were other judges who ruled the land. Sadly, the people didn't listen to God very much. They did what they wanted. Finally God sent an angel.

The angel visited a man and woman. He told them that they would have a son who would be special to God. He must follow special rules and obey God. One rule was that he would not cut his hair. So his hair was very long. Samson's parents loved God and God blessed them with a son who was very special. However, Samson needed to believe in God, not depend on his parents' belief.

Samson grew up and decided to marry a woman from another race of people. She did not believe in God. His parents explained the importance of finding someone who loved God, but Samson wouldn't listen. This was his first mistake. He chose someone who did not believe in God.

He went into the city and enjoyed his time with her. His mother and father arranged for them to be married. (Remember, in those days, the parents set up who a person married.) Samson challenged the people of her race to figure out a riddle. Secretly, they went to Samson's fiancé and coaxed her into finding out the answer.

Samson left, huffing and puffing. He was furious. He didn't handle anger and it became sin in his life. Later he found out that his fiancé was given to his best friend! Samson was so angry that he burnt up all their fields by tying up foxes' tails and tying torches onto the tails.

Samson continued to show his strength. It was strength that came from God. God kept His promise to Samson's parents even though Samson was disobedient.

One day he fell in love with a woman named Delilah (Da-lie-la). She lived in another city and she didn't believe in God. Some of the kings of the other countries found out that Samson liked her.

Secretly they came to her and offered her lots of silver if she would find out where Samson's strength

Lesson Goals

Describe Samson's problem (sin)
Identify Samson's real strength
Share how we can avoid sin and deal with temptations

came from. She agreed. Her greed and desire for money was more important to her than her love for Samson.

Delilah asked Samson what would make him helpless. He told her that if someone tied him up with new string, he would be weak.

That night she tied him up while he was asleep. The kings were in the other room ready to capture him if it worked.

Surprise, Samson broke the string. Delilah was so upset because she wouldn't get the money.

Again she asked Samson how someone could tie him up. Samson told her to weave 7 braids of his hair into a loom with cloth.

That night after Samson was sound asleep, she did this. But it didn't work! Samson had not told her the truth again. Now she was embarrassed again.

Day after day Delilah kept nagging Samson to know the truth. Finally, Samson got tired of hearing her cry. He told her all the truth. He told her that he had made a special promise to God not to cut his hair. He explained that if he cut his hair, the spirit of God would not be with him and he would be weak.

Delilah knew that this was the truth. She told the kings to be there that night.

Sure enough, when she cut off his hair, he was helpless. Her people grabbed Samson. They blinded him and made him a slave. (During this time—his hair started to grow back)

One day they decided to have a large feast. The kings wanted to show off their slave, Samson. They paraded him around and placed him in between two large columns.

Samson prayed to God and asked for strength one more time. Samson turned back to God and God heard his prayer.

Suddenly He shouted, "Let me die with these people!" Then he pushed the columns apart. The whole place caved in. Everyone was killed, including Samson.

Samson showed the people that God was his strength, and not his hair or his body.

Jesus Christ gives us strength, when people are laughing at us and doing mean things to us. He will help us deal with bad things and do what is right.

Jesus died for us. But, there is Good News! Jesus came back to life 3 days later. Because He is alive, we know that there is hope for us when we die, if we know Jesus. We must trust Him with our whole lives. We must pray and ask Him to come into our lives and be the boss. We must let him take control and do what He wants.

Learning Activities

Look at how your kids learn. Use ideas that help each child learn. It may be through acting out the story, or reading the Scripture, or working a fun puzzle. Help every person understand and apply the lesson to their life. Obviously Samson did some things that were wrong. Help the kids learn from his mistakes and try to do right.

Memory Verse Activities

Print the words of the Bible verse on index cards, one word on each card. Cut the cards in half like a puzzle piece. Hide the pieces and let the kids find them and put the verse in order.

Prayer Time

Write some prayer needs on a card (family, friends, Bible study teachers, manager, etc.) Let each person choose a person to pray for. If possible, let them say sentence prayers in the group. They could each start by saying "God, I pray for...."

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks. One idea is to make the Samson veggie dip.

Planning for July 18th
Ruth
Ruth Chapters 1-4

Preschool Lesson
For
Samson

Teachers: Make a puppet of Samson out of a paper sack to tell the story.

Hi! My name is Samson. I want to tell you a story that happened to me. It is in the Bible.

When I was growing up, I did not always listen to my parents. I should have listened, but I didn't. Because I did things my way, I got into a lot of trouble. My parents loved God and God had told them that I was someone very special to God, just like you are special to God.

Believe it or not, God told them not to cut my hair. So that is why I had very long hair.

I loved God too, but sometimes I forgot how I should act. Sometimes I would get really angry. So many people would get hurt because of my mistakes.

Usually I had to learn a lesson the hard way. Let me tell you about the hardest thing that ever happened to me.

When I grew up, I had a girlfriend who didn't believe in God. She was not always honest either. Her name was Delilah (De-lie-la). Funny, the word lie was even in her name!

One day she asked me how I was so strong. I knew that God had made me the strongest man in the world and I knew that my hair was part of the reason I was so strong.

I knew in my heart that I could not trust Delilah, so two times I told her a lie. Sure enough, BAM! I showed her that I was still strong. Delilah was upset because I did not tell her the truth. She cried and cried because I lied to her.

She kept asking me how I got my strength. Day after day, she would ask me. I got so tired of hearing her ask me this question. This time I told her the truth. I told her that if she cut my hair, I would lose all my strength.

That night she tiptoed into my house, cut my hair off and tied me up. This time my strength was gone. I was weak. She tricked me!

Once again I knew that doing the wrong thing had gotten me into trouble. Not only did I not listen or obey my parents, but I also started to lie to people.

God was so good to me, even when I had done wrong. I told Him I was sorry for doing wrong and not following Him. He forgave me and helped me. He loved me so much. He loves you too!

To the tune of Row, Row, Row your boat.

Grow, grow, grow his hair
Samson grew his hair
It was very, very long
And he was very strong.

Cut, cut, cut the hair
Delilah cut his hair
Now Samson wasn't strong
The hair was not there.

Hands-On Activities For Samson

Let each person cut strips of construction paper and glue into a paper “wig.” Next choose one person to be Samson and one to be Delilah. Pretend that Samson is asleep (with his “wig” on). (The person may want to make snoring sounds.) Let Delilah come and cut his wig “hair” off. Take turns acting out the story. They will love it! (Be sure Delilah does not cut off Samson’s REAL hair!)

Cook spaghetti (or thin pasta) and place in a zipper bag. Give each child a piece of construction paper. Let them draw 2 faces of Samson on the paper—before and after. Glue spaghetti on each head to represent Samson. (Note: Rice or yarn may be substituted)

Samson had several stumbling blocks in his life. He didn’t listen to his parents which was a problem and he wanted his way more than God’s way. Set up an obstacle course using pillows as the blocks. Blindfold a person, then get volunteers to help make pillow stumbling blocks along the path. Have other people be helpers in case the blindfolded person stumbles (so they won’t fall or hurt themselves). Talk about how stumbling blocks make you have detours and cause things to be different. Share how Samson’s stumbling blocks affected him as well as many other people. Ask the kids how God can help them overcome stumbling blocks in their life. (For older kids, other stumbling blocks for Samson were anger and lust.)

For older kids, talk about how they choose a girlfriend/boyfriend. Let them list important things to consider. Share a thought from the Bible on the subject. What does God think?

Samson was a strong man. Blow up little balloons and place in your arm sleeve to make it look like you have big muscles. Let the kids try. Take pictures if you have a camera!

Make little edible barbells. Cut carrots into round pieces. Place a toothpick between two pieces of carrot so that it looks like a barbell. Marshmallows can also be used.

Have the girls braid hair (if it is long enough). Add pretty bows or clips.
