



# SAMSON

## JUDGES 13-16

### **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

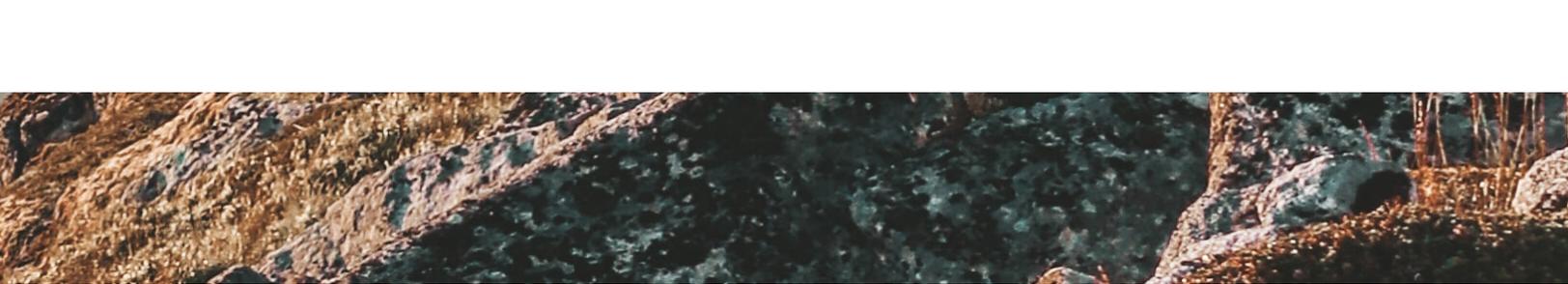
### **Tell the Bible Story**

The Israelites once again disobeyed God, so God let the Philistines rule over them. One day, the angel of the Lord told a husband and wife that they would have a son who would save the Israelites from the Philistines. God had a special instruction for their son: He should never cut his hair.

The woman had a baby, and she named him Samson. God made Samson strong. When Samson grew up, he saw a Philistine woman and wanted to marry her. He and his parents went to meet her. On the journey, a lion jumped out at Samson. Samson killed the lion.

Later, some bees had made honey in the lion's body. Samson ate some of the honey and gave some to his parents.

Philistine men came to Samson's wedding. Samson told them a riddle: "Out of the eater came



something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet.”

The riddle was about the lion and the honey, but the men could not figure it out. They asked Samson’s bride for help. She told the men the answer. Samson was angry, and he left his wife. When he went back to get her, she was gone. Samson was so upset that he burned the Philistines’ fields. This made the Philistines angry.

Samson escaped to another city, where he fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines gave Delilah money to find out why Samson was so strong.

Samson told Delilah, “If you tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will be weak.” But that was not true. Then Samson said, “If you tie me up with new rope, I will be weak.” But that was not true, either. So Samson said, “If you weave my hair into a loom, I will be weak.” Another lie!

Finally, Samson told Delilah the truth: “If you cut my hair, I will not have my strength.” So when Samson was sleeping, a Philistine man cut his hair. Delilah shouted, “Samson! Wake up! The Philistines are here to kill you!” Samson wasn’t strong anymore. The Philistines grabbed him and took him away in chains.

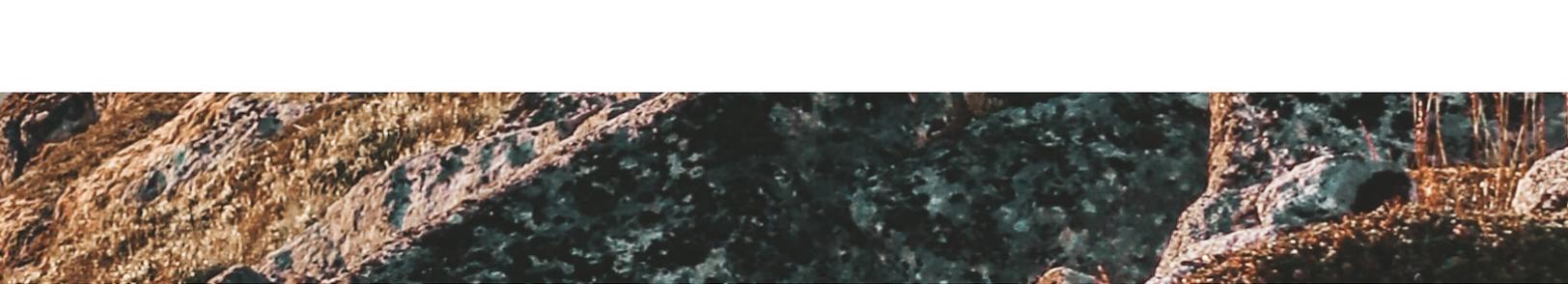
One day, the Philistines made Samson stand between two pillars in their temple. Samson cried out to God, “Lord, strengthen me once more.” So God strengthened Samson. Samson pushed on the pillars and collapsed the temple. Samson and everyone in the temple died, but Samson had saved the Israelites from the Philistines.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

*Samson’s sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Samson’s story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but God sent Him to die on the cross and rise again to rescue people from sin and give them eternal life.*

### **Discussion & Bible Skills - Older**

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to Judges 13. Explain that today’s Bible story comes from Judges 13–16. Challenge your kids to tell you how many Bible books are part of the Old Testa-



ment History division. (12 books) Remind kids that the Book of Judges tells about Israel's cycle of sin, defeat, cries for help, and deliverance through a judge. Read aloud Judges 13:1.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Where did Samson's strength come from?

*Help your kids recognize that Samson's long hair didn't actually give him strength; it was a picture of his devotion to God. God was the ultimate source of Samson's strength. God chose Samson before he was born to deliver the Israelites from their enemies.*

2. How can weakness be a good thing?

*Lead your kids to recognize that weakness requires us to rely on God. God's power is displayed when He uses us in our weakness to accomplish His purposes.*

3. Samson looked like a great deliverer, but was he? What about Jesus?

*Lead your kids to discuss how Samson was strong, but he failed to obey God. Still, God can use sinful people to carry out His plan. Jesus, on the other hand, was an unexpected deliverer. He came to the world as a baby in humble circumstances. He entered Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a war horse, and defeated sin and death not through a physical battle but by laying down His life.*

## SAY:

*When God raised up Samson as a judge for Israel, the Israelites were being ruled by the Philistines. They were from an area along the Mediterranean Sea. Samson's sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. God gave Samson strength to defeat the Philistines.*

## Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find Judges 13–16. Remind them that Judges is part of the History division. Remind your kids that Bible divisions are used to help us organize the books of the Bible.

Ask the following questions. Lead your kids and discuss:

1. What special instructions did God have for Samson's hair?

*An angel of the Lord told Samson's parents not to cut his hair; Judg. 13:4*

2. What did the Philistines do to capture Samson?

*They paid Delilah to find out his secret, cut his hair, and attacked him; Judg. 16:5-20*

3. How did Samson deliver God's people?



*He prayed to God for strength and then pushed over the pillars holding up the roof of a temple, crushing the Philistine leaders and himself; Judg. 16:28-30*

4. What was Samson's real source of strength?

*Lead your kids to see that, although Samson said cutting his hair would take away his strength, his hair was just a picture of his obedience to God. God was his source of strength.*

5. Who else gave His life to rescue many people?

*Help your kids make the connection to Jesus, who gave up His life on the cross to save people from sin. Make a point to remind the kids that Jesus was without sin, making His sacrifice even greater. Samson saved the Israelites from the Philistines, but Jesus saved all God's people from sin and death forever.*

6. How can we have strength from God?

*Guide your kids to see that our source of strength is also God. Guide the discussion away from physical strength and to the ideas of strong faith and determination to obey God. Remind them that we grow our spiritual strength by trusting God, praying to Him, reading His Word, and spending time with other believers.*

**SAY:**

*God gave Samson strength to defeat the Philistines. When we trust Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit. He gives us spiritual strength.*