

Large Group

Samson and the Philistines

Bible Passage | Judges 13-16

Memory Verse | 2 Chronicles 7:14

Story Point | Samson learned that strength comes from God alone.



Countdown Video (3 mins)

Memory Verse Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader connects the lesson to the memory verse, leads the memory verse song with hand motions, and closes in prayer.

Welcome (1 mins)

Large Group Leader tell kids what to expect to happen (1 minute)

- watch the lesson video
- retell the story.
- read the story from scripture

Watch the Lesson Video (4 mins)

Retell the Story (11 mins)

Lead the kids in a fun retelling of the story

Here are some resources to help you formulate this time.

Review what we learned:

Over the last few weeks, we have seen God's people turn away from Him and His commands. Their sin led to other nations ruling over them and attacking them. But God remained faithful and sent judges to rescue the Israelites from their enemies. We've learned about Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, and Gideon. Today, we will see how God gave Samson strength to rescue His people from the Philistines.

Today's Lesson

Before Samson was born, he was called by God to be a judge for Israel. Do you remember what the angel of the Lord told Samson's mother? [Allow responses.] The angel told Samson's mother to never cut his hair. The angel also gave some other commands for Samson to follow because he was set apart by God for a special purpose. As Samson grew up, the Lord was with Samson and gave him great strength. He defeated armies and tore apart lions.

But then Samson met Delilah, and he loved her. What did the Philistines ask Delilah to do? [Allow responses.] They asked Delilah to figure out where Samson's strength came from so they could defeat him. Each time Delilah asked Samson where his strength came from, he lied to her. Finally, Samson told her the truth: 'My hair has never been cut, because I am a Nazirite to God from birth. If I am shaved, my strength will leave me, and I will become weak and be like any other man.' Delilah betrayed Samson and had someone cut Samson's hair while he slept. Then, the Bible tells us, that the Lord left Samson. Without the Lord, Samson was weak and was captured by the Philistines.

Later, when Samson was standing between two pillars in the Philistines' temple, Samson prayed for God to give him strength one more time. What do you think Samson learned when he was able to push down the pillars? [Allow responses.] **Samson learned that strength comes from God alone.** Samson's hair never held any power. God alone had given Samson strength. Samson had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, people are saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps them live to please God.

Gospel Discussion | Even though Samson was a great warrior, he was also sinful and disobedient. But the Bible honors Samson for his faith in God (Hebrews 11:32). While Samson stood in the Philistine temple, he knew only God could give him the strength to defeat the Philistines. We must also recognize that we have no power to save ourselves. Like Samson, we need faith in God to save us. God sent Jesus to save us from our sin.

Read from the Bible (4 mins)

Judges 13:1-5, 24; 16:4-30

Remind Kids of Four Questions (1 min)

- What did you like about today's story?
- What did you find confusing?
- What did you learn about people?
- What did you learn about God?

Worship Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader briefly introduces self, welcomes kids, leads 1st worship song, and prays for the time.