



# SAMSON & DELILAH

JUDGES 13-16

## GOAL

▶ **To help children understand that following God's plan for our lives means obeying God.**

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## CHARACTERS

▶ **Samson:** He was one of Israel's judges. He got distracted from his task.

**Delilah:** She was Samson's Philistine girlfriend. She tempted him to give up the secret to his strength.

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## MEMORY VERSE

▶ **Zechariah 4:6:** Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

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## OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Judges 13-16:** Samson was one of Israel's judges, meaning that he helped to lead the country and defend against enemies. God gave him incredible physical strength to defeat the Philistine invasions. Unfortunately, he became entangled in dubious romantic relationships, which compromised his ability to lead. He was captured by the Philistines when he gave up the secret of his strength. He died in a final act of vengeance toward the Philistines.



## SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ The most fascinating fact of Samson's life is his seemingly superhuman strength. His strength came from God, and He used this power to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. Despite Samson's tendency for giving in to temptation, which led him to sin, God still used him to carry out His will; however, God did not let Samson avoid the consequences of sin.

Samson broke his vows and God's law. In Samson's story, we can see him break the vows he took as a Nazirite and many of God's laws, including not marrying a foreigner.

Samson focused more on revenge than God's will. Samson used his God-given strength more often to avenge some wrong that had been done to him than to do God's will. Each time Samson was wronged by others it was because he himself was doing something wrong. God used Samson's temper to accomplish His will, but Samson's heart was not in the right place on any of these occasions.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▶ **Arm Wrestling**  
To emphasize Samson's strength, host an arm wrestling competition.

## MEMORY VERSE MEANING

- ▶ **Zechariah 4:6:** God gives His spirit to Christians. This is our source of power today.



**POST-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

▷ **Tug-of-War | Supplies:** a long, thick rope

Use this game to reinforce the lesson of Samson's physical strength.

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**TAKE  
HOME**

▷ God gave Samson superhuman strength. He did this to accomplish His will. Samson used it for his own purposes. While Samson may have had the strength to do amazing feats of physical strength, he lacked a different kind of strength: spiritual strength.

Spiritual strength is developed much like our muscles. To get big, strong muscles, we have to use them a lot. To build spiritual strength, we must develop a strong relationship with God. When we pray to God, we are building our relationship with Him. His Spirit lives inside of us. The more we talk to God, the more we tune in to the Holy Spirit and the direction God is leading us. This will help us to avoid falling into temptation like Samson.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** Why were the Israelites oppressed by the Philistines?

**A1:** Because the Israelites had been disobedient to God.

**Q1b:** What kinds of things can we expect for being disobedient to our parents?

**TN:** Disobedience can lead to being grounded and/or losing privileges. Often, our parents will give us warnings when we are misbehaving, and they will remind us of the consequences of our actions. God did the same thing with the Israelites before He allowed the Philistines to conquer them.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** What did the angel of the Lord tell Manoah's wife?

**A2:** The angel told her that she would have a son.

**Q2b:** After blowing out the candles on your birthday cake and making a wish, has your wish ever come true?

**TN:** How wonderful such an experience must feel! While God is not to be treated like a genie or a fairy godmother who grants us wishes, He does hear all of our prayers. Even better than that, He knows exactly what we need before we even know it. We should always feel comfortable coming to God with everything, including our wants and desires. He will either bless us with what we asked for, or He will lead us to something better.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** Who made sure Samson obeyed all of the angel's instructions?

**A3:** Samson's mother made sure he obeyed the angel's instructions.

**Q3b:** When you do something good, do you get rewarded?

**TN:** When we do something good, our parents often reward us by praising us. Sometimes that reward is enough, but we often are given gifts or additional privileges because of our good behavior. Our parents have worked hard to help guide us into being good people who follow God. When we display these values in our behavior, it shows them that we are listening and that their efforts have been successful.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** Where was Samson when he saw the woman he wanted to marry?

**A4:** Samson was in Timnah.

**Q4b:** Did God tempt Samson to sin?

**TN:** No, God does not tempt us to sin or do evil. Regardless of whether Samson chose to obey or disobey God, the Lord would use this man and the strength He gave him to do His will. God's will cannot be prevented because of sin. This is an encouraging lesson for us! Even if we fail to do all we should for God, He can still use us to accomplish His will and to glorify Him. God can make all things good!



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What did Samson promise his 30 companions if they could solve his riddle?

**A5:** Samson promised them 30 fine linen robes and festival garments.

**Q5b:** What do you think about this joke: "Dogs don't like the pancakes either!"?

**TN:** That is complete nonsense! Hearing the punch line without hearing the actual joke makes it almost impossible to fully appreciate its humor. So when we consider Samson's riddle, we can see that for anyone other than Samson, it would be impossible to come up with the answer. His riddle was based on something that he alone saw. It was foolish for his companions to take the bet, but it was unfair for Samson to even propose it. Samson tricked them into a bet they could not win. The men ended up beating Samson at his own game by threatening Samson's wife into getting and telling them the answer. He did not enjoy being on the other end of deceit. We should always treat others the way we would want to be treated.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** How many foxes did Samson capture?

**A6:** Samson captured 300 foxes.

**Q6b:** When someone does something mean to you, what is the best way to react?

**TN:** It can be really hard not to let our emotions dictate our reactions, but we should always think and pray before acting. Samson didn't, and look at what he decided to do. He killed a bunch of people and set fire to all of their crops. We are unlikely to do anything this severe, but there will always be consequences to acting on anger irresponsibly.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** What did Samson use to kill 1,000 Philistine men?

**A7:** Samson used the jawbone of a donkey.

**Q7b:** You have to walk home, but you have no shoes.

Look around the room to find items that could be used to protect your feet.

**TN:** Maybe we could use some yarn or string to tie books to the bottoms of our feet, or wrap up our feet with towels. Samson found himself surrounded by people who didn't like him, so he grabbed the first thing he could find and started fighting them off! Way to think your feet, Samson!

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### SLIDE 8



**Q8a:** Samson ripped off and carried the doors of what city?

**A8:** Samson ripped off the doors of the city gates in Gaza.

**Q8b:** Your goal is to win a diving competition. If you trip and mess up your dive, but still win, did you accomplish your goal?

**TN:** It may not have been the way we envisioned our victory, but yes, we accomplished our goal of winning a diving competition. God's goal was to free the Israelites from the Philistine oppression. Would He have preferred Samson to have acted in a more Godly manner? It's pretty safe to assume that He would have. Regardless of Samson's motives for laying waste to the Philistines, their cities, and crops, Samson was accomplishing God's goal.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 9



**Q9a:** Who chopped off Samson's hair?

**A9:** Delilah chopped off Samson's hair.

**Q9b:** Which kind of strength would you rather have: physical or spiritual?

**TN:** Physical strength can be very handy, but there will be times when that won't be enough. Spiritual strength means that we rely on God to help us through everything. If physical strength is necessary, those who are spiritually strong can be assured that God will either grant them the ability lift or move anything out of the way or He will send someone to do it for them. God is more powerful than we are, and He has far more resources than we do, so relying on Him is a much safer bet than looking to our own strength to get us through life.

### SLIDE 10



**Q10a:** What job did they give Samson while he was in jail?

**A10:** Samson was forced to grind wheat.

**Q10b:** Was Samson's long hair really the secret to his great strength?

**TN:** He was able to bring down an entire house with short hair, so clearly he didn't need long hair to be strong. The secret to Samson's strength was God. Samson had long hair because he made a vow to God to never cut it. Samson's hair was cut because he allowed himself to be tempted, which led him to sin and break his vow to God. Samson was given the strength to destroy the house after he prayed to God. We do not have the gifts and talents that make each of us special because we made it happen; we are gifted and talented because God has blessed us.





**MEMORY  
VERSE**

▶ **Zechariah 4:6:** Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

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**BIG IDEA**

▶ When we rely on God instead of our own abilities, we are flexing the muscles of our spiritual strength!

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**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▶ Dear God, You gave Samson such incredible strength. By Your Holy Spirit, You give us spiritual strength today. Help us to use it to glorify you. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



There was a time during the history of the Israelites in which their disobedience to God grew so rapidly that the Lord handed them over to the Philistines. For 40 years, they suffered through oppression, longing for someone to set them free.

### SLIDE 2



During this terrible time, there was a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan. His wife was unable to become pregnant. They desperately longed for a child of their own, but it never happened. One day, an angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and told her that she would have a son. She was excited, but found it hard to believe. She ran to tell her husband the exciting news. The angel of the Lord appeared a second time and told her that she was not allowed to drink any wine or eat any forbidden food. He also told her that the boy's hair should never be cut. This was to be a sign to others that he was consecrated to God. When the boy was born, she named him Samson.

### SLIDE 3



Samson grew up to be a strong young man. He had long hair, and his mother made sure that he obeyed all the instructions the angel gave. Samson was blessed by God, and God's Spirit began to work in him.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



One day, while Samson was in Timnah, he saw a beautiful young Philistine woman. He liked her very much and wanted to take her as his wife. There was just one problem: The Philistines were Israel's enemy. Samson told his parents about his plan, but they were not happy. How could their son even think of marrying a Philistine girl? They were Israel's enemy, and they treated the Israelites poorly. Little did Samson's parents know, God would use all of this for good and to accomplish His will. Samson, after all, was to be Israel's judge—born to free them from the oppression of the Philistines.

### SLIDE 5



The plan went forward, and Samson was set to marry the Philistine girl. The girl's father gave Samson 30 young men to be his companions. During the festivities of the wedding, Samson told the men a riddle and said he would give them 30 fine linen robes and festival garments if they could solve it. If they couldn't solve it, they would give Samson 30 fine linen robes and festival garments. The men forced Samson's wife to coax him to tell her the answer. She succeeded, and the men won the bet. Samson was furious for being tricked. He had to keep his end of the bargain and was forced to give the men their 30 linen robes and festival garments.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 6



In order to do that, Samson killed 30 men and stole their clothes. Then things got worse; when he came to take his bride, he found out that someone else had married her in the meantime. Samson was going to get even with the men who tricked him. He captured 300 foxes and tied torches to their tails. The foxes ran like crazy, setting everything on fire. All the crops and trees burned down. Now the Philistines were angry, too. In return, they killed Samson's former wife and her father. When Samson heard the news, he was furious. He went and killed many Philistines.

### SLIDE 7



The situation escalated. At that time, both the Philistines and Israelites saw Samson as a problem. The Israelites tied Samson with rope and brought him to the Philistines. With ease, Samson snapped the rope, picked up a jawbone of a donkey, and killed 1,000 Philistine men.

### SLIDE 8



Years later, Samson went to the city of Gaza. When the inhabitants learned that he was there, they devised a plan to capture him. They would wait for him until morning and then kill him. Samson, though, did not stay the entire night. Before the morning broke, he walked to the city gates, ripped the doors off, and carried them on his shoulder to the top of a hill.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 9



Samson was too proud and careless for his own good. He forgot about the rules God gave him. In his disobedience, he fell in love with another woman; her name was Delilah. Samson told her the secret of his great strength—his long hair. Delilah did not care about Samson, and she told the Philistines how to capture him. That night while he was sleeping, she chopped off his hair. When the Philistines captured Samson, he could do nothing. The Spirit of God left him, and his amazing strength was gone. They poked out his eyes and put Samson in jail. Finally, they caught the man who had wreaked havoc in their land.

### SLIDE 10



While in jail, Samson was forced to grind wheat. As time passed, Samson's hair started to grow back, but the Philistines didn't notice. One day, the Philistines had a big festival to celebrate how their false god, Dagon, gave them victory over Samson. They brought Samson out of his jail cell to the festival to entertain them. Samson came to stand between the pillars supporting the roof of the building where the festivities were held. Blind and weak, Samson asked one of the servants to place his hands on the pillars. He prayed one last time for God's strength. With amazing force, Samson took down the pillars that held up the building. The roof caved in, killing Samson and 3,000 Philistines.