



MAY 11, 2025

# SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES

JUDGES 13-16

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Samson's great strength came from God alone. He had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, we're saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps us live to please God.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

## MEMORY VERSES

2 Chronicles 7:14 | Philippians 4:19

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The life of Samson showcases the downfall of a mighty hero whose story draws some similarities to Jesus. Samson's shortcomings, however, reveal the need for a greater deliverer. Only by faith in the Son of God can please our Father in heaven and get a proper view of where true strength comes from.

What comparisons and contrasts can we make between Samson and Jesus? What can Christians glean about the source of their strength?

In Samson's story, the angel of the Lord delivered the news that a woman who was unable to conceive would have a son. This has similarities to the New Testament's even greater account of the miraculous conception of Jesus to the virgin Mary. We later read that Delilah, whom Samson loved, was bribed with silver to betray him into the hands of his enemies, just as Judas did to Jesus. Both Samson and Jesus were called to bring salvation to God's people amid the oppression they faced, though only Jesus was able to do so in a lasting way by perfectly obeying God's commands.

Samson's strength came from the Spirit of God and Samson's adherence to the angel's command that he not cut his hair. As a Nazirite, Samson was called to be set apart in holy service to God, though he disobeyed God's call to abstain from the unclean and idolatrous ways of the world. The downfall of Samson reveals the need for a greater hero who could fulfill God's commands and deliver His people once and for all.

Though Samson was an esteemed warrior, his strength was not his own; it came from God who called him to walk in holiness. Like Samson, we cannot please God on our own. We need the power of His Spirit to help us walk in His ways (Galatians 5). Jesus is the better Samson—our perfect sacrifice who suffered in our place to create lasting transformation amid our helpless and hopeless state. Lead boys and girls to see that when we place our trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit dwells within us, allowing us to walk victoriously in faith.

## MOTHER'S DAY

Remember that while most kids will enjoy celebrating Mother's Day, there are some who have lost their mother or do not have a good relationship with them. If a kid doesn't want to participate, don't force them to. Be sensitive to kids' emotions, reactions, and needs this morning and be available if they want to talk.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSES

...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**2 Chronicles 7:14, ESV**

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**Philippians 4:19, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

This month we have TWO verses that we can memorize together — 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Philippians 4:19.

Using the TV in your room, review the motions video for each of the verses. Practice the motions as a group, then give kids the opportunity to practice on their own.

To continue reviewing, get the provided dodgeball and have kids circle up. Kids will pass the ball to each other as they recite one of the verses one word at a time. When they've completed one verse, have them play again with the words of the other one.

*Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on May 25!*



# LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

## SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES

The Israelites again did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord, so He handed them over to the Philistines for 40 years.

The angel of the Lord appeared to a man from the tribe of Dan and his wife. The angel gave them special instructions to prepare for the birth of their son. The angel also said, "Never cut his hair, because he will be set apart to save Israel from the Philistines." The man and his wife had a son just as the angel said. They named their son Samson.

When Samson grew up, he decided to marry a Philistine woman. Samson and his parents went to meet her. When he went to speak with her, a young lion came roaring at Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on him, and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands. The Lord made Samson very strong!

Once, Samson used the jawbone of a donkey to defeat 1,000 Philistines. The Philistines feared Samson's strength.

Later, Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines wanted to know why Samson was so strong. They decided to pay Delilah to betray Samson.

Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me, where does your great strength come from?" He replied, "If someone ties me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will become weak like any other man."

When he was sleeping, Delilah tied him up with seven fresh bowstrings and called the Philistines to ambush him. He snapped the bowstrings as if they were yarn. Delilah was upset, because Samson had lied to her.

Twice more, Delilah asked how Samson could be defeated, and he told her two different lies. Delilah was very upset, and Samson finally told her the truth: "My hair has never been cut because I am set apart for God. If my head is shaved, I will be weak." She had his head shaved while he was sleeping, and the Philistines captured him.

The Philistines rejoiced and thanked their false god that Samson had been defeated. They chained him between two pillars that supported a Philistine temple. Samson prayed, "God, please strengthen me once more so that I may defeat the Philistines." He pushed against the pillars with all his might, and Samson and all the leaders of the Philistines died as the temple collapsed.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**Samson's great strength came from God alone.** He had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, we are saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps us live to please God.



# ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY: MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT

**Supplies: popsicle sticks, wooden hearts, yarn, glue, cardboard, scissors, markers**

Pass out the provided supplies to kids and give each one a wooden heart. Have them take the yarn and wrap it around their heart until it's completely covered. Encourage kids to use their mom's favorite color!

If they want and time allows, kids can use the popsicle sticks and a square piece of cardboard to create a "picture frame" for the yarn heart.



## CONNECT THE DOTS



The judge Samson had great strength from the Lord! Today, we learned about Samson and the choices he made that led to him losing that strength. But even though he lost it, in the end, God still gave him the strength to defeat his enemies.

## BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

### Samson's Strength Challenge

Use the provided supplies to set up various strength challenges around the room.

Depending on the number of kids and your group's preference, kids can either complete the challenges at random and on their own, or complete one challenge all together before moving to the next one.

# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.**

1. God gave Samson special strength. God gives His people gifts as well. What gifts do you think God has given you?
2. How does God give Christians strength?
3. Why is it sometimes hard for us to realize we can't do things in our own power?
4. Samson gave his life to rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. Who gave His life to save people forever?
5. What does it look like for us to be set apart and live for God?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your room. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your group!



## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

## THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!