

MAY 11, 2025

# SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES

JUDGES 13-16

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Like Samson helped his people, Jesus helps us. Jesus died and came back to life to save us from our mistakes.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

## MEMORY VERSE

My God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus. **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.

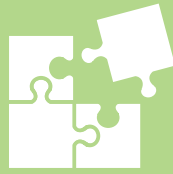
Samson's strength came from the Spirit of God and Samson's adherence to the angel's command that he not cut his hair. As a Nazirite, Samson was called to be set apart in holy service to God, though he disobeyed God's call to abstain from the unclean and idolatrous ways of the world. The downfall of Samson 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

Today is a day we set aside every year to celebrate moms. As joyful as today is for many, it can also be hard for those who have lost or don't have a good relationship with their mom. Please make an effort to remain conscious of this today and be sensitive to children's needs, actions, and reactions throughout the morning.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

### ACTIVITY #1: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “This is the Way”:

My God, my God will supply all your needs,  
supply all your needs, supply all your needs.  
My God, my God will supply all your needs,  
all your needs in Christ Jesus.

*(Repeat)*

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “My God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus.” In our story today, God sent Samson to help the Israelites. We need help, too. We need God to save us from our sins. God sent His Son, Jesus, to help us and save us forever.

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Wow, you are all so strong! Today, we learned that Samson’s strength came from God. God used Samson’s strength to save His people from the Philistines.

### ACTIVITY #2: PRACTICE EXERCISES

Guide children to show their strength like Samson by completing different activities for ten seconds at a time.

Examples include flexing their arms, hopping, running in place, waving their arms, etc.

# CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story.

## CRAFT: MOTHER'S DAY CARD

**Supplies: cards, envelopes, markers/crayons, flower stickers**

Give each child a card, an envelope, a glue stick, and a few flower stickers. Ask children for reasons why they love their mom, and write each one on a flower. While you listen and write, children can decorate their card as they like.

Help them stick their flowers to their card, then put the card in the provided envelope. Make sure every child who participates takes a flower and their card to give as gifts for Mother's Day.





## SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES

Over and over again, God's people — the Israelites — chose to not listen to God. They kept doing things that made God sad. So God let their enemies, the Philistines, rule over them.

One day, something special happened. An angel visited a man and his wife. The angel told them they were going to have a baby boy. This boy, named Samson, would be very strong. Samson would help save God's people from the Philistines.

God had important instructions for Samson: He should never cut his hair.

When Samson grew up, he met a girl named Delilah. The Philistine leaders wanted to find out why Samson was so strong. They asked Delilah to find out. She kept asking Samson, "Why are you so strong?" Samson would not tell her the truth, but finally he told her, "If you cut my hair, I will lose my strength."

One night, while Samson was sleeping, Delilah had his hair cut. When she woke him up, Samson was weak. The Philistines caught him and took him away.

As time passed, Samson's hair started to grow again. The Philistines brought Samson to a big temple. Samson prayed to God, and God gave him his strength back. Samson pushed on the temple's columns, and it fell down, crushing the Philistines inside. Sadly, Samson died too, but he saved God's people.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Like Samson helped his people, Jesus helps us. Jesus died and came back to life to save us from our mistakes.

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the story as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Who was the strong judge God used to save the Israelites from the Philistines?
4. What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

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

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**