

Samson

Judges 13-16

March 29, 2020

Age group: 2nd - 4th grades

Small Group

Key Verse	Judges 13:24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him.
Memory Verse	Joshua 24:15b "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
Series Point	God showed that He would do "whatever it takes" (including making the Sun stand still) to provide for His people. All He asks in return is that we do "whatever it takes" to serve Him.
Lesson Point	God does not want to use the strong, He wants to use the obedient.
Now what? (action steps)	I can work on strengthening my obedience muscles - that is more important to God than my physical strength.

Leader Preparation

What can we say about Samson? He was a major dingbat! Yet despite all of his knuckleheadedness God chose him from birth for His (God's) purposes. Like most of Judges, the details of this story are often gory, full of promiscuity and sinfulness, and just plain unfit for children. Don't focus on the details, rather focus on the fact that God chose to use Samson for His purposes. Focus on the fact that Samson's strength came from God alone. Focus on the fact that as the Israelites lived in the Promised Land it became more and more apparent that when they followed the ways of people rather than God, things went badly for them. When they turned to God and followed God's ways, however, things went much better. God was molding His people, despite their stubborn hearts, into a people through which He would send the savior of the world.

To give you some additional background into this story, please, please, please watch this video to find out incredibly helpful information about the book of judges at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOYy8iCfIJ4>

If the link doesn't work for you, go to youtube and search for *The Bible Project Read Scripture Judges*

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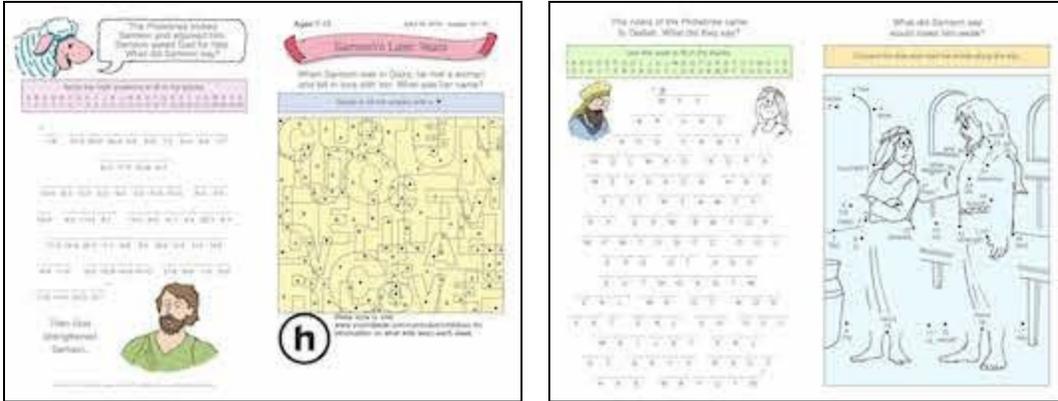
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Early Arriver Activity:

Supplies: Activity page, writing utensils (pencils, markers, or crayons)



Give each child a copy of Samson's Later Years Activity Page to complete as they arrive.

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Small Group Open (9:15-9:27; 11:15-11:27)

Intro Craft

Samson's Hair Memory Verse Art

Supplies: Disposable tablecovers
Yarn
Glue
Popsicle sticks
Plates (for glue)
Watercolor Paper
Watercolor Sets
Paintbrushes
Scissors
Small cups and water
Ball point pens
Wipes (for cleanup)

***Say:** Today we are finishing up our study in Judges as we learn about the judge named Samson. Samson had super strength that was a big part of his story. We will learn that his strength came from God and he had to be obedient to God's command not to cut his hair in order to keep his strength. So, as you can imagine, Samson had long hair! We are going to make an art project with yarn that can remind us of Samson's hair and we are also going to write our memory verse on it. Can anyone say the memory verse?*



Instructions:

1. Cut the yarn into long strands and dip the entire thread into some glue.
2. Use a popsicle stick to push the yarn around and get it covered in glue.

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3. Remove the yarn from the glue and dangle it over the watercolour paper and slowly lower the thread onto the paper, creating loops and unusual shapes as it's lowered.



4. Continue with multiple threads of yarn until the page is full of swirly yarn.

5. Leave to dry during large group.

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Following the times listed below, at the appropriate time gather the children to take them to Large Group.

**Worship in Route 56
followed by
Large Group teaching in Zone 2
(9:27-9:50; 11:27-11:50)**

Small Group Close (9:50-10:20; 11:50-12:20)

As the children work on their activities, talk about what you learned during large group. Make sure to emphasize the Series Point

God showed that He would do "whatever it takes" (including making the Sun stand still) to provide for His people. All He asks in return is that we do "whatever it takes" to serve Him.

and the Lesson Point

God does not want to use the strong, He wants to use the obedient.

and the action steps

I can work on strengthening my obedience muscles - that is more important to God than my physical strength.

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Craft (continued):



6. With the yarn now dry, have the kids use the ballpoint pens to add the words of the memory verse to their art by writing a single word inside a loop of yarn on the page until all of the words of the verse are on the page.

7. Finally, fill in all of the loops with watercolors, using various colors, shades and combinations.

***Ask:** Has there been anything surprising to you about our study of Judges? What does Samson's story teach us about God? What does it teach us about people? What do you do when it's hard to obey?*

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Game

Bowling for Pillars

Supplies: 3 pillars (bowling pins, bottled water, stacks of blocks or other pillar-like materials)
Rubber or plastic ball
Masking tape

Say: Let's talk some more about Samson's strength. Samson thought he was strong just because God made him strong on the outside. But to have real strength it does not matter how strong we are on the outside. Our real strength—strength of spirit, mind and body—comes from the Heavenly Father.

- What does it mean to be strong physically?
- How does a person grow stronger physically?

Exodus 15:2 tells us that "The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." God should be our source of strength. Let's play a game that reminds us of part of Samson's story.

Instructions:

Set up three pillars in a triangle shape at one end of the playing area. At the other end of the area, mark a starting line with masking tape. Players should try to knock down the pillars by bowling the ball toward them. Each player gets two tries to knock down the pillars before moving on to the next player. Award one point for each toppled pillar. Repeat for an equal number of rounds for each player. The player with the most points wins.

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Ask:

- *What does it mean to be strong spiritually, to be strong inside?*
- *How can a person grow stronger spiritually?*

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Game

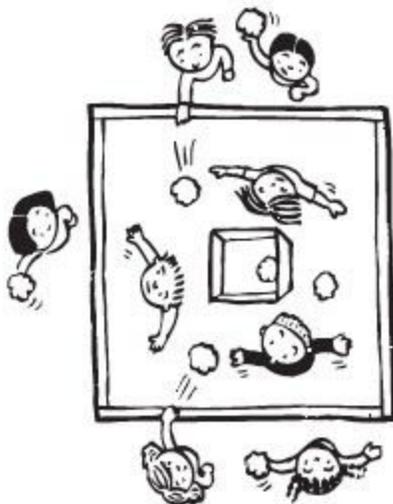
On Guard

Supplies: **Bibles**
masking tape
measuring stick
Cardboard box
scrap paper in two or three different colors.

***Say:** Samson made some bad choices when he was tempted. God's Word tells us to be on our guard so that we won't make bad choices in tempting situations. We can ask God for self-control to help us always make the best choice. Let's practice being on our guard in this game.*

Instructions:

1. Use masking tape to make a 5-foot (1.5-m) square in the middle of the playing area. Place the box in the middle of the masking-tape square.



2. Students form two or three teams. Teams stand on different sides of the playing area. Give each team one color of scrap paper. Students wad paper into balls. Invite one volunteer from each team to be a guard. Guards stand inside the masking-tape square in front of any team except their own.

3. At your signal, students attempt to throw their paper balls past the guard and into the box, making sure to stay behind the masking-tape line at all times. The guards try to block the paper balls.

4. After a short time, signal students to stop throwing the paper balls. Ask another volunteer from each team to collect their

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paper balls from the box, counting how many balls of their team's color are in the box. A volunteer from the team with the most balls in the box answers one of the Discussion Questions below. Students collect paper balls and play game again, choosing new volunteers as guards for the teams.

Discussion Questions:

- *When might you find it hard to show self-control and need to remember to be on guard? Why?*
- *Not having self-control and not being on our guard against tempting situations often gets us into trouble. What might happen if you don't have self-control when you are tempted to (copy someone's homework)?*
- *What kinds of good choices might you make when you depend on God for self control? (You can control your temper. You can obey God's Word by treating others kindly and not lying or stealing.)*

Pray: *Dear God, thanks that you never leave us alone even when we are tempted to make bad choices. Help us to learn from the example of Samson so that we will be strong not just on the outside but most importantly on the inside as well.*

Dismissal:

Parent pick up. Teachers please check tags of parents and child to see they match. Have a blessed day!