

Samson

Judges 13-16

March 29, 2020

Age group: Twos - Pre-K

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" to provide for His people. He asks us to do "whatever it takes" to serve Him in return.
Lesson Point	God does not want to use the strong, He wants to use the obedient.
Now what? (action steps)	I can get stronger at obeying God by practicing each day.

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.

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Early Arriver Activity:

Supplies: "Samson was Weak" activity sheet
Crayons

Samson was weak



GOD was STRONG!

Instructions:

Copies of coloring sheets will be available in the bins on the counter in your rooms.

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Welcome Activity:

“How strong are you?”

Supplies: Heavy item (Book, weight, etc.)
Small ball
Several paper cups
Balloons
A paper airplane

Instructions:

Tell the children you want to see how strong they are!

Let them take turns doing the following:

- Lifting the heavy book above their heads
- Stacking the cups and knocking them down with the ball
 - Popping a balloon by stomping or sitting on it
 - Throwing a paper airplane very far

When the children have each tried all the activities, tell them that today’s Bible story is about a man who was the strongest man in the world because God made him strong!

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Small Group Open (20 minutes - 9:15-9:35; 11:15-11:35)

Circle Time (Show the Bible, intro the story)

Getting ready to read the Bible Story: Have the children come and sit on the floor in a circle so all can see and hear the Bible story you are about to read.

Say: *Hello Boys and Girls! Do any of you know what book this is? (Show them the Jesus Calling Bible Storybook) Give the children time to respond.*

You're right, it's the Bible! Very good, now whose words are in the Bible? (Give a chance for a response.) God's Word!

For our lesson today, ask everyone in the room to name their best friend(s). Talk about what things we do with friends. Discuss how friends can help us be good or bad. (Perhaps share an experience from your childhood when someone tried to get you to do something wrong or when you were the one leading friends astray.)

Say: *"Did you know that Samson did not learn how to make good friends? Samson kept choosing friends that got him into trouble. He even chose bad girlfriends. Let's find out what happens to Samson in today's story."*

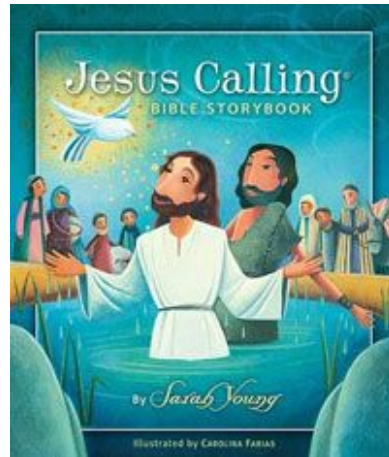
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Bible Story



Read the Bible story from pages 84-87 in the Jesus Calling Bible Storybook.

Bible story discussion:

- *Who was Samson's girlfriend? (Delilah)*
- *Why did Delilah try to trick Samson? (The Philistines gave her money)*
- *Why did Samson finally tell Delilah that his strength was in his hair? (Because she kept begging him.)*
- *When the Philistines cut Samson's hair, what did they do with him? (Blinded him and put him in prison as a slave.)*

If you don't have time to read this story before Large Group feel free to read them afterwards. We do want you to take the time to read these to the children, however.

Gather the children to take them to Large Group.

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Large Group in the Rainbow room (20 minutes- 9:35-9:55; 11:35-11:55)

Small Group Close (40 minutes 9:55-10:35; 11:55-12:35)

Small Group Activities:

Activity #1 - Samson's Strength

Supplies: Card stock copy of "Samson's Strength" Activity Page
Yarn
Glue
Crayons
Scissors

This craft will bring out the creativity in your kids. Kids love reading the story of strong Samson and this craft will help them remember your lesson.



Instructions

Have the children color their Samson Activity Page. Teachers cut the yarn in long lengths for the children to glue onto Samson's head.

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Activity #2 - Helping Sticks

Supplies: Wide craft sticks (about 4 per child)
Permanent marker
Ribbon
Crayons
Small stickers
Washable markers
Take home instructions for parents.

Say: "We learned today that Samson asked God to help him, and we can ask God for help, too! We can also help others. We are going to make some Helping Sticks today so we remember to help people this week. Who can you help this week?"



Instructions:

Give each child a group of about four sticks. With a permanent marker, write the name of a person the child can help this week on each stick. If the child isn't a big talker, you can write down words like "Mom," "Dad," "Brother," and "Sister." Then the child can decorate the sticks with crayons, markers, or small stickers. (Do not give children the permanent marker. Teachers use the permanent marker to write the names on the stick.) There will be washable markers for the children. Tie the bundle of sticks together with the ribbon.

Say: "Take your Helping Sticks home with you this week. Each day you can choose one stick and ask an adult to help you read the name and decide how to help that person."

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Activity #3 - Memory Verse Chain

Supplies: Memory Verse activity page printed on colored paper
Scissors
Stapler

Joshua 24:15b "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."



Instructions:

Teachers cut words of the verse apart in strips. Help the children with putting the chain together by having the words in order. As you help staple the chains together, talk about the words on the chain, reviewing the verse with the kids and practicing it together. After every child's chain is complete, have them all stand together and say the memory verse together.

Say: *God wants us to be obedient to Him, no matter what we are doing or how weak or strong we are.*

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Prayer: *Dear Jesus, Please help us become more like You. Give us the power to walk away from things we know are wrong. Please help us to be obedient in all we do.*

In Your name we pray,

Amen

Dismissal:

Please check every child's name tag to make sure it matches the parent or person in charge of picking up the child. This is a procedure we keep in place for the safety of each child.