

# Joshua and the Promised Land – Samson

## Judges 13-16

March 29, 2020

Age group: Route 56

Large 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 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 knuckle headedness 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 If the link doesn't work for you, go to YouTube and search for The Bible Project Read Scripture Judges.

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**Large Group Activity:** Defying Gravity

### **Quick Overview:**

Keep all balloons off the ground for 60 seconds.

### **Supplies you'll need:**

3 Balloons Inflated to about 9" in Length

### **Prep:**

Inflate and tie off 3 balloons in advance.

### **Game Play:**

When the clock starts, the player releases all 3 balloons into the air. Player may not hold balloons, allow them to rest on the body, or hit the ground, or the game is over. To complete the game, player must keep all balloons off the ground for 60 seconds.

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Worship (9:28 & 11:28)

**Students will be led in Worship by the Route 56 Band then after the 2-4 students leave they will go into Large Group.**

**Lesson Intro:**

***Say:** Last week we discussed that even when we are afraid, we can still trust that God will help us.*

***Ask ?** Have you ever thought to yourself “those rules don’t apply to me”? [Take a moment to discuss]*

***Ask ?** What happens when you don’t follow the rules? [Take a moment to discuss]*

**Share a personal story incorporating the following points:**

**About a time fear kept you from doing something. (Keep it short, funny and relevant.)**

***Say:** We have spent the last 3 weeks learning about the leaders of Israel called Judges. These leaders helped the people of Israel before there was a king over the nation. God used lots of different types of people to lead His people. They were not perfect, in fact most of them made a lot of bad choices. God decided to use them to lead His people despite their bad choices.*

*Today we are going to learn about Samson. He was the strongest man in the world but he also made some of the worst decisions of any person in the world. Watch this video to get some background on his birth.*

**R56 Samsons parents are promised a child** Video (Approx. 3 minutes long)

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**Say:** *God had a plan to help his people. He wanted to save them from the Philistines and He planned to use Samson as their leader. God asked Samson's parents to obey certain rules for how to raise Samson. They did exactly that. They obeyed everything God told them to do and Samson grew up to be the strongest person in the world - at least on the outside. Unfortunately, even though Samson's parents taught Him to Obey God, when he got older he chose to disobey some of God's rules. One of the rules that Samson disobeyed was about whom he married. Samson married one of the Philistine women. This was against God's rules because God knew that the Philistines worshipped fake gods and they acted in very sinful ways as part of their worship of fake gods. God didn't want His people worshipping fake gods and He didn't want his people sinning and treating other people in such mean ways. So God said not to marry them. Samson disobeyed God and married a Philistine woman. But despite Samson's sin, God still allowed Samson to be strong. That was all part of God's plan. Watch this...*

**R56 Samson feats of strength Video** (Approx. 2 minutes long)

**Say:** *God used Samson's strength to make the Philistines mad. They tried to get rid of Samson, but Samson was so strong that he could beat a whole army by himself. That was part of God's plan. Too bad Samson chose to do things the hard way by disobeying God. God could have still used Samson as His leader if he had obeyed. But despite his bad choices God still used Samson and his strength to fight the Philistines.*

**R56 Samson defeats armies Video** (Approx. 5 minutes long)

**Say:** *God used Samson and God took care of Samson. But even after God took care of him, Samson still was very selfish and he soon forgot all that God did for him. He went back to his old ways. Soon he met a woman named Delilah. They became friends and they fell in love. But Delilah tricked Samson into telling him*

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*the source of his strength. Samson should have known better, but he trusted her more than he trusted God. Not a wise choice.*

**R56 Samson loses his strength** Video (Approx. 3 minutes long)

**Say:** *Samson's bad choices caught up with him. He lost his strength, he lost his sight, he lost his freedom. Again, all of that could have been avoided if he had obeyed God. Samson was a picture of the nation of Israel in many ways. Today's lesson point is that **Samson faced consequences when he was disobedient just like the rest of Israel.** He should have trusted God instead of Delilah. He should have obeyed God instead of trying to lead the Israelites in his own strength. We can learn that same lesson. Even when we think we are strong enough to do things our own way, we need to remember that **I can trust that it is always best to obey God's commands.** Too bad Samson struggled to learn that lesson.*

*By the end of his life Samson did learn that it was better to serve God than to do things his own way. So, even though Samson had lost everything, at the end of his life he prayed for one more chance to regain his strength so he could use it for God's purpose. Watch this...*

**R56 Samson at the end** Video (Approx. 4 minutes long)

*God used Samson even though he disobeyed. God wants us to obey Him more than He wants us to be strong. But in the end what God wants will happen even if we make it hard on ourselves. **Samson faced consequences when he was disobedient just like the rest of Israel.** The same will be true for me and you. Today I want you to remember that **I can trust that it is always best to obey God's commands.** I can do that and so can you.*

**Say:** *One last video because you cannot have a discussion about Samson and not play Tim Hawkins*

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[R56 - Hey There Delilah Video](#) (Approx. 4 minutes long)

**Say:** *Now that we have had a good laugh I want you think about this question as we head into small group:*

**Ask?** *In what ways are you serving yourself rather than God? (Do not let them answer) Let save that answer for small group.*

**Pray and send them to small groups.**