

LESSON 48

God Gives Samson Strength

JUDGES 13-14



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD CARES FOR ISRAEL IN SPITE OF THEIR INDIFFERENCE AND SIN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 48)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 48

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Samson Captured

SUPPLIES: costume for Samson such as a white sheet for a robe, a rope belt, and a long hair wig; party streamers for rope; foam rubber jawbone

Jawbone

SUPPLIES: picture of a donkey jawbone from the Internet or library

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson we will see that God gives his servants strength for all that he calls them to do.

In our story today God gives his Spirit to Samson to deliver Israel, but God gives us the same Spirit today.

Read Acts 1:4–9. Explain to the children that in this passage Jesus tells his disciples that they will have the Spirit of God come upon them to give them the power to share the Gospel. The disciples were very afraid and hid from the crowds, but after the Holy Spirit was poured out on them they became bold. This is the same Spirit that comes upon us and upon all who believe in Jesus.

God tells us that the same power that came on Samson can come to dwell in each one of us who trusts in Jesus for salvation. God gives us his Spirit so that we can be his witnesses in all the earth.

Ask the children if there is anyone they know who does not believe in Jesus. Pray for those people and for boldness and obedience to love them and share the gospel.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 48, “God Gives Samson Strength,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What did God tell Samson’s parents they should do to show Samson’s devotion to God?

(Samson was to be a Nazirite and never cut his hair.)

■ What gave Samson his strength?

(Samson's long hair was an outward sign of his faith in God, but it was God who gave him his strength, not his hair.)

■ What is a jawbone?

(Have each child feel their own jawbone and help them understand what Samson used in battle.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

■ Can anyone remember another Bible character that God helped like he helped Samson?

(David killed a lion and a bear and slew Goliath with the help of a sling.)

■ What do you think the Philistines thought of Samson after he killed a thousand men with a jawbone?

(Probably they were more afraid of him.)

■ What does this story help us learn about God?

(God is merciful; he provided help for Israel even when they rebelled against him. God is all-powerful; he was able to give Samson strength beyond any man.)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 48—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Hebrews 4:15

There is a noteworthy similarity between Jesus and Samson. Both of their mothers received word of their birth and the unique call upon their lives from an angel. Both husbands, Manoaah and Joseph, were also visited by the angel to confirm what was said. And both Jesus and Samson were blessed of God as children. Samson however was an earthly deliverer whose sin greatly took away from his accomplishments.

Although Samson was one of several judges appointed to deliver Israel, Samson's life demonstrates the frailty of earthly deliverers. Samson became foolishly distracted with the pleasures and desires of the world. Jesus was different. Jesus came as a deliverer but did not fall into sin (Hebrews 4:15).

- What do you think Samson thought when the lion first attacked?
(Samson would have been afraid. He did not know he had great strength.)
- What do you think Samson thought after he realized he had incredible strength?
(Samson was amazed and didn't tell anyone of his strength.)
- Could a normal man do what Samson did?
(No, a normal man would have been killed or severely injured by the lion.)

Samson Captured

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ costume for Samson such as an old white sheet for a robe, a rope belt, and a long hair wig
- ✓ party streamers for rope
- ✓ foam jawbone cutout

Have a volunteer play Samson. Have one half of the class play the part of the men from Judah and have the other half play the part of the Philistines. Have the “men of Judah” confront “Samson,” who agrees to be tied up. Use the streamers as rope to tie up Samson.

After Samson is handed over to the “Philistines,” have him break the ropes and pick up the foam jawbone. The Philistine actors should go down quickly as Samson acts out his attack.

After the play talk to the children about how Samson’s victory would have been impossible without God’s help. God’s Spirit, coming on a person, gives great power.

Jawbone

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ picture of a donkey jawbone (library or Internet)

Show the jawbone picture to the children and talk about which part Samson might have held as the handle. Give them time to look at it and get excited about it. Ask them why God chose a jawbone. Perhaps it is because he wanted Samson and the Philistines both to know God’s power.

PRAY 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today’s lesson was about.

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