

LESSON 49

# Samson Loses His Strength

JUDGES 16



**BIBLE TRUTH**

THE TRUE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH IS GOD.

LESSON SNAPSHOT

**1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** Optional: whiteboard, dry erase marker

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 49)

**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 49**

**SUPPLIES:** markers/crayons

**Samson’s Revenge**

**Knocking Down the Pillars**

**7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God humbled the mighty Samson.

For this opening activity you will need scissors and a stack of books.

Ask the children if they can remember what the mighty Samson was known for in the Bible. See if they can guess, with a few clues, that he had amazing strength. Then ask the class if they know the secret to his great strength. If they don’t, give them three guesses. First, point to your shirt and ask if it was his clothes; next, point to your shoes and ask if it was his shoes; then point to your hair and ask if it was his hair.

Then pick a more mature student to play the role of Samson. Choose someone with slightly longer hair. Have the student pick up the stack of books and describe how heavy they are. Then take out the scissors and ask the class whether they think the child will become weak if you cut his or her hair. (Don’t go overboard with the illustration. The aim is only to gather the children’s interest.)

Help the class to come to the conclusion that we don’t get our strength from our hair—we get our strength from God. Tell them that in the Bible story today, they are going to hear about Samson. Even though his great strength was connected to not cutting his long hair, they should remember it was really God who gave Samson his great strength.

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

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 49, “Samson Loses His 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 happened in the story?  
(*Delilah tricked Samson into telling the secret of his vow to God.*)

■ Did Delilah lie?

*(Yes, she did not care for Samson and only wanted the money she would get for turning him over to the Philistines.)*

■ Did Samson lie?

*(Yes, Samson wanted to please Delilah. Instead Samson should have loved God. Samson lied to her several times.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

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

■ Did God give Samson a warning after he lied to Delilah the first time?

*(Yes, Samson should have realized that Delilah could not be trusted because she called in Samson's enemies, the Philistines.)*

■ Why do you think Samson could be fooled so many times?

*(Our sins blind us. Samson was blinded by his pride and feelings for Delilah.)*

■ What can we learn from Samson's mistakes?

*(We need to trust in the Lord and not give in to what we want. Lying brings bad fruit. We need to be careful to choose friends who will encourage us to trust in the Lord.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD 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 49—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 11:32

Samson was one of the heroes of the faith that the writer of Hebrews listed as an example for us. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus when we think of men of faith from of old. In the end, Samson gave up his own life to save Israel by destroying their enemies. That is what Jesus did for us—he gave up his life to destroy our enemies.

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 4:5).

- How many times did Delilah try to fool Samson?  
*(Four times: first, with fresh cords, sometimes called bowstrings; second, with new ropes; third, by weaving his hair; and fourth, when the truth was told, she had his hair cut.)*
- What did the Philistines do to Samson?  
*(They captured him and blinded him. They chained him up and made him grind grain.)*
- What could Samson have done for the Lord if he had not loved Delilah more than God?  
*(Samson could have been a great leader for God's people and delivered them from the Philistines.)*

### Samson's Revenge

This is a great story to dramatize as you read. Have a teacher play the role of Samson and have the children play the role of the Philistines. When the imaginary

pillars are knocked down, have all the children roll on the floor as though they have been crushed. Then ask them the following questions:

- How do we know Samson trusted in the Lord again?  
*(He called once more upon the Lord to give him strength against the Philistines.)*
- How do we know God answered his prayer?  
*(Samson was able to knock down the pillars.)*

**Knocking Down the Pillars**

Have the children stand against one of the classroom walls and push to see if they can knock it down.

Of course they won't be able to, but you can tell them that Samson was stronger than the combined strength of all the children in class. He knocked down the great pillars that held up the roof of a huge building.

Tell them that God gave Samson the strength to do this. And if God ever called these children to do something like he called Samson to do, God would give them all the strength they needed too.

**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.

LESSON 49 - SAMSON LOSES HIS STRENGTH

