

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 REVIEW 5 MIN
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN
Read Judges 13:2–5; 14:1–9 from the Scriptures or read story 48, “God Gives Samson Strength,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN
How Strong Was Samson?
SUPPLIES:
✓ several twenty-four-inch lengths of one-quarter-inch cotton rope

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN
Provide What You Have Not Asked For
SUPPLIES:
✓ powdered donuts (enough for the whole class)
✓ water
✓ cups
✓ napkins

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
✓ coloring page 48—one copy for each child

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN
Super Strength
SUPPLIES:
✓ medium-sized table
✓ floor-length tablecloth
✓ strong adult volunteer

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Israel continues to sin without repentance—After Gideon dies, Israel continues to sin by worshiping idols. As a result God allows Israel’s enemies, the Philistines, to conquer and rule over them for forty years.

At the end of that time, God’s people still fail to call out to him for help. But God is faithful to Israel. So God appears as an angel of the Lord to the wife of a man named Manoah. This woman cannot have children. But God promises her that she will have a son and that this son will begin to save Israel from the Philistines.

God visits Manoah—After hearing about the promise God made to his wife, Manoah asks God to send the messenger again. But Manoah does not realize this was an angel of the Lord, an appearance of God himself. So when Manoah asks what his name is, the angel simply says, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” (Judges 13:18).

God uses Samson in spite of his sin—Sadly Samson does not grow up into a godly young man. He is proud and disrespectful to his parents. He is demanding when he speaks to them about the young Philistine woman. We learn that he touches the dead body of a lion, which violates his vow as a Nazirite. As we read on we will see other things that reveal Samson’s pride. But even Samson’s sinful life can’t stop God’s plan to deliver his people from the Philistines. God is always faithful to us, even when we are not faithful to him.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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, Manoah 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).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Judges 13:2–5; 14:1–9 from the Scriptures or read story 48, "God Gives Samson Strength," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

How Strong Was Samson?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several twenty-four-inch lengths of one-quarter-inch cotton rope

The object of this lesson is to consider the strength God gave Samson to deliver Israel.

■ LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON 48

Read Judges 15:3–19. Ask the class if they think the rope that the Philistines used to bind Samson (verse 13) was thicker than the one you have. They will most likely say yes. Pass the rope around, and ask them to try to break it.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **What gave Samson his strength?**
(Though some would say his hair, Judges 15:14 says that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.)

- **Who did Samson attribute his victory to?**
(Judges 15:16 and 18 show that Samson struggled between pride in himself and giving God the credit.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Provide What You Have Not Asked For

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ powdered donuts (enough for the whole class)
- ✓ water
- ✓ cups
- ✓ napkins

This activity illustrates the idea of God’s kindness to his people in providing them with something they needed but didn’t request—a deliverer. Make sure the donuts are hidden until you are ready to distribute them.

Distribute the donuts to the class. Have a second person give each child a napkin, and then have a third person give each student a drink of water. While they are eating, read Judges 13.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Raise your hand if you asked me for a powdered donut?**
(no one)

- How many of you were hungry?
(They will all likely raise their hands.)
- Raise your hand if you asked me for a napkin or a drink.
- Raise your hand if you needed a napkin/drink.
- How is my providing you with a donut, napkin, and drink like God providing Samson for Israel?
(Israel wasn't asking for something they needed. It was God's kindness to provide a deliverer for them. God loved Israel and was not going to allow their sin to drive a permanent wedge between him and them. God knew the whole story. He knew that one day Jesus would come to bring a salvation that the people needed but they didn't know to ask for.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 48—one copy for each child

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

- 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Super Strength

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ medium-sized table
- ✓ floor-length tablecloth
- ✓ strong adult volunteer

Have your volunteer come before class. Place the tablecloth over the table with the volunteer underneath so none of the children know he is there. After reading the story, tell the children that you have been growing your hair longer because you believe it will make you strong and that it is starting to work. Tell the class you want to give them a demonstration. Reach over and grab the table with one hand. Count to three then lift the table several inches off the ground.

Your volunteer should lift the table from underneath at your signal. The children should be amazed. Only lift the table slightly at first, and then try again, only this time lift it up high enough to expose your helper. The class will cry foul, but you can explain you did this to help them understand that it wasn't Samson by himself who could do marvelous feats of strength, rather it was God behind the scenes who helped Samson. It wasn't Samson's hair that gave him strength, it was God.

LESSON 48 - GOD GIVES SAMSON STRENGTH

