

LESSON 49

Samson Loses His Strength

JUDGES 16:4-31



BIBLE TRUTH

THE TRUE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH IS GOD

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 16:4–31 from the Scriptures or read story 49, “Samson Loses His Strength,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Tell It with Props
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ seven three-foot lengths of cord with loops tied on each end (bow strings)
 - ✓ a four-foot length of brand new rope
 - ✓ seven locks of hair (can come from an old doll or craft store)
 - ✓ a pair of scissors (to be used to indicate the shaving of Samson’s head)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Samson’s Pride
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 49—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Tied Up with Ropes?
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ lightweight thread that is easily breakable
 - ✓ heavy-duty rope

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Samson’s pride and the Philistines’ plot—By this time in the story, Samson has performed great feats of strength. He has defeated the Philistines and now rules over Israel. But he has become very proud of his strength and very confident in himself.

The Philistines are tired of being ruled by Samson, and they hate him, so the Philistines offer Delilah a huge amount of money if she will betray Samson. Three times Delilah asks Samson to tell her the secret of his strength. In lying to her each time, Samson is basically showing off. He likes talking about his own strength. Samson is risking not only his own safety but the safety of all Israel. His pride causes him to behave foolishly. Pride always turns us into fools.

God humbles Samson—Samson is not only very proud, he also delights in women more than in the Lord. Ironically, God uses a woman to bring about his downfall.

Samson craves Delilah’s love and attention and as a result behaves foolishly. Even when she keeps trying to tie him up, he never stops cooperating. After her first three betrayals, he stays with her several more days or even weeks. Finally, her persistent questions wear him out. As a result of his foolishness, Samson is blinded and thrown in jail.

God restores Samson and judges the Philistines—As Samson stands between the pillars of the temple, he calls upon God for help. There is no record in Scripture of Samson ever before preparing for battle by calling upon the Lord. But Samson has learned humility. So here in his final act he cries out to God, the true source of his strength.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

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

Read 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).

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 16:4–31 from the Scriptures or read story 49, “Samson Loses His Strength,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Tell It with Props

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ seven three-foot lengths of cord with loops tied on each end (bow strings)
- ✓ a four-foot length of brand new rope

■ LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON 49

- ✓ seven locks of hair (can come from an old doll or craft store)
- ✓ a pair of scissors (to be used to indicate the shaving of Samson's head)

Use the props to show and tell the story of Samson losing his strength (Judges 16:4–31). There's no need to memorize the lines, just read them dramatizing the voices. When it comes to an action scene, such as when Delilah binds Samson's hands, use the props to add interest.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **When should Samson have figured out Delilah was evil?**
(Samson should have known from the beginning by her questioning. But certainly he should have known after he found himself tied up with the bowstrings. The pride of his heart had deceived him [see Jeremiah 49:16]. It is fitting that his punishment involved blinding him since Samson was blinded by his pride and sinned against God.)
- **How did Samson's pride deceive him?**
(Samson thought he was invincible and that he could do whatever he wanted.)
- **How does pride operate in our lives?**
(Our own pride causes us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Then we end up living without God and thinking we can live life on our own [see Romans 12:3].)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Samson's Pride

Take the class through the following verses reading each one without comment: Judges 14:2; 15:3–5, 11, 16; 16:20. Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Who is Samson talking about in these passages, himself or God?**
(Samson is talking about himself.)
- **Who is getting the glory for Samson's life?**
(Samson is getting the glory for his accomplishments.)

Read Isaiah 42:8 and explain to the children that when we take credit for our accomplishments without recognizing God, we take God’s glory to exalt ourselves. The Bible calls that sin pride.

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 49—one copy for each child

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

- 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Tied Up with Ropes?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ lightweight thread that is easily breakable
- ✓ heavy-duty rope

Ask the class if they can remember what Samson was supposed to avoid as a Nazirite? (He was not to drink wine or cut his hair or touch a dead body.)

Have everyone in your class with longer hair stand up. Then ask them, “If you have ever touched a dead body sit down.” (It could be a dead animal body such as a dead mouse or bird.) Then ask, “If you have ever tasted wine sit down.” Judge the remaining children to see who has the longest hair. Have her come forward and tell the class that she is going to be the strongest and you will demonstrate this great strength by tying up her hands and watching her break free.

Tie her hands with the lightweight thread. Then shout her name and say, “The Philistines are upon you.” Ask her to break the “rope.” Then tell the class that this proves that if you let your hair grow and don’t touch dead bodies or drink wine, you will be strong. The class will object of course.

That is when you should find the strongest looking child with the shortest hair and tie him up with the heavy-duty rope. Then shout his name and say, “The Philistines are upon you,” and ask him to break the rope. When he can’t break the rope, tell the class that this proves you are right.

Once again talk about how it was really God’s strength and not the length of his hair that gave Samson his strength. In the end, Samson sinned and lost his strength because God left him.

Ask the class what kind of things God has called us to do to honor him? (pray, obey his Word, worship him, and love him)

LESSON 49 - SAMSON LOSES HIS STRENGTH

