

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**
Samson Trivia
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ trivia questions and answers (see below)
 - ✓ a prize for the winning team
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**
God Is Always Faithful
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ paper and pencils
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Samson and the Ropes
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
A Taste of Honey
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ grape juice
 - ✓ cups (one for each student)
 - ✓ scissors
 - ✓ honey
 - ✓ crackers

TOTAL 85 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Nazirite

To be consecrated to the Lord, one would take a Nazirite vow. In Numbers 6:1–8, God gives three prohibitions to comply with the vow. First, one could not drink wine or other intoxicating drinks or any other grape product. Second, one could not have a haircut for the period of their consecration. Finally, they could not touch a dead body.

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

Samson Trivia

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ trivia questions and answers (see below)
- ✓ a prize for the winning team

▲ UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON 48

Read the story to the class, and then divide the class into two teams. Have them take turns answering the following questions. The team with the most points in the end is the winner. Only one person is allowed to answer a question, and each person is only allowed to answer one question. Each team must select a person to answer the question before it is read. If the question is answered incorrectly, the opposing team may pick someone to answer it. If the question is answered correctly on the first try, it is worth five points. Each subsequent try by the opposing team is worth one point less.

No.	Question	Answer
1	What was Samson's father's name?	Manoah
2	What are the three vows of a Nazirite?	Never cut your hair, do not drink strong drink, and do not touch a dead body or something unclean.
3	What kind of ropes did the Philistines use to bind Samson?	New ropes
4	What did Samson find in the lion?	Bees with honey
5	Why was Samson's birth a miracle?	His mother was barren.
6	How many foxes did Samson catch?	Three hundred
7	What was Samson's mother's name?	The Bible doesn't give her name.
8	How many men did Samson strike with the jawbone of a donkey?	One thousand
9	What came out of the hollow place at Lehi?	Water
10	What two crops did the foxes with the torches set fire to?	Olives and grain

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

God Is Always Faithful

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils

Ask the class to look up 2 Timothy 2:13, and explain what it means for God to remain faithful even when we are faithless. God’s history is one of reaching out to a people who were not reaching out to him. He is the one who called Abraham out of a life of idolatry; he called to Samuel in the midst of Eli’s sinful home; and he reached out to Israel and brought them a deliverer in Samson when they were not asking.

Have the class form into teams to read Judges 13—15 and find ways that God showed his faithfulness to Israel in spite of their faithlessness.

- God gave Israel a deliverer in Samson even though they were not repenting.
- God blessed Samson with power even though he often did what he wanted.
- God gave Samson water when he was thirsty.

The class may find other examples.

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 15 MIN

Samson and the Ropes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Samson breaking the new ropes with which the Philistines bound him.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**A Taste of Honey****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ grape juice
- ✓ cups (one for each student)
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ honey
- ✓ crackers

Use these props to help the children understand how Samson violated his Nazirite vow. Use the “A Little Bit More” section of this lesson to teach the children about the Nazirite vow from Numbers chapter 6.

Honey—Samson ate honey out of the carcass of a lion (Judges 14:8–9); this would have violated the prohibition against his touching a dead body. Allow the children to dip the crackers in the honey to taste it. Talk about how sweet the honey is and how Samson couldn’t resist the temptation to eat it. Samson also touched the jawbone of a donkey, presumably getting it from a carcass (Judges 15:15).

Grape juice—Samson prepared a traditional weeklong wedding feast (Judges 14:10–12), which would have included wine. There is no indication that he abstained from drinking wine. In fact considering his willingness to violate the prohibition against touching dead bodies, it is safe to assume he didn’t care about the wine-drinking prohibition either. Distribute grape juice for the children to drink with their crackers.

Scissors—(We will be learning more about how Samson lost his strength next week, but we are going to cover it here briefly.) God told Samson’s mother never to cut his hair (Judges 13:5). This was passed on to Samson. Ask the class what they think would happen to Samson given that he didn’t care much about his Nazirite vow? (They should say he would cut his hair.)