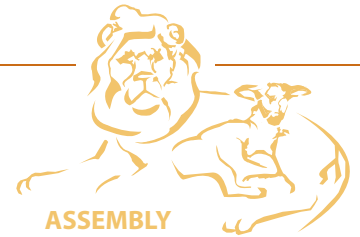


SAMSON LOSES HIS STRENGTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JUDGES 16:23-31



You can read "Strong in Death" from the Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 119-120) or you can read Judges 16:23-31 from the ESV Bible.

The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**SAMSON'S REVENGE**

This is a great story to dramatize as you read. Have a male 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 Children's Ministry. He knocked down the great pillars that held up the roof of a huge building.

SAMSON LOSES HIS STRENGTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JUDGES 16:23-31

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.

Samson was one of the heroes of the faith that the writer of Hebrews listed as an example for us, see Hebrews 11:32. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus when we think of men of faith from of old.

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, see Hebrews 4:5.

