

## GOD GAVE SAMSON STRENGTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JUDGES 13 &amp; 15



## The STORY

Read the following story of Samson. (Judges 13 and 15).

The nation of Israel once again did evil in the sight of the Lord. Because of their disobedience, the Lord gave them over to their enemy the Philistines for forty years. God did not forget Israel. He sent his angel to the wife of a man named Manoah. This woman who was barren, was promised a child. The child was to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God. The angel told the woman never to cut his hair. Just as the angel had foretold, Manoah's wife bore a son. They named him Samson and did not cut his hair in honor of the Lord.

When Samson was older, a roaring, young lion attacked him. The Spirit of God came upon Samson and gave him great strength to tear the lion apart with his bare hands. Later Samson caught three hundred foxes, put lit torches on their tails, and sent them to run through the Philistine crops to burn them all up.

When the men of Judah learned that Samson was in trouble with the Philistines, they came to him. Samson agreed to let the men of Judah tie him up as long as they promised not to kill him. The men of Judah tied Samson up and gave him to the Philistines. Once again the Spirit of God came upon Samson and he easily broke the ropes. He found the jawbone of a donkey on the ground and used it to attack the Philistines. Samson killed one thousand men all by himself! After the battle, Samson prayed a prayer of thanks to God and called out to God for a drink. The Lord miraculously provided water by splitting the hollow place in Lehi causing water to flow out. God's favor was with Samson.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What did God tell Samson's parents they should do to show Samson's devotion to God? (Samson was to be a Nazirite and never cut his hair.)
- What gave Samson his strength? (Samson's long hair was an outward sign of his faith in God; his faith gave him strength.)
- What is a jawbone? (Have each child feel their own jawbone and help them understand what Samson used in battle.)

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### CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Samson fighting an attacking lion. Engage the children by asking:**

- 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.)

### SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- Can anyone remember another Bible character that God helped like he helped Samson? (David killed a lion and a bear and slew Goliath with the help of a sling.)
- What do you think the Philistines thought of Samson after he killed a thousand men with a jawbone? (Probably they were more afraid of him.)
- What does this story help us learn about God? (God is merciful; he provided help for Israel even when they rebelled against Him. God is all-powerful; he was able to give Samson strength beyond any man.)



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### 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.*

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 who's sin greatly mar 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, see Hebrews 4:5.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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.*

