

SAMSON LOSES HIS STRENGTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JUDGES 16:23-31



The STORY

Read "Samson and Delilah" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 116-117).

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 happened in the story? (Delilah tricked Samson into telling the secret of his vow to God.)
- Did Delilah lie? (Yes, she did not care for Samson and only wanted the money she would get for turning him over to the Philistines.)
- Did Samson lie? (Yes, Samson wanted to please Delilah. Instead Samson should have loved God. Samson lied to her several times.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Samson with his hair shaved, very weak against the Philistine attackers. Engage the children by asking:

- 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.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

Read "Defeat of the Champion" from *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* (page 118). While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Did God give Samson a warning after he lied to Delilah the first time? (Yes, Samson should have realized that Delilah could not be trusted because she called in Samson's enemies, the Philistines.)
- Why do you think Samson could be fooled so many times? (Our sins blind us. Samson was "blinded" by his love for Delilah.)
- What can we learn from Samson's mistakes? (We need to trust in the Lord and not give in to what we want. Lying brings bad fruit. We need to be careful to choose friends who will encourage us to trust in the Lord.)

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.

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.

