



## Lesson: Judges: Samson and Delilah

This week we continue our selective study on the book of Judges. Judges describes to us how God's people were living in the Promised Land. As mentioned last week, it is important to note that Judges has a repetitive cycle to it, and it will be helpful to know in terms of teaching and remembering the book.

### The Cycle:

- God's people live in disobedience leading to God's discipline, usually through famine or an invading force.
- The Israelites have enough of this discipline and cry out to God for deliverance.
- God provides deliverance by way of a judge.
- The judge rules over Israel during which time God's people remain faithful to Him.
- The judge passes away, God's people slip back into disobedience, and the cycle repeats.

This week we finish our story about Samson. Samson was a special judge in that he defeated Israel's enemies, namely the Philistines, by himself. Samson did not have an army to help him as some of the other judges had. While God gives Samson an incredible amount of strength, Samson lives a reckless life which is his undoing. He meets a woman named Delilah, a Philistine, and he reveals to her the source of his strength. From this Samson's life spirals downward until he is able to get revenge on his Philistine captors. Samson is a sad story about what happens when someone does not obey God's commands and when they do not give God glory when they should.

**Scripture:** Judges 13-16 (selected portions)

**Story:** *Vos Child's Story Bible*, Chapter 63; *Gospel Story Book Bible*, Pages 96-99; *The Beginner's Bible*, Pages 148-153.

### Teaching Points:

- God is faithful and never changes. God keeps His promises.
- God is sovereign (or in control).
- Man is sinful.
- God is kind and merciful.
- God talks with man.
- God wants people to know He is a great God.
- God is holy. God wants His people to be holy.
- God is all knowing.
- God does not need any help.
- God saves His people.
- God provides for His people.

### Scripture Memory and Hand Motions for May:

"The Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them." Judges 2:16

- **The Lord** (point upwards)
- **Raised up** (take both arms, palms up, and lift up towards sky)
- **Judges** (act like you are hitting a gavel)
- **Who saved them** (put wrists together, and then break apart like you're breaking free)
- **Out of the hand** (point to the inside of your hand)
- **Of those who plundered them.** (forcefully reach out and act as though you're grabbing something)

## Story

### **Review**

Last week we began to learn about a judge named Samson. Samson was a promised deliverer for Israel, and he was one of the strongest men to ever live! Samson's strength came from God alone and not from anything Samson did, like pushups or sit-ups. Samson had many incredible feats: He wrestled and killed a lion, he caught 300 foxes and tied them together, and he showed his great strength by killing a 1,000 Philistine soldiers with nothing but a bone! The Philistines were very afraid of Samson. But Samson failed to live as God wanted him to and to give God glory when he accomplished great things.

### **Samson Sins**

Samson had a problem and it was a big problem. Samson loved Philistine women. Philistine women did not believe in the true God, and instead worshipped idols or false gods. This was a sin and very wrong to do.

One Philistine woman Samson loved was Delilah. Even though she made Samson think she loved him, she really didn't. Delilah tricked Samson. The Philistines had asked her to find out what Samson's secret was. "How could he be so strong?" they wondered. The Philistines had to know so they could defeat Samson. They told her if she could tell them the secret to his strength, they would pay her 1100 pieces of silver! The Philistines really wanted to get rid of Samson.

So, one day when they were all alone, Delilah asked Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength." The Bible tells us Samson did not tell her the truth. "If I'm tied with 7 heavy strings, then I will be weak, just like other men." Delilah told the Philistines this secret. The Philistines brought Delilah seven strings and she tied them all around Samson while he was napping. Then Philistine men hid in the other room. When Samson was all tied up Delilah called out, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But the Bible says Samson was able to snap those tightly tied strings that had been tied around him like they were nothing.

Delilah knew that Samson did not tell her the truth. "You have made me look foolish. Come now, tell me how you can lose your strength," Delilah whined. "If anyone ties me securely with ropes that have never been used before, then I'll become as weak as any other man," Samson answered her. So, Delilah took new ropes and tied Samson while he was napping. Then, with the Philistine men hidden in the other room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But the Bible says Samson snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were little threads.

Delilah whined again, "You think I am a fool! Tell me how you can be tied."

Samson answered her the third time, "When you are weaving your cloth, weave my hair together with the cloth. Then I'll be as weak as any other man." While Samson was sleeping, Delilah took his long hair and weaved it into her cloth together just as Samson had said. "Samson, Samson, the Philistines are coming!" Delilah shouted. Samson jumped up and ran out dragging the loom with his hair attached.

Delilah was so upset. "You've tricked me a third time!" Samson had yet to tell her the truth about his strength. "How can you say you love me when you don't tell me the truth about your strength", she whined again. The Bible says Delilah asked him over and over again, day after day, "until he was tired to death" of hearing it. To stop her, Samson decided to tell Delilah about his hair. Samson should not have revealed his secret, but he loved Delilah more than he honored God's gift of strength. So, Samson told her everything. "My hair has never been cut because I have been set aside to God since my birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man," Samson explained to the wicked Delilah.

This time Delilah thought for certain that Samson was telling the truth. She called to the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So, the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands.

They gave it to Delilah. Then while Samson was sleeping with his head on her lap, she called the Philistines to cut off his hair. It was at that time, the Bible says, "his strength left him."

Then Delilah called out, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" And he awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not realize at first that the Lord had left him. Delilah did to Samson what God commanded Samson should never happen.

And so the Philistines grabbed the weakened Samson. They were mean to Samson. They beat him, put him in chains, and blinded him so he could no longer see. The Philistines threw Samson in prison. As Samson stayed in prison, his hair began to grow back.

### **Samson Dies**

One day, the Philistines gathered at their temple to worship their idols and celebrate the capture of their enemy Samson. The crowds shouted, "Bring out Samson!" A servant helped Samson from prison to where the people had gathered. The Bible says the temple was crowded with lots of Philistines. There were about three thousand people there.

Samson asked the servant, "Would you put my hands on the pillars that hold the temple up so that I can lean on them?" The servant did. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more." Then Samson pressed against the two pillars on which the whole temple stood. His right hand was on one pillar and his left hand was on the other. Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on all the wicked Philistines. God heard Samson's prayer, and gave him back his strength. Samson died there with the Philistines.

The Bible tells us Samson had begun the deliverance of Israel from the strong and wicked Philistines.

### **Questions for Review**

Have the kids answer "Yes" if it is true, or "no" with the correct answer if it is false.

- God wants us to worship and love Him. (Yes)
- God will never leave us. (Yes)
- God always keeps His promises. (Yes)
- God made Samson super fast. (No! God made Samson super strong.)
- Samson could never cut his hair. (Yes)
- Samson loved a woman named Tiffany. (No! Samson loved a woman named Delilah.)
- Delilah was a Philistine and worshipped idols. (Yes)
- Samson told Delilah that if he ate his vegetables he would be weak like other men. (No! If his hair was cut.)
- The Philistines captured Samson, beat him, and blinded him. (Yes)
- Samson's hair never grew back. (No! It did grow back.)
- Samson asked God to help his strength return so he could push down the Philistine temple. (Yes)
- God always loves us. (Yes)