

K-5th Grade

Samson

Parent Devo & Bible Study

Session Title: Samson

Bible Passage: Judges 13–16

Story Point: God gave Samson strength to defeat the Philistines.

Key Passage: 1 John 1:9

Big Picture Question: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Parent Devotional

Samson was the last of the major judges of Israel. He was born to parents who dedicated him to the Lord as a Nazirite after the Angel of the Lord announced that Samson would be born to save the Israelites from the power of the Philistines. Samson grew up, and God blessed him with great strength. But when Samson requested to marry a Philistine woman, his parents were confused. Samson was supposed to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. Why would he want to marry one of them? But God had a plan in all of this. (See Judg. 14:4.)

As Samson prepared for the wedding, he gave a riddle to the men with him about an event that occurred on his way to Timnah. (See Judg. 14:9-14.) Days passed, and the men convinced Samson's wife to tell them the answer to the riddle. This action sparked a series of events that would eventually lead to the death of Samson.

When the men solved his riddle, Samson was so angry that he torched the fields of the Philistines. He used the jawbone of a donkey to kill 1,000 men, and he left his wife. The Philistine leaders were determined to kill Samson. When Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, the leaders bribed her into telling them where Samson's strength came from.

A man came and shaved the braids from Samson's head. He lost his strength and became helpless. The Philistines gouged out his eyes and took him prisoner. They had him stand between the pillars of a pagan temple. In a final plea to God, Samson asked for his strength back. God gave him strength, and Samson knocked over the pillars, collapsing the temple. In his death, Samson killed more Philistines than he had killed in his life. (Judg. 16:30)

Though Samson disobeyed God, God used him to accomplish His purpose of delivering the Israelites from the Philistines. Jesus would come as the last Deliverer, saving through His obedience in His life and His death those who would trust in Him.

Samson

Judges 13–16

The Israelites once again disobeyed God, so God let the Philistines rule over them. One day, the angel of the Lord told a husband and wife that they would have a son who would save the Israelites from the Philistines. God had a special instruction for their son: He should never cut his hair.

The woman had a baby, and she named him Samson. God made Samson strong. When Samson grew up, he saw a Philistine woman and wanted to marry her. He and his parents went to meet her. On the journey, a lion jumped out at Samson. Samson killed the lion.

Later, some bees had made honey in the lion's body. Samson ate some of the honey and gave some to his parents.

Philistine men came to Samson's wedding. Samson told them a riddle: "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet."

The riddle was about the lion and the honey, but the men could not figure it out. They asked Samson's bride for help. She told the men the answer. Samson was angry, and he left his wife. When he went back to get her, she was gone. Samson was so upset that he burned the Philistines' fields. This made the Philistines angry.

Samson escaped to another city, where he fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines gave Delilah money to find out why Samson was so strong.

Samson told Delilah, "If you tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will be weak." But that was not true. Then Samson said, "If you tie me up with new rope, I will be weak." But that was not true, either. So Samson said, "If you weave my hair into a loom, I will be weak." Another lie!

Finally, Samson told Delilah the truth: "If you cut my hair, I will not have my strength." So when Samson was sleeping, a Philistine man cut his hair. Delilah shouted, "Samson! Wake up! The Philistines are here to kill you!" Samson wasn't strong anymore. The Philistines grabbed him and took him away in chains.

One day, the Philistines made Samson stand between two pillars in their temple. Samson cried out to God, "Lord, strengthen me once more." So God strengthened Samson. Samson pushed on the pillars and collapsed the temple. Samson and everyone in the temple died, but Samson had saved the Israelites from the Philistines.

Christ Connection: Samson's sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Samson's story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but God sent Him to die on the cross and rise again to rescue people from sin and give them eternal life.

Memory Verse:

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."