

# June 21, 2020 PreK

**Bible Passage:** Samson / Judges 13–16

**Story Point:** God made Samson strong.

**Key Passage/Memory Verse:** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us.” 1 John 1:9a

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

**Christ Connection:** *Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson’s death to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God’s people from sin and give them life with God forever.*

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## \* **BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

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 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.

### **\* BIBLE STORY:**

Turn to Judges 13-16 with the help of your preschooler.

**Say** • The Bible is God's words and all the stories in it are true. Today's Bible story is from the Book of Judges in the Old Testament part of the Bible.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

***Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.***

#### **Samson: Judges 13–16**

**God's people** kept getting into trouble. They **disobeyed God again and again**. Each time, **God let their enemies have power over them**. **Now God's people were being controlled by the Philistines.**

**One day, the angel of the LORD appeared to two of God's people.** The angel told the couple that they were going to have a son. God had a special instruction for the baby: He should never cut his hair. **God said, "Your son is going to save the Israelites from the Philistines."**

**When the woman had a baby, she named him Samson. God made Samson very strong. Samson grew up and met a woman named Delilah. Samson fell in love with her. The Philistine leaders told Delilah, "Find out why Samson is so strong." The leaders wanted to make Samson weak.**

**Delilah asked Samson, "Why are you so strong?"** Samson said, "If you tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will be weak." But that was not true. Delilah tied up Samson with seven fresh bowstrings. When she said, "Samson! The Philistines are here to get you!" Samson broke free.

Delilah asked Samson again, “Why are you so strong?” Samson said, “If you tie me up with new rope, I will be weak.” But that was not true. Delilah tied up Samson with new rope. When she said, “Samson! The Philistines are here to get you!” Samson broke free.

Delilah asked Samson again, “Why are you so strong?” Samson told Delilah, “If you weave my hair into a loom, I will be weak.” But that was not true. Delilah wove Samson’s hair into a loom. When she said, “Samson! The Philistines are here to get you!” Samson broke free.

**Delilah begged Samson to tell her the truth, so Samson did: “If you cut my hair, I will not have my strength.”**

**When Samson was sleeping, a Philistine man came and cut his hair. Delilah woke up Samson. “Samson!” she said, “The Philistines are here to get you!” But Samson was not strong anymore. The Philistines grabbed him and took him away in chains.**

**But Samson’s hair began to grow back. One day, the Philistines made Samson stand between two columns in their temple. Samson cried out to God, and God made Samson strong. Samson pushed on the columns, and the temple fell down. Samson and everyone in the temple died, but Samson had saved the Israelites from the Philistines.**

**Christ Connection:** *Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson’s death to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God’s people from sin and give them life with God forever.*

**SAY** • Just like before, God’s people forgot about Him, and God let their enemies rule over them. This time it was the Philistines. Samson was the next judge of Israel. **God made Samson strong.** Samson made many wrong choices, and he died because of his sin, but God used Samson’s death to help His people. Jesus never sinned, but Jesus died and rose again to rescue us from sin and give us life with God forever.

### **KEY PASSAGE**

**Key Passage:** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us.” 1 John 1:9a

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us that God is faithful. God does what He says He will do even when we do not. Samson made many wrong choices, but God kept His promise to use Samson to save the Israelites.

### **\* PRAYER**

### **\* ACTIVITIES:**

## \*SPECIAL FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITY PAGES INCLUDED!

### ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE:

Guide children to draw a line connecting each image with its opposite. Match strong and weak, long and short, asleep and awake, and up and down.

**Say** • You will hear some opposites in our Bible story today. God made a man named Samson very strong! We will hear what made Samson weak.

### BUILD BLOCK COLUMNS

Encourage children to work to build two block columns. Take turns being the one to stand between the blocks and push the columns down. Be sure preschoolers do not build the columns higher than chin level and that others stand clear of falling blocks.

**Say** • **God made Samson strong.** He was able to push on the columns and the temple fell down. Samson and other people died, but the Israelites were saved from the Philistines! God had used Samson to save His people again. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and give them life with God forever.

### PRETEND TO CUT HAIR

Guide preschoolers to draw a face in the middle of a small paper plate. Invite preschoolers to place play dough in a garlic press and squeeze to make hair. Add the play dough hair to the edges of the paper plate face. Preschoolers may use blunt-tipped scissors to cut the hair. If a garlic press is not available, use a rolling pin to roll out a flat sheet of play dough and cut it into long strips with a plastic knife. Be sure to wash the garlic press and the scissors before the play dough dries.

**Say** • God had special instructions for Samson: He should never cut his hair. Samson let Delilah trick him into telling her why he was so strong. She told the Philistines, and they cut Samson's hair while he was asleep. Samson lost his strength. When Samson called out to God, **God made Samson strong** again. ***What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.*** We can call out to God when we sin, and He will forgive us because of Jesus.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- What was the special instruction God gave Samson's parents? (*Samson should never cut his hair.*)
- What did Delilah ask Samson over and over? (*Why are you so strong?*)
- After Samson's hair was cut, what did the Philistines do? (*took him away in chains*)
- What did Samson do to the temple? (*He pushed the columns and the temple fell down.*)
- ***What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.***