

1st-3rd Grade Lesson Plan

Sunday, August 17

UNIT 8 | SESSION 4

SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES

JUDGES 13-16

MAIN POINT / CHRIST CONNECTION: **Strength comes from God alone.** God gave Samson strength and he had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, people are saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps them live to please God.

CATECHISM QUESTION : Q) What is sin? A) Sin is going our own way instead of going God's way. (*Isaiah 53:6*).

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: PHILIPPIANS 4:19 - "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (ESV)

Preparation

Lesson Context

This Unit: Despite Israel's rebellion and attacks from neighboring tribes, God was gracious to raise up judges who would rescue His people from their enemies. While these judges only provided temporary help, they reminded God's people that He would one day provide a perfect Judge to rescue His people from the power of sin.

Volunteer Huddle | **8:45 a.m.**

Meet in the Threes classroom (first floor) for prayer and important info for this Sunday.

Prep Room | **8:50 a.m.**

- Put out activity pages (**in Activity Box**) and markers (in Teacher Box) on desks.

- If you'd like, put music on the Spotify app on the Roku TV.
- You can push tables back or to the sides to make space in the center or front of the room for activities.

Fellowship Time | 9:00 - 9:15 am

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or “yay duck”/“yuck duck” of their week? If you'd like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

SAY: *Who is the strongest person you know? What makes him or her strong?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them **an Activity Page and markers** (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

SAY: *Today, we will see how God called a man named Samson to be a judge. We'll learn that Samson was known for his great strength.*

REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the **Rules Poster** (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

1. **Be kind and respectful:** to your friends and teachers. Raise your hand and wait to be called; speak kindly to one another; use words and actions that build up and do not tear down; etc.
2. **Have a heart of obedience:** Listen to your teachers' instructions and obey fully, quickly, and joyfully!
3. **Have self control:** Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself; keep all chair legs on the ground; no running or rough housing. Do not touch one another; let's not poke each other, hit, kick, etc.

Group Activity | 9:10/9:15 am

SHOW YOUR STRENGTH

Invite kids to spread out around the room. Explain that everyone will do exercises to show their strength and see how long they can last. (If some children don't feel comfortable doing them, let them know that they are more than welcome to refrain and watch the others.) Have kids do a variety of tasks:

- How many push-ups can you do?
- How long can you hold a plank?
- Can you do 50 jumping jacks?
- How long can you hold two Bibles in each hand, with arms outstretched?

SAY *Was it hard to challenge your strength in this way? Through our story today we will learn how a judge named Samson learned that **strength comes from God alone**. We'll see how God gave Samson incredible strength to defeat Israel's enemy, the Philistines.*

Lesson | 9:20 am

Ask students to return to their desks and pass out **Bibles** (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

SAY *Welcome, kids! I am glad to see you! If you have your Bibles with you, please take them out. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one—in Teacher Box.] The Bible is God's Word to us and helps us know who God is and His plan to save people from sin.*

*As we hear our story, we'll see how God raised up another judge, Samson, to save His people from their enemies. We'll see how Samson learned that **strength comes from God alone**.*

Let's prepare our hearts to hear our Bible story. Pray with me: 'Lord, thank You for Your Word. Help us listen and respond to what You show us today through the story of Samson. In Jesus' name, amen.'

2. Catechism Question

Use the **Catechism Question** posters to review previous questions and learn the new one for this week (in Activity Box).

SAY: *Let's review our catechism question from last week:*

Q) What is sin?

A) Sin is going our own way instead of going God's way.

In our story today, we will see how the Israelites turned and went their own way instead of following God's way and that the result was being ruled over by their enemies. God calls us to follow his commands because he knows they are for our good.

Let's review the question again:

Q) What is sin?

A) Sin is going our own way instead of going God's way.

3. Using Bibles

SAY: *Today, we will be in the book of Judges. Is Judges in the New or Old Testament?*

1. *Turn to the Table of Contents at the front of your Bibles and look under the Old Testament category to find the book of JUDGES. Turn to that page number.*
2. *Once you've found Judges, I would like you to find chapter 13.*

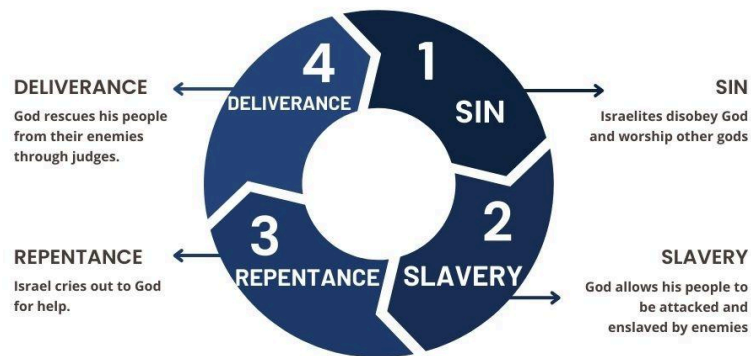
4. Tell the Bible Story

Open your **Bible** to **JUDGES 13** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES

You can remind kids of the pattern or cycle we see in Judges (show kids the cycle poster from the Activity Box). Ask them to listen for the pattern as you tell the story.

CYCLE OF JUDGES



The Israelites again did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord, so He handed them over to the Philistines for 40 years.

The angel of the Lord appeared to a man from the tribe of Dan and his wife. The angel gave them special instructions to prepare for the birth of their son.

The angel also said, “Never cut his hair, because he will be set apart to save Israel from the Philistines.” The man and his wife had a son just as the angel said. They named their son Samson.

When Samson grew up, he decided to marry a Philistine woman. Samson and his parents went to meet her. When he went to speak with her, a young lion came roaring at Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on him, and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands. The Lord made Samson very strong!

Once, Samson used the jawbone of a donkey to defeat 1,000 Philistines. The Philistines feared Samson’s strength.

Later, Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines wanted to know why Samson was so strong. They decided to pay Delilah to betray Samson.

Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me, where does your great strength come from?”

He replied, "If someone ties me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will become weak like any other man."

When he was sleeping, Delilah tied him up with seven fresh bowstrings and called the Philistines to ambush him. He snapped the bowstrings as if they were yarn. Delilah was upset, because Samson had lied to her.

Twice more, Delilah asked how Samson could be defeated, and he told her two different lies. Delilah was very upset, and Samson finally told her the truth: "My hair has never been cut because I am set apart for God. If my head is shaved, I will be weak." She had his head shaved while he was sleeping, and the Philistines captured him.

The Philistines rejoiced and thanked their false god that Samson had been defeated. They chained him between two pillars that supported a Philistine temple.

Samson prayed, "God, please strengthen me once more so that I may defeat the Philistines." He pushed against the pillars with all his might, and Samson and all the leaders of the Philistines died as the temple collapsed.

4. Christ Connection

SAY: *Strength comes from God alone.* God gave Samson strength and he had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, people are saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps them live to please God.

Review & Video | 9:30 am

Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids* (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom).

Review the Bible Story

Invite children to **open their Bibles to JUDGES 16:15-22.**

SAY - Let's review a section of scripture from our Bible lesson today. Please turn to **JUDGES 16:15-22**. Select a volunteer to read the passage. Next, have another volunteer read **JUDGES 16:28-31**.

1. **Who was the judge that God used to deliver his people in the story today?**
 - a. *Samson.*
2. **What was the secret to Samson's strength?**
 - a. *His hair had never been cut and if it was cut, he lost his strength. Ultimately, though, Samson's strength came from God. When he fell for the lies of his enemy instead of being faithful to God, God removed his strength.*
3. **How did Samson save his people in the end?**
 - a. *He pushed the pillars of the temple and crushed all of the Philistines.*
4. **Who is the one who gives strength and takes strength away?**
 - a. *God!*

Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

Memory Verse | 9:35 am

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **PHILIPPIANS 4:19** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”

- **PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

DOWN THE LINE

Guide kids to stand in a line holding hands while facing the key passage poster (or white board where the verse is written). Direct the first kid to say the first word of the key passage and then squeeze the kid's hand beside him. Direct the next kid to read the second word and then squeeze the hand of the kid beside

her. Repeat down the line and back again until the entire verse and reference are said. Time the group to see how fast they can say the verse down the line.

SAY: *God gave his people Samson to save them from their enemy, the Philistines. God gave Samson strength to defeat his enemies. God gives us all that we need to be saved and to obey him.*

Extra Time Activity

PLAY DOUGH HAIR

Tell children to roll out play dough into thin pieces like hair (**play dough** in Teacher Box). Encourage the children to make the face of Samson out of play dough and put the long hair on his head. Using scissors (in Teacher Box), encourage the children to cut the hair as you review the Bible story.

SAY *God had told Samson never to cut his hair. A man came and cut his hair and Samson was not strong anymore. Eventually, Samson's hair grew back and one day he called out to God, and God gave him the strength to destroy the temple. Samson's strength came from God. God used Samson to save the Israelites. God sent Jesus to save us from our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue us from sin and give us life with God forever.*

Dismissal | 9:50 am

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.



Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.
- Return the small Activity Box, class tablet, and your lanyards to the check-in desk.