



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for  
*May 15, 2016*

Dear Teacher,

This week we continue our selective study of the book of Judges, which continues to chronicle God's people 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.

**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 learn about Samson and his might. Samson was a special judge in that he defeated Israel's enemies by himself; Samson did not have an army to help him as some of the other judges had. Samson fights against the cruel Philistines. God gives Samson an incredible amount of strength, but Samson lives a reckless life which will be his undoing. We will learn about that next week. But this week we want to look at just how strong Samson is and how he helps deliver God's people from the cruelty of the Philistines.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use the time to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

**Lesson:** Judges: *Samson's Might*

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

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

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 62

**Additional Teaching Help:** Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 96-97; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 148-153.

**Teaching Points:**

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God was with His people, the Israelites, and He never left them.
- God's people had now entered the Promised Land, but the land was full of people that did not worship God and did not like God's people.
- God's people did not always worship God or follow His commands. God would discipline them. Sometimes Israel's enemies would hurt them or rule over them. God would bring judges to rescue His people. Judges ruled over all of Israel.
- God made Samson a judge to rescue His people from the Philistines.
- God gives Samson the power and strength to defeat the Philistines.

## Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table.

### First Hour

#### **Cherub Church**

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35am -10:00am (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s –10:05am -10:30am (Classroom’s: 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164)

*Craft:* Samson’s Chain of Events

*Supplies:* 8 yellow event strips, stapler

*Instructions:* Staple first event strip ends together to form a link, thread second event strip through first link and staple ends to create second link, continue process until all links are connected.



#### **Snack**

### Second Hour

*Craft:* Popsicle Stick Fox

*Supplies:* 3 popsicle sticks, paper triangle, 2 orange cardstock ears, googly eyes, button for nose

*Instructions:* Glue popsicle sticks together to form a triangle, glue paper triangle to popsicle triangle to create face, glue on orange triangles for ears, googly eyes, and button for nose. Color popsicle sticks if desired.



#### **Story: Judges: *Samson’s Might***

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, today we are going to talk about one of the strongest people to ever live. But before we do, tell me something you think a strong person should be able to do? (Teacher, you should lead off, e.g., “They should be able to do 100 pushups!;” let each child have a turn). Well let’s find out what our strong man did that made him so incredible...
3. **TELL** the Story. When applicable or desired, use the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

#### **Singing**

#### **Scripture Memory**

**Catechism Questions** (Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10)

#### **Optional Activities**

### Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What is the name of the leader of God’s people?
- Where did Samson’s strength come from?
- What is the name of the people who did not worship God in this story?
- What did Samson kill on the road?
- What did Samson find in the dead lion later on?
- How many foxes did Samson tie together?
- What happened to the fields and vineyards?
- What happened to the city gates in Gaza?

Questions for Older Children:

- Do you think Samson was mean to the Philistines?
- How does God keep His promise in this story?

## Scripture Memory for May:

*2 and 3 year olds:*

"The Lord raised up judges, who saved His people." Judges 2:16

*4 and 5 year olds:*

"The Lord raised up judges, who saved His people from those who robbed them." Judges 2:16

## Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

## Story

### **Review**

Last week we learned about a judge named Gideon. God used Gideon to deliver his people from the Midianites. Gideon had an army of only 300 men who defeated a very, very large army with some unusual weapons. Gideon eventually died, and once he did the Israelites, God's people, quickly began worshipping other gods. God was not happy with this and allowed the Philistines to conquer His people. God's people did not like the Philistines; the Philistines were mean to the Israelites. God then raised up another judge to deliver His people.

### **Samson Is Born**

The Bible says one day, the angel of the LORD appeared to a lady who had wanted a baby but who didn't have one. The angel of the LORD said, "You are going to have a baby, a boy baby, a very special baby. This boy is to be set aside. As a sign of this his hair must never be cut. And when he grows up, he will begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the enemy, the Philistines." Sure enough, just like the angel of the Lord had promised, baby Samson was born! And as he grew older Samson became very strong, very powerful. He was a great leader in Israel and the Philistines were afraid of him because of his strength. God had given Samson that great strength.

### **The Ferocious Lion**

The Bible says one day as Samson was walking toward a village suddenly a lion came roaring toward him. When that happened the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson with power so that he fought that lion and killed it! And Samson didn't even have a weapon. He fought the lion with his bare hands!

One day Samson decided he wanted to get married, but he did not want to marry any of the Israelite women. He told his parents, "Find me a wife, but no one from Israel!" His parents complained to themselves and then to him, "How are we going to find you a wife? We do not know anyone but Israelites!" Eventually Samson found a woman he loved, but she was a Philistine. Remember, Philistine's hated God and His people. One day Samson and his parents decided to visit this Philistine woman, and as they were coming home from their visit Samson noticed something. Off to the side of the road was the lion Samson had killed with bees swarming all around it. Honeybees had built a hive inside the dead lion. Samson loved honey, so he reached into the beehive and grabbed some honey. He ate the honey and gave some to his parents to eat.

### **A Hard Riddle**

A few months later Samson was married and there was a big party. Samson invited many people and they celebrated for a week. At this party everyone told riddles. Samson told a riddle about the lion and the honey. His riddle went like this, "Out of the eater came forth food, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." Samson offered a reward if anyone could answer the riddle; he said, "If you answer my riddle by the end of the week, I will give you 30 shirts and 30 robes. But! If you do not answer the riddle by the end of the week, then you have to give me 30 shirts and 30 robes." Several people at the party wanted to answer the riddle especially the Philistine men. The whole week the Philistine men tried to answer the riddle but they could not. They were becoming very scared and angry. On the very last day of the party the Philistine men went to Samson's wife and said, "You have to find out the answer to the riddle. If you don't we will hurt your family." Samson's wife became scared. She begged and pleaded with Samson to tell her the answer. At first he did not want to tell her the answer, but he finally gave in because he could not stand to hear her complain.

Samson's wife went and told the Philistine men. The men quickly ran to Samson and said, "What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than a lion?" Samson became very, very angry. He knew his wife had betrayed him. Samson gave the Philistine men the 30 shirts and 30 robes, but he stormed off after he did it. He did not talk to his wife for a very long time because he was so mad.

### **300 Foxes**

Eventually Samson's anger left him and he wanted to go and apologize to his wife for being so angry and not talking or seeing her for a long time. Samson headed back to where his wife was living in a Philistine village. He brought presents with him just to be extra nice. When Samson arrived he found his wife's father working in the field and asked where he could find her. The father told Samson, "I thought you did love her anymore and did not want to be married to her any longer. So we decided she could marry another guy!" Samson quickly became angry again. Samson said, "Now it is not my fault if the Philistines pay for this." Samson caught 300 foxes. He turned them tail-to-tail and tied the two tails together with a piece of dry wood between them. Then he set the wood on fire, and let the foxes go into the grain fields of the Philistines. This set the grain on fire until the entire harvest was destroyed, and the vineyards too.

The Philistines were very angry. They shouted, "Who did this?" Someone replied back, "Samson!" The Philistines knew they could not beat up Samson for he was too strong. So the Philistines hurt Samson's wife and her father. This made Samson even angrier; Samson went and picked a big fight with a lot of Philistines and beat them up. Finally, when the fight was over, Samson was tired, lonely and did not want to stay there anymore. He went back to his hometown and found a cave at the top of a very high mountain. Samson lived in the cave for some time.

### **The Jawbone of a Donkey**

When more Philistine men found out that Samson had beaten up so many Philistines, they went looking for him. There were many, many Philistines out looking for Samson. These rough and wild Philistines scared God's people, but when they found out the Philistines only wanted Samson, some of God's people started to look for him. Three thousand men from God's people gathered together to find Samson. Once they found Samson in his cave they asked, "Why have you done all these things to the Philistines? Don't you see that you've made trouble for us!" Samson answered back, "I have treated them just as they have treated me." The men of Israel said, "We've come to tie you up and give you over to the Philistines." Samson probably laughed, but he let the Israelites tie him up and give him over to the Philistines. The Philistines wanted very badly to catch Samson, capture him, and put him in prison so that he wouldn't bother them anymore. The Bible says they tied him with two strong ropes. Once the Philistines saw Samson tied up, they came running and shouting toward him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came over Samson and the ropes on his arms became like thin little strings and simply fell off. Then Samson saw a bone lying on the ground. It was the jawbone of a dead donkey. Quickly Samson reached down and grabbed the bone and with his great strength he struck the Philistines. Samson killed 1,000 Philistines that day.

### **The City Gates**

A few weeks later Samson went back into one of the Philistine cities. The name of the city was Gaza. During this time in the Bible cities had high walls and very big, thick gates that they closed at night. Samson entered the city during the day. The city rulers found out and made a plan. "We will close the gates at nightfall, and then in the morning when he tries to leave we will catch him and throw him in prison" said the city leaders. Well in the middle of the night Samson decided he was ready to go home. He got up and saw the gates completely shut, but that did not stop Samson. Samson walked up to the gates and pulled the doors right off. He carried the huge doors for thirty miles until he was back in his hometown.

Samson was a very mighty and strong judge for Israel. Samson got his strength from God. Samson defended Israel during these very troublesome years. You can imagine how much the Philistines wanted to get rid of Samson! They knew about his great strength and wanted to find out where it came from. Remember the Philistines did not like God and they did not like God's people, the Israelites. The Philistines did not understand that God had given Samson the strength and that God was using Samson to defend his people. Next week we learn that this does not stop the Philistines from trying to hurt Samson.