



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for
May 22, 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 before, 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 finish our story about Samson. 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. He meets a woman named Delilah, a Philistine, and tells her how his strength is lost. 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 does not give God glory when they should.

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 and Delilah*

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 16

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 63

Additional Teaching Help: Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 96-99; 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.
- Samson meets a woman named Delilah. Samson tells Delilah how he could lose his strength.
- The Philistines use this against Samson and imprison him. Samson gets revenge later by killing all of his Philistine captors while they partied and worshipped their false god.

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 Hair

Supplies: 2 sheets of black construction paper, head band strip, stapler

Instructions: Staple head band strip to fit child's head, staple 2 black sheets to the head band strip leaving space for child's face.



Snack

Second Hour

Craft: Strong Samson

Supplies: 1 small and 1 large popsicle stick, brown yarn, silver beads, black pipe cleaner

Instructions: Glue popsicle sticks together (small stick as arms, large as body), glue brown yarn as hair, draw a face, string beads on pipe cleaner and attach to stick hands as barbells.



Story: Judges: *Samson and Delilah*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, who has ever had a haircut? (Most should say yes or raise hand). When you had your haircut, did you lose your strength (or muscles, ability to walk or run, insert as you feel led)? No! Well in our story today we learn about Samson, a lady named Delilah, and a haircut! Let's find out more in our story...
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:

- Who was Israel's enemy in this story?
- Who made Samson strong?
- How many times did Samson lie to Delilah?
- What secret did he tell Delilah?

Questions for Older Children:

- What great sin did Samson commit?
- How did God show mercy to Samson?
- How do you think Samson felt after he knew his hair had been cut?
- 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 began to learn about a judge named Samson. Samson was a promised deliverer for Israel; Samson was also never to cut his hair as a sign that he was this promised deliverer. As we learned last week, Samson 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 showed his great strength several times in our story last week. Do you remember the stories? Samson wrestled and killed a lion. He showed he was quick and very mean by tying 300 foxes together and lighting pieces of wood on fire between their tails so the foxes would light all of the Philistine's crops on fire. Samson also showed his great strength by killing a 1,000 Philistine soldiers with nothing but a bone! The Philistines were afraid of him because of his strength. God had given Samson that great strength, but Samson failed to live honestly as God wanted him to and to give God glory when he accomplished great things.

Samson Sins

Samson had a problem and it was big. Samson loved women who did not believe in the true God. He loved Philistine women; women who worshipped pretend gods and that was a very wrong thing to do. God wants his people to love

and marry women and men who love him and then they can spend their whole life loving and serving God together. One lady's name was Delilah. She too was a Philistine and 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? The Philistines wanted to know. They told her if she could tell them the secret to his strength they would pay her 1,100 pieces of silver! The Philistines really wanted to get rid of Samson.

Delilah should never have done it; but she loved money more than Samson. She should never have tricked him. She knew that if the Philistines were ever able to capture Samson they would hurt him, maybe even kill him. But Delilah didn't really care.

So one day when they were all alone, Delilah asked Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength." But Samson didn't tell her the truth. "If they tie me with 7 heavy strings, then I will be weak, just like other men." The rulers of the Philistines brought Delilah seven strings and she tied them all around him. Philistine men were hiding 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 like they were nothing.

Delilah knew that he hadn't told her the truth. (whine) "You have made me look foolish. Come now, tell me how you can lose your strength." "If anyone ties me securely with ropes that have never been used before, then I'll become as weak as any other man." So Delilah took new ropes and tied Samson. Then, with the Philistine men hidden in the 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 have been making me look foolish. 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 with his head and long hair hanging close to the loom where Delilah weaved her cloth, she wove the two, his hair and the cloth, together. "Samson, Samson, the Philistines are coming!" 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. 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. He shouldn't have done that. But Samson loved Delilah more than he honored God's gift of strength to him. So he 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.

And so the Philistines grabbed weak Samson. They were mean to him. They even hurt him so badly that he couldn't see anymore. They put him in prison. But time passed and Samson's hair began to grow back.

Samson Dies

One day the Philistines gathered to worship their pretend god and to celebrate the capture of their enemy Samson. The crowds cried out, "Bring out Samson!" A servant helped lead Samson from prison to where the people had gathered. The Bible says the temple was crowded with men and women and all the rulers of the Philistines. There were about three thousand people watching Samson.

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 reached toward the two pillars on which the whole temple stood. His right hand was on one pillar and his left hand 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.

Samson had done a good work. He had begun the deliverance of Israel from the strong and wicked Philistines. Later King David would fight the great Philistine giant Goliath, and after that totally defeat all of the Philistines. They would no longer trouble Israel.