

# I'm in the Lord's Army



Lesson 12

## Getting In and Out of Trouble

**Theme:** Holiness — Avoiding evil companions

### Memory Verse

“In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.”  
Judges 17:6

### Daily Bible Readings

Thursday Judges 13:1-14, 24-25  
Friday Judges 14:1-20  
Saturday Judges 15:1-20  
Monday Judges 16:1-17  
Tuesday Judges 16:18-31

**B**y now, we know well the cycle in the book of Judges, don't we? Once again, the people turned their backs on God, and God allowed an enemy – the Philistines – to take over and rule Israel for many years. When the people turned to God for help, He raised up another judge.

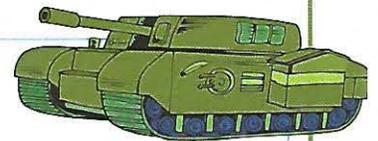
### A Strong Man for Israel

An angel of God appeared to a woman of Israel and told her she would have a son. This son was Samson, a man God would use to deliver Israel from the Philistines.

Samson grew up to be a man who was extremely strong. One time Samson got in a fight with a lion, and he killed the lion with his bare hands. Another time, Samson got into a fight with the

### Judges 13:1-14, 24-25

Who told Samson's mother that she would have a baby boy?





### Judges 14:1-20

Samson killed

a \_\_\_\_\_ with his bare hands.

Samson was stronger than other men because:

- a) he worked out every day
- b) the Spirit of the Lord was with him
- c) he was a giant like Goliath

Philistines and he killed one thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey.

Once the Philistines hid near the city gates, waiting to kill Samson. He pulled up the gates, put them on his shoulders, and carried them off! How could Samson be so strong?

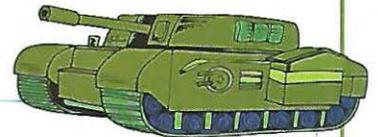
Samson's strength came from God. Samson was serving God in a special way and was not supposed to cut his hair. Samson would be strong as long as his hair was not cut.

### Even Strong People Make Mistakes

Samson was a strong man who did some great things, but he also made many mistakes. One mistake was in choosing a wife.

God did not want His people to marry the people of the land of Canaan because they worshiped idols. The Philistines were people in the land of Canaan who served other gods. Samson decided he wanted a Philistine woman to be his wife because she "looked good to him." Samson decided it was more important to have a good looking wife than it was to obey God.

After a while, Samson left his Philistine wife and later found another woman he loved named Delilah. The Philistines wanted Delilah to help them learn the secret to Samson's strength so they could capture him. Delilah helped the Philistines by begging Samson to tell her the secret about his strength.

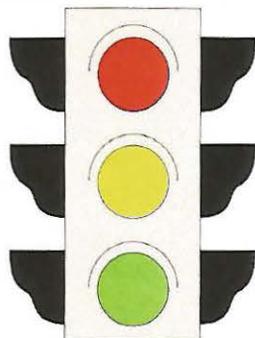


### Judges 15:1-20

Samson killed 1,000 Philistines with the \_\_\_\_\_ of a donkey.

How many years did Samson judge Israel?

I think I am too smart to do anything wrong.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red** — usually

**Yellow** — sometimes

**Green** — rarely

Samson finally told Delilah that his hair had never been cut and this was the reason he was so strong. While Samson slept,



### Judges 16:1-17

Samson loved a woman  
named \_\_\_\_\_.

Delilah shaved his hair and allowed the Philistines to take him prisoner. Samson could not win against so many men without his great strength.

While Samson was the Philistines' prisoner, his hair began to grow. The Philistines threw a big party and brought Samson in to make fun of him and laugh at him. Samson asked God to let him have his strength one last time. God

gave him the strength he needed, and Samson knocked down two columns that were holding up the whole house. The house fell down and killed three thousand Philistines at one time. Samson defeated the Philistines, but, sadly, he also died.

### God Uses People Who Make Mistakes

Samson disobeyed God's commandments and did not always make wise choices. As strong as he was, Samson still needed God's forgiveness and help. Though Samson made many mistakes, God used him to deliver His people from their enemy. Samson was a judge over Israel for twenty years.

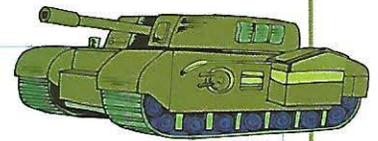
We make mistakes today. We need God's forgiveness for our sins, and we need God to help us make wise choices.

### Judges 16:18-31

Do you think Delilah really loved Samson?

What did the Philistines do to Samson when they captured him?

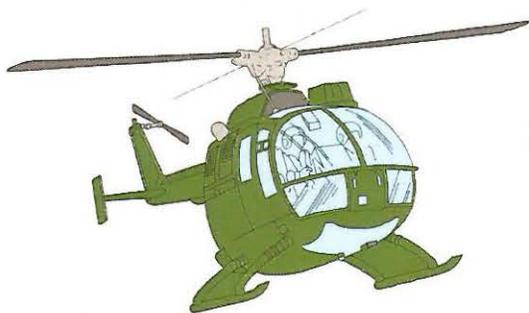
How did Samson die?



## Think About It . . .



Imagine there is a new person in your class. Your teacher has asked all of you to make him or her feel welcome. You've been looking for a new person to be your friend and now you have an opportunity. List at least three questions you might ask yourself about this person if you are trying to decide whether his or her friendship would be good for you.



## Operation Bible Facts

Which book of the Old Testament is about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?

Right here, right now, write from memory Galatians 5:22-23.

On a map inside the back cover, locate the major regions of Canaan—Negev, Hill Country, Coastal Plain and Transjordan and mark them with a .