

Lesson 10:

Samson and Delilah

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Judges 16

MEMORY WORK:

Joshua 1:9

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I have to choose carefully the people I spend time with.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we talked about a man who was very strong. He was a judge and had long hair. What was his name? (Samson) We talked about how he did not always make the best choices. Today we are going to talk about how he lost his strength because of another bad choice he made.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review last week's lesson.
2. Samson, given great strength as a gift from God, decided to go to the Valley of **Sorek**. He was not interested in being a good leader or good example for the Israelites. When he was young, it seems that all he wanted to do was "to have a good time." In particular, he spent a lot of time with immoral women. One of those women was Delilah.

Sorek: means "pleasure" or "red, ripe fruit."

3. Samson had already gotten into trouble because of another Philistine woman (in Timnah). [Remind the children that the Philistines worshiped idols and were people God had told the Israelites not to be friends with.] Samson was stubborn and refused to listen to God's warnings about the Philistines. They had tried to capture him before. This time they took advantage of his weakness for beautiful women. The leaders of the Philistines went to Delilah and made a deal: if she could find out why Samson was so strong, they would give her a great deal of money: 1,100 pieces of silver from each of the leaders! She agreed and began to entice Samson (to persuade and trick him).

NOTE: The total pieces of silver would have likely been 5,500, given that there were apparently five major Philistine lords (cf. Judges 3:3; 1 Samuel 6:18).

4. Three times Delilah tried to get him to tell her the secret of his strength; and three times he lied to her. (Describe these attempts with as much detail as is appropriate for your class.) Each time he claimed to have told her the secret of his strength, the Philistines attacked him. He should have realized that he was in great danger, but his arrogance about his great strength made him think he could not be defeated. He listened more to Delilah than he did to God.
5. Each time she became more insistent, continually asking him, day after day, until finally he told her that his strength came from God due to his Nazirite vow. More specifically, if his hair were cut, he would lose his strength. Delilah saw that finally Samson was being honest with her. She made him fall asleep with his head on her lap, and while he slept, a man came in and shaved Samson's head.
6. This time, Delilah began to torment and insult him. She called out, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" He woke up without his hair and without his strength. God had left him and took Samson's strength with Him.

NOTE: There was nothing miraculous about Samson's hair. There were no supernatural chemicals or magic in the hair that made him strong. Samson's uncut hair, however, was apparently the symbol to God of Samson's commitment to his vow. God connected Samson's miraculous strength with his uncut hair. The strength was given to him by God as a Nazirite and judge to deliver the Israelites from the wicked Philistines. Instead of trusting God, Samson selfishly gave in to a beautiful woman who pretended to be his friend and trusted his own strength instead of God's. By doing so, he ended up breaking his vow, and his blessing of strength was removed.

7. The vow Samson had made to God to be a Nazirite was a serious vow. By carelessly telling Delilah about the vow and trusting in his own strength instead of God's, he had unwittingly told God's enemies how to make Samson break the vow. Samson was being profane, like Esau had been with his birthright (Hebrews 12:16).
8. The Philistines made him blind [gouged out his eyes], put him in chains, and took him to a prison in Gaza. He went from being the strongest man in the world to being a blind, weak prisoner working like an animal on a grindstone deep within the prison.
9. We don't know how long Samson was in the Philistine prison, but it was long enough for his hair to grow again. The Philistines felt no danger from this blind man in chains. But Samson's time pushing the grindstone gave him time to think about the bad choices he had made. He also had time to think about what God had wanted him to do all along—deliver His people.
10. With no respect for Samson or for the one true God Who gave him his strength, the Philistines called for Samson to be brought to a great banquet where they would worship their false god, Dagon, so they could laugh at him—and at his God. Samson was led to the great house where at least 3,000 Philistines were partying on the roof where they could look down and see Samson.
11. The Philistines put him between the pillars holding up the roof. Samson asked the boy who was holding his hand to help him feel the two pillars so that he could lean on them. Then Samson prayed to God and asked Him for great strength one more time. Samson pushed with all his might and made the supporting pillars of the house fall. When those pillars fell, the entire building fell down. More Philistines died that day at the hand of Samson than at any other time during his life.

12. Lead a discussion on choosing good friends. How do our friends influence us? How do we influence them? Why is it important to choose good friends? What are some ways a friend might help us be closer to God? What are some ways a friend might draw us away from God? (Be careful not to let the discussion turn into talking about others.)
13. There are many lessons to learn from Samson, but one very important lesson is that we cannot be too careful about people with whom we spend our time. Everything we do is supposed to honor (bring glory to) God. We cannot honor God if we listen to our friends more than we listen to God (follow their choices rather than God’s Word). True strength is choosing to do what God says. And we need to help each other do the right thing!
14. Samson had done many things that were against God’s will, including rebelling against his parents’ wishes, lying, touching unclean things, being friends with wicked people, being vengeful, and committing fornication (for younger children: treating women who were not his wife as though they were his wife). Allowing his hair to be cut was a further violation of God’s will, since he was to be a Nazirite. Remember that the Bible does not tell us that God was happy with all of the decisions of the judges. Just because the Bible does not come out and condemn every bad thing a person did does not mean that God was okay with it. Sometimes the judges disobeyed God and were not pleasing to Him. Sometimes we read how they were punished, and sometimes their punishment would have come after they died. Regardless of how good they were, God still used them to do His will—to deliver His people, the Israelites. We can learn from the bad things and good things that they did in order to be pleasing to God. God can use us even if we are bad, but if we want to please Him and go to heaven, we must obey His commands.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the following articles on the Apologetics Press Web site for discussion about various individuals that did evil things, but were still considered righteous, and people of faith, whose actions were not always endorsed by God:

- “[Jephthah’s Daughter](#)” by Dave Miller
- “[‘Righteous Lot?’](#)” by Eric Lyons
- “[Does the Story of Rahab Mean that God Condonos Lying?](#)” by Bert Thompson

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

- Betty Lukens’ felt pieces
- ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
- Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. The file for this lesson covers highlights of Samson’s entire life. It is labeled 09-10 in the visuals folder.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

“Samson” (Click to Hear)

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Muffin Man”)

O, do you know the strongest man,
The strongest man,
The strongest man?

O, do you know the strongest man,
Who lived in Bible times?

O, Samson was the strongest man
The strongest man,
The strongest man.

O, Samson was the strongest man,
Who lived in Bible times.

SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Build two columns out of boxes and let the children take turns being Samson and pushing them down.
- Samson loses his hair craft – Example is in lesson file
 1. Turn the sheet of drawing paper horizontally in front of them and draw a picture of Samson with Delilah, leaving off Samson’s hair. The pair should be about 5 inches tall, which means there will be a three-inch space over their heads.
 2. Above Samson’s head, use a hole punch to punch a hole for his hair.
 3. Apply 1 paper hole reinforcer to the front of the hole and 1 to the back.
 4. Take three strands of yarn and put them together so they are all about the same length. Tie a knot in one end.
 5. Thread the strands through the reinforced hole and pull it all the way to the knot. Tie a knot in the other end as well
 6. Write at the bottom SAMSON LOSES HIS HAIR.

Students will notice that they can pull his hair through the front, making it very long, or pull it through the back, making it very short.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday's lesson. briefly (See Review Questions for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Ask all the children to sit in a circle. Roll a ball to a child, and ask him/her a question from this story or previous ones. Have that child roll the ball to another person in the circle; ask that child a question. Continue until all the children have had a turn.
- Blindfold Activities – Let the students take turns being blindfolded. Give them simple directions to do while they can't see. Discuss how Samson was not only weak after his hair was cut but he couldn't do the normal things a regular person can b/c he lost his eyes. He went from being stronger than everyone to a person that needed help himself.

Review Questions

1. What great gift did Samson receive from God?
 - a. His strength
2. Besides the woman from Timnah, what was the name of the other Philistine woman that Samson liked?
 - a. Delilah
3. How much money did the Philistine leaders offer Delilah to find out where Samson got his strength?
 - a. 1,100 pieces of silver
4. How many times (mentioned in the Bible) did Samson lie to Delilah about where his strength came from?
 - a. Three time
5. Did Samson eventually tell Delilah where his strength came from?
 - a. Yes
6. What did the Philistines do to Samson when he was captured?
 - a. They plucked out his eyes and put him in prison.
7. How many Philistines were at the banquet where they displayed Samson in chains?
 - a. 3,000
8. How did Samson kill these Philistines?
 - a. He asked a boy to lead him to the two supporting pillars. Samson prayed for strength, and God allowed Samson to bring down the building and kill all of the Philistines within. Samson died along with the Philistines.
9. Did Samson make wise choices about his friends?
 - a. No

