

Unit 9 • Session 4

Samson

Bible Passage: Judges 13-16

Story Point: God made Samson strong

Key Passage: 1 John 1:9a

Big Picture Question: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

The BIBLE Story

God's people kept getting into trouble. They disobeyed God again and again. Each time, God let their enemies have power over them. Now God's people were being controlled by the Philistines.

One day, the angel of the LORD appeared to two of God's people. The angel told the couple that they were going to have a son. God had a special instruction for the baby: He should never cut his hair. God said, "Your son is going to save the Israelites from the Philistines."

When the woman had a baby, she named him Samson. God made Samson very strong. Samson grew up and met a woman named Delilah. Samson fell in love with her. The Philistine leaders told Delilah, "Find out why Samson is so strong." The leaders wanted to make Samson weak.

Delilah asked Samson, "Why are you so strong?" Samson said, "If you tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will be weak." But that was not true. Delilah tied up Samson with seven fresh bowstrings. When she said, "Samson! The Philistines are here to get you!" Samson broke free.

Delilah asked Samson again, "Why are you so strong?" Samson said, "If you tie me up with new rope, I will be weak." But that was not true. Delilah tied up Samson with new rope. When she said, "Samson! The Philistines are here to get you!" Samson broke free.

Delilah asked Samson again, "Why are you so strong?" Samson told Delilah, "If you weave my hair into a loom, I will be weak." But that was not true. Delilah wove Samson's hair into a loom. When she said, "Samson! The Philistines are here to get you!" Samson broke free.

Delilah begged Samson to tell her the truth, so Samson did: "If you cut my hair, I will not have my strength."

When Samson was sleeping, a Philistine man came and cut his hair. Delilah woke up Samson. "Samson!" she said, "The Philistines are here to get you!" But Samson was not strong anymore. The Philistines grabbed him and took him away in chains.

But Samson's hair began to grow back. One day, the Philistines made Samson stand between two columns in their temple. Samson cried out to God, and God made Samson strong. Samson pushed on the columns, and the temple fell down. Samson and everyone in the temple died, but Samson had saved the Israelites from the Philistines.

Christ Connection: Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson's death to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and give them life with God forever.

Learn the big picture question

Say • Remember our big picture question? ***What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.*** *Turning to Jesus* means to stop trusting in what we can do to save us, but to put our trust in what Jesus did. Jesus never sinned, but He took the punishment for our sin. When we turn to Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.

Practice the key passage

Place a marker at 1 John 1:9 in your Bible, and invite your child to open it. Say the key passage together. **“If we confess (point to mouth with index fingers) our sins (make thumbs down sign with hands), He is faithful and just (point to ceiling with both hands) and will forgive us (hug yourself).” I John 1:9 (open hands like a book).** Try choosing a word to replace with a clap. Continue until you are clapping the entire verse.

Say • Our key passage reminds us that God is faithful. God does what He says He will do even when we do not. Samson made many wrong choices, but God kept His promise to use Samson to save the Israelites.

Coloring page

What you need: coloring sheet, 1 per child, markers or crayons

Give a coloring/activity page and a marker or crayon to your child. Invite your child to color the one side. On the other side, guide children to draw a line connecting each image with its opposite. Match strong and weak, long and short, asleep and awake, and up and down.

Say • You heard some opposites in our Bible story today. God made a man named Samson very strong! What made Samson weak?

Exercise

What you need: “Exercise Cube” printable, scissors (adult use), tape

Print, cut out and assemble the “Exercise Cube.” Take turns with your child tossing the cube and doing a certain number of the exercise shown on top.

Say • Exercising can make us strong. **God made Samson strong.** God used Samson’s strength to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Unlike Samson, Jesus never sinned, but Jesus died for our sin. Jesus gives us forgiveness and life with God forever.

Samson craft

What you need: “Samson” printable, scissors (adult use), crayons

Print the “Sampson” printable. Invite your child to color the page. When finished coloring, an adult can cut out the “Samson” printable along the dotted lines and help the child fold it. To fold the craft, turn the page over and

fold the outward portions (showing Samson pushing the pillars inward towards the center of the page. Turn the craft back over to the front side. The tumbled walls should be showing. Now fold the walls inward toward the center along the faintly showing lines. When done correctly, the folded craft should show Sampson on the front and the walls tumbled down when the pillars are pulled apart.

Say • God made Samson strong. He was able to push on the columns and the temple fell down. Samson and other people died, but the Israelites were saved from the Philistines! God had used Samson to save His people again. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and give them life with God forever.

Story review

Comment that **God made Samson strong.** Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson's death to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and give them life with God forever.

Ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- What was the special instruction God gave Samson's parents? (*Samson should never cut his hair.*)
- What did Delilah ask Samson over and over? (*Why are you so strong?*)
- After Samson's hair was cut, what did the Philistines do? (*took him away in chains*)
- What did Samson do to the temple? (*He pushed the columns and the temple fell down.*)
- ***What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.***