

Sunday School at Home Lesson for 1st – 6th Grades

July 12

Samson Chose Revenge

Life Point: People can make good choices.

Level of Biblical Learning: People are responsible for their choices.

Scripture Reference: Judges 13-16

Unit Verse: “Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.” Psalm 119:34 (CSB)

Weekly Bible Verse: “Don’t be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil.” Proverbs 3:7(CSB)

Practice Bible Skills

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Dice

Instructions:

- ❖ Guide children to draw a clock face on his or her paper marked with 12 dots.
- ❖ Lead children to begin at the 12 o’clock dot and write (in order around the clock) the name of each Old Testament History book (Joshua-Esther).
- ❖ Have children toss the dice and add them up. Starting with Joshua (12 o’clock) have kids tap their pencils clockwise around the circle, naming the History books in order. (For example, if a player rolls a four, he or she will count Joshua-Judges-Ruth-1 Samuel.)
- ❖ Continue in this manner until a player tosses a number that permits him or her to land on Joshua. Declare that child the winner after he or she locates and Old Testament History book in his or her Bible.

Introductory Activity

- ❖ Dare kids to attempt two feats of strength:
 - Mention the assumption that it is impossible to fold a sheet of paper in half seven times. Let kids try for themselves.
 - Next, challenge kids to fold a fresh sheet of paper in half five times, then tear it in half. (It is unlikely kids will succeed.)
- ❖ Fold your own paper five times and demonstrate that you cannot tear it in half.
- ❖ Say, “Today’s Bible story is about Samson. He could have ripped this paper easily.”
- ❖ Unfold the sheet and tear it in half.
- ❖ Continue by saying, “However, Samson had some weaknesses that caused his downfall. Listen to learn about Samson’s weaknesses.”

Bible Story: Samson Chose Revenge (Judges 13-16)

- ❖ Explain that God used leaders called judges to help rule the people of Israel. Today kids will hear about one of Israel’s judges: Samson. God had special plans for Samson.
- ❖ Mention that before Samson was born, an angel told his parents to dedicate him to serve God. One symbol of that dedication was that Samson’s hair was never to be cut.
- ❖ Encourage kids to listen to whether Samson followed God with the choices he made.

- ❖ Tell the Bible story, or watch the *Bible Story Notebook* portion of the July 12 *Lifeway Kids at Home* video from your Digital Pass Dashboard.*

An angel spoke to Samson's parents before Samson was born. The angel said, "Your son will be set apart for God's service. You must never cut his hair. He will begin to save Israel from the powerful Philistines."

When Samson was grown, he met a Philistine woman and demanded his parents, "Get her for me as a wife! I want her!" On the way to the woman's town, God's Spirit gave Samson great power. A young lion charged at Samson. Samson tore the lion apart with his bare hands.

At Samson's wedding, he told some Philistines a riddle about the lion. The Philistines convinced Samson's bride to tell the riddle's answer, and Samson was furious. He killed 30 Philistine men. When Samson's new bride was given away to another man, he angrily burned the Philistines' fields.

Sometime later, Samson fell in love with Delilah, another Philistine woman. Each Philistine leader offered Delilah 1,100 pieces of silver if she could reveal the secret of Samson's great strength. Over and over Delilah begged Samson for his secret. Finally, Samson gave in. "My hair has never been cut," he admitted. "It is the source of my strength."

When Samson fell asleep, Delilah called a man to cut his hair. Then she cried, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" Samson did not realize his strength was gone. The Philistines captured Samson, blinded him, and forced him to grind grain in prison. While Samson was in prison, his hair began to grow back.

Sometime later, the Philistines gathered in their temple to honor their false god. "Our god has handed over our enemy!" the Philistines said. They called for Samson to be brought out so they could make fun of him.

With help, Samson braced himself against the pillars of the temple. He prayed, "God, remember me. Strengthen me just once more."

Samson pushed with all his strength, and the temple collapsed. As Samson died, he killed more Philistines than he had during his life.

- ❖ Prompt kids to identify some disobedient choices Samson made.
- ❖ Ask, "How might Samson's story be different if his desire was to obey and honor God at all times?"

Review Questions

- ❖ What special purpose did God have for Samson? (*To begin to save Israel from the Philistines.*)
- ❖ What did an angel tell Samson's parents never to do? (*Never cut his hair.*)
- ❖ What happened after the Philistine wedding guests solved Samson's riddle? (*He killed 30 Philistines and later burned their fields.*)
- ❖ Why did the Philistines offer Delilah silver? (*To reveal the secret of Samson's strength.*)
- ❖ What caused Samson to lose his strength? (*When Samson fell asleep, Delilah called a man to cut his hair.*)
- ❖ How did God use Samson? (*Samson pushed down the temple and killed many Philistines, who were enemies of God's people.*)

Life Action

- ❖ Sing "[In Christ I Am](#)."
- ❖ Talk about how sometimes people choose to do things that displease God. Actions, attitudes, words, or thoughts that do not please God are called *sin*.
- ❖ Explain that God is ready to forgive our sins when we ask. He loves us and will help us make good choices.
- ❖ Talk about things kids can do to help them make good choices such as: pray and ask God for help, talk to a parent, read the Bible, or ask for advice from a leader at church.
- ❖ Invite kids to pray and ask God to help them make good choices.

- ❖ Pray, thanking God for His mercy and forgiveness. Ask God to help kids follow Him in all they do.

Option: Watch the “Mooseberry Life Application” portion of the July 12 Lifeway Kids at Home video from your Digital Pass Dashboard.

Suggested Activities

Choice 1: Samson Hair

Materials:

- Black paper
- Scissors
- Poster board or cardstock/heavy paper
- Stapler
- Tape
- Markers

Instructions:

- ❖ Fit a long strip of poster board around child’s head. Then remove the strip and staple to make a headband. On the middle of the strips, have kids print the words of Psalm 119:34: “Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.”
- ❖ Have kids cut black paper into strips. Be careful to leave one inch uncut at the top of the sheets. This will create strips of “hair” for kids to attach to their headbands. Instruct kids to staple the “hair” onto their headbands.
- ❖ On the inside of the headbands, cover the staples with pieces of tape to protect kids when they wear them.
- ❖ Talk about how Samson chose to do things that did not honor God. Samson was responsible for his choices.
- ❖ Remind kids that they always can pray and ask God to help them make right choices in difficult situations.

CHOICE 2: Silly Stunts

Materials:

- Four sheets of paper (different colors) taped to the floor in different areas of the room

Instructions:

- Encourage kids to stand near any color sheet of paper. Name a color, and instruct anyone standing near that color to do a silly stunt such as:
 - Try to touch your tongue on your nose.
 - Quack like a duck.
 - Spell your name backward.
 - Dance like a chicken.
 - Pose like a super hero.
- After playing several rounds say, “You chose the color on which to stand. Were there consequences for your choice?” Remind kids that people are responsible for their own choices.

Wrap Up

- ❖ Remind kids that they can choose to obey or disobey God. People are responsible for their choices.
- ❖ Promise kids you will pray for them to make good choices this week.

Resources for Your Week

Videos can be viewed for FREE on Right Now Media by signing up for an account at

<https://fbcalexandria.org/right-now-media>

[Adventures in Odyssey: A Fine Feathered Frenzy](#)

[Superbook Classic: Musclemans](#)