

# JUDGES

## **“Samson and the Philistines”**

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- The story of how God used Deborah to save God’s people
- The story of how Samson defeated the Philistines
- The story of Ruth and Naomi
- The story of Ruth and Boaz

Series Theme Verse: “The Lord will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.” – Psalm 96:13

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God is the one who rescues us, and that God used Judges to rescue the people of God.

Lesson Passage: Judges 15:1-5; 14-17

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on poster, copies of Follow Directions sheet, Styrofoam cup for each child, Big bag of regular M&Ms

Lesson Plan: Summarize for students the source of Samson’s strength and that his strength made him a special Judge for Israel because he routinely fought the Philistines on his own, rather than with an army. Tell them that Samson was so strong the when a lion attacked him, he killed the lion with his bare hands. In our story today, we see how Samson decimated the Philistines two different times in odd ways.

Talking Points:

- Samson’s wife was a Philistine, who had tricked him early in their marriage, so he became angry and left for a while. When he returned, what had happened to his wife? (Her father had given her to someone else in marriage)
- Did the father try to work things out? (Yes, he offered his other daughter to Samson in marriage)
- Did Samson like that idea? (No, he wanted his wife)
- What did Samson do to the Philistines because of his anger at losing his wife? (He caught 300 foxes, place them tail to tail, put a torch of fir between them and then released them into the fields of the Philistines)
- What did such a crazy plan do? (Destroyed the grain and vineyards and fields of the Philistines, causing them to have a shortage of food and wine)
- Another time, the Philistines came in force against Israel and the people of Israel were scared. They tied Samson up and gave him to the Philistines because they were scared of the Philistines.

- Did the ropes hold Samson? (No, he snapped them easily when he saw the Philistines)
- Samson had no spear or sword to face the Philistine army, so what did he grab as a weapon? (The jawbone of a donkey)
- How many men did Samson kill with just the jawbone of a donkey? (1,000)
- Was Samson proud of killing the Philistines with a jawbone? (Yes, in vs 16 he brags about his accomplishment)
- Should he be saying that he killed them or should he be thanking God for giving him the strength to kill the Philistines?
- Samson was a Judge for Israel, but he always seemed to forget who gave him the power to lead, and because of that, Samson was not a good leader. We need to always remember that the things we do are because God gave us the strength and skills to do them.

#### The Story Retold:

- Remind students that Samson killed a lot of Philistines, but was not very successful as a leader because he forgot about God.
- An important part of being a Christian is following God's instructions.
- Give students a copy of the worksheet "Following Direction."
- Have students complete the sheet, and when all are finished, use the activity to help students understand that our faith lives are the same way; we need to read God's instructions (the Bible) and follow them before we jump off and do what we think is best.

#### The Story and Me:

- Have the memory verse for the unit written on a piece of poster board.
- Give each child a small Styrofoam cup.
- Pass around a bag of M&Ms and let students put some in their cups, but DO NOT eat the M&Ms, yet.
- Now tell kids to count their M&Ms and for every 2 M&Ms a child put in their cup, have the student say the memory verse one time: 16 M&Ms = 8 times saying the memory verse. (You can adjust to 5 M&Ms for 1 time if the kids are getting a lot)
- Remind students that God is our judge and wants us to follow God's instructions in the Bible.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

### FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

1. Read everything carefully before doing anything.
2. Put your name in the upper right-hand corner of this page.
3. Circle the word NAME in sentence two.
4. Draw five small squares in the upper left-hand corner.
5. Put an "X" in each square.
6. Run two laps around the room.
7. Moo like a cow four times.
8. Put a circle completely around sentence number seven.
9. Put an "X" in the lower left corner of this paper.
10. Draw a triangle around the "X" you just put down.
11. Give your chair a hug.
12. Loudly call out your first name so others know you are winning.
13. If you have followed directions carefully to this point, call out, "I have."
14. If you are the first person to reach this point, LOUDLY, call out, I AM THE FIRST PERSON TO REACH THIS POINT, AND I AM THE LEADER IN FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS."
15. Dance a victory dance like you just scored a touchdown.
16. Loudly call out, "I AM NEARLY FINISHED. I HAVE FOLLOWED DIRECTIONS."
17. Now that you have finished reading everything, do sentences 1 and 2! Keep busy so that others will continue to read without disturbance from you. Do not make any sign to give a clue to your having completed the assigned task.