

JUDGES

“Samson and Delilah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- The story of Deborah and Barak
- The story of Gideon
- The story of Samson and Delilah
- The story of Ruth

Series Theme Verse: “The Lord answered, ‘I will be with you.’” –Judges 6:16

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that we need to trust God and follow God’s rules, even when others try to tell us not to.

Lesson Passage: Judges 16:4-22; 25-31

Materials Needed: Bibles, Series Theme Verse on poster, balloon to pop, series theme verse cut up and inserted in some blown up balloons

Lesson Plan: Summarize for students the story of Samson that leads up to his falling in love with Delilah: He was stronger than most humans because God told him to never cut his hair, he defeated numerous Philistines who always tried to take over Israel, but he consistently broke God’s rules, except for cutting his hair...then he met Delilah.

Talking Points:

- What was the name of the woman that Samson fell in love with? (Delilah)
- Delilah was close to the Philistines, which hated Samson, what did the Philistines ask Delilah to do? (Find out why Samson is so strong and how they can take him prisoner)
- What did the Philistines offer Delilah? (1,100 pieces of silver from each leader of the Philistines...basically a fortune)
- Did Delilah agree? (Yes, she asked Samson three times what the secret to his strength was)
- The first time she asked Samson the secret to his strength, what did he say? (Tie him up with 7 fresh, wet cords)
- Was that true? (No, when she tied him up, and the Philistines tried to take him prisoner, he snapped the cords off super easy)
- The second time Delilah asked the secret to Samson’s strength, what did he say? (Tie him up with new ropes)
- Was that true? (No, when Delilah tied him up with new ropes, and the Philistines attacked, Samson snapped the ropes like thread)

- Delilah asked a third time and a fourth and a fifth, even saying that if Samson really loved her, he would tell her the secret to his strength, what did Samson finally say? (If his head was shaved of all his hair he would become weak)
- Was this true? (Yes, when Delilah had his head shaved while he slept, the Philistines attacked him, poked out his eyes and blinded him, bound him in chains, and made him grind grain as a prisoner)
- One day, while Samson was a blind prisoner of the Philistines, the Philistines decided to make fun of Samson, so they had him brought to the temple of their fake gods and made him entertain them.
- The temple had giant pillars or columns that supported the temple and made it stay up, but what the Philistines did not realize was that Samson's hair was starting to grow back.
- What did Samson ask the boy who was holding his hand? (To lean him on the biggest pillars that supported the whole temple)
- What did Samson do next? (He prayed to God to give him strength to fight the Philistines one last time)
- Did God give Samson strength? (Yes, Samson pushed the pillars over and the whole temple fell down on Samson and the Philistines, and all of them died)
- Samson's brothers came and buried Samson, how many years did Samson judge Israel? (20)

The Story Retold:

- Remind kids that Samson ultimately was defeated by the Philistines because he stayed with Delilah who wanted him to go against God and do the wrong thing.
- We need to make sure that we do not hang around with people who want us to do bad things that God would not want us to do.
- Ask kids what are some things that sometimes our friends do, or want us to do that are bad and God does not want us to do?
- Pull out a balloon and with each answer from a kid, blow up more of the balloon.
- When the balloon gets really big, explain to kids that we are like the balloon. We might resist doing bad things for a while when our friends try to get us to do wrong, but eventually (pop the balloon) we will give in and burst like the balloon or fail God like Samson did.

The Story and Me:

- Read the memory verse to the students.
- Have the memory verse cut up into a couple words and in balloons that have been blown up, let kids try to pop the balloon with their Samson-like strength and piece together the puzzle of the Series Them Verse.
- Say the verse together several times.
- Remind students that God loves them and is with them all the time.
- When they feel pressured to do what God does not want them to do, all they need to do is pray to God and God will help them.