

SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES

Judges 13-16



The Israelites again did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord, so He handed them over to the Philistines for 40 years. The angel of the Lord appeared to a man and his wife. The angel gave them special instructions to prepare for the birth of their son. The angel also said, “Never cut his hair, because he will be set apart to save Israel from the Philistines.” They named their son Samson.

When Samson grew up, a young lion came roaring at Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on him, and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands.

Later, Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines wanted to know why Samson was so strong. They decided to pay Delilah to betray Samson. Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me, where does your great strength come from?” He replied, “If someone ties me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will become weak like any other man.”

When he was sleeping, Delilah tied him up and called the Philistines. He snapped the bowstrings as if they were yarn. Twice more, Delilah asked how Samson could be defeated. He told her two different lies.

Samson finally told her the truth: “My hair has never been cut because I am set apart for God. If my head is shaved, I will be weak.” She had his head shaved, and the Philistines captured him. They chained him between two pillars. Samson prayed, “God, please strengthen me once more.” He pushed against the pillars, and Samson and the Philistine leaders died as the temple collapsed.

Christ Connection: Samson’s great strength came from God alone. He had no power to defeat the Philistines on his own. We cannot please God on our own. Through faith in Jesus, people are saved from sin and receive the Holy Spirit, who helps them live to please God.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» Read each sentence and write the name of the judge the sentence describes. Use the Bible references if you need help.

_____ A prophetess who helped lead God's people to defeat King Jabin of Canaan. (Judges 4:4)

_____ The first judge of Israel who defeated the King of Aram. (Judges 3:9-10)

_____ A Nazarite judge who vowed never to cut his hair and defeated the Philistines. (Judges 16:29-30)

_____ The second judge of Israel who saved God's people from the Moabites. (Judges 3:15)

_____ He placed fleece on the ground to test God's promise to help him defeat the Midianites. (Judges 6:39)

» What does this story teach us about God?

» Why did Samson tell Delilah the truth about where his strength came from?

GOSPEL DISCUSSION

We are not strong enough or good enough to take away our sin. Just as Samson could only defeat the Philistines with God's strength, we can only be saved from our sin through God's power. God displayed His power to save us when He sent Jesus to die for our sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of sin.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

» How can we be set apart to live for the Lord?

» Why is it sometimes hard to realize we cannot do things in our own power?

» What does it mean to walk by the Spirit?

CHRIST CONNECTION

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THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

» Find 2 Chronicles 7:14 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God, praising Him for allowing His strength to be displayed through our weakness.

READ THE WORD

Think about how God gives believers the strength to live for Him. Read one of the following passages each day this week:

Galatians 5:22-23

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Galatians 5:16

Psalm 73:26

1 Corinthians 10:13

Ephesians 3:20-21