



UNIT 9 | SESSION 2

GOD USED SAMSON

JUDGES 13-16

KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 6:23

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Samson's sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Samson's story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but God sent Him to die on the cross and rise again to rescue people from sin and give them eternal life.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE
PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME
GREET KIDS and OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN
TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE
LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE
LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

Samson is one of those characters in the Bible you don't easily forget. He was strong, handsome, successful, and blind. He is what in literature is called an anti-type. He is a type of Christ in all the wrong ways. Samson was consecrated from an early age yet disobeyed his covenant promises and dishonored his parents. When tempted, he gave in rather than resisting.

Before Samson was physically blinded, he was blind to his weakness and to the source of his strength. Samson should have turned the nation's eyes from themselves and pointed them to God; instead, he lived for his own appetite by doing what is right in his own eyes. God used him despite his flaws and failures. The sad reality of Samson's life was that it wasn't until he was captured by his enemies who gouged out his physical eyes that he truly started to "see."

Unlike Samson, Jesus came into the world not "to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). Jesus not only obeyed His Father but obeyed in such a way that we have a model for what obedience to God looks like.

Jesus is more than a model; He is also our substitute who lived a perfect life and died in our place for our disobedience. He, like Samson, placed His hand on the twin pillars

of sin and death and destroyed them. But unlike Samson, Jesus didn't stay dead. He lives, and He opens the eyes of those who are blind to see the beauty of God in the face of Christ.

This week, pray that God will open the eyes of kids you lead so that they would see Jesus as more beautiful than anything else. Pray that rather than running from Him and doing what is right in their own eyes, they will run to Jesus and find mercy in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)

MAJOR JUDGES OF ISRAEL
Vocab Word: Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar
Judges 4-5: Deborah
Judges 6-8: Gideon
Judges 13-16: Samson



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Who is the strongest person here today? Can you show me your muscles? What do you think you would need to do to get really strong? Today, we’re going to learn about one of the strongest men in the Old Testament: Samson.”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Hairdo You Do” on the activity page.

SAY “God promised to give Samson strength and make him a judge as long as Samson did not cut his hair. Let’s read more about what Samson did with his strength.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: GUESS THE RIDDLE



Ask the class to listen to the following riddles. Allow kids to guess the answers after you read each one.

- How many months have 28 days?
(All have 28 days or more.)
- What has hands and a face but no arms or head? (a clock)
- It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. (your name)
- It has a tail and a head but no body.
(a coin)
- What two things can you never eat for breakfast? (lunch and dinner)
- Which word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? (the word short)

SAY “Riddles are fun to solve! They often have a double or hidden meaning. In our Bible story today, Samson told a riddle to the Philistines. Do you think they figured out the answer?”

OPTION 2: BRAIDS

Cut three long pieces of yarn for each kid. Hold one end of the pieces together and tape them to a table, wall, or the floor. Show kids how to braid the yarn.

Once kids are proficient at braiding, announce that the kids will be racing to braid the string. At your signal to begin, kids should braid the strings all the way to the end. The kid who braids his strings the fastest wins.

SAY “Samson’s enemies, the Philistines, wanted to capture him, so they tried to learn the secret to Samson’s strength. At one point, Samson said that weaving his braids into loom would cause him to grow weak. Do you think that was true? We’ll find out.”





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Judges 13–16. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Used Samson.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD USED SAMSON

“ The Israelites were God’s people, but they were stuck in a pattern of ignoring God, being attacked by enemies, and then calling out to God to rescue them.

When the Israelites ignored God again, **God let their enemies, the Philistines, rule over them.**

One day, the angel of the LORD spoke to a man and his wife. The angel said that they would have a son, and their son would save God’s people from the Philistines. God had special instructions for their son: He should never cut his hair.

The couple had a baby boy, and they named him Samson. God made Samson strong. When Samson grew up, he decided he wanted to marry a Philistine woman. Samson and his parents went to meet her.

Along the way, a lion jumped out and Samson killed the lion. Later, bees made honey in the lion’s body. Samson ate some of the honey and gave some to his parents.

When **Samson** got married, he **told a riddle to a group of Philistines at the wedding:**

Out of the eater came something to eat,
and out of the strong came something sweet.

The riddle was about the lion and the honey, but **the Philistines could not figure it out. They asked Samson’s bride for help. She told the men the answer.**

Samson was angry, and he left without his wife. When he went back to get her, she was gone.

Samson ran away to another city, where he fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines wanted to know why Samson was so strong, so they gave Delilah money to help them find out.

Samson told Delilah, “If you tie me up, I will be weak.” But that was not true. Then Samson said, “If you weave my hair into a loom, I will be weak.” Again, this was a lie.

Finally, **Samson told Delilah the truth: “If you cut my hair, I will be weak.”** So when Samson was sleeping, **a Philistine came and cut his hair.** Samson wasn’t strong anymore. **The Philistines grabbed him and took him away in chains.**

One day, **the Philistines made Samson stand between two pillars in their**

STORYTELLING TIPS

Wear a wig: Wear a long wig or make one out of long pieces of yarn. Put the wig on when Samson is introduced. Ask another leader to braid the wig when Samson’s hair is woven. Ask another leader to cut the wig when Samson’s hair is cut.

Act it out: Wear Bible times clothing and tell the story from the perspective of Samson.

temple. Samson cried out to God, “Lord, strengthen me once more.” So **God strengthened Samson. Samson pushed on the pillars and collapsed the temple. Samson and everyone in the temple died,** but Samson had saved the Israelites from the Philistines.

Christ Connection: Samson’s sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Samson’s story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but God sent Him to die on the cross and rise again to rescue people from sin and give them eternal life. ”

Small group Discussion/Questions

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Many people hear this story and think that Samson was strong because he had long hair. Is that why Samson was strong? No! Samson’s strength was God’s power working through him. Samson was supposed to never cut his hair because he was set apart to be used by God. His long hair was a symbol of his dedication to God. But Samson showed by his actions that he wasn’t really all that dedicated to God.

God had instructed the Israelites not to marry women who did not worship God, but Samson married a Philistine woman. The Israelites were supposed to keep their marriage vows, but Samson loved Delilah, who wasn’t his wife. But even though Samson chose to sin in these ways, he still never cut his hair, and God continued to give him strength to defeat the Philistines.

However, when Delilah accused Samson of not loving her, he told her about the Nazarite vow, and how his hair was never to be cut. God left Samson because Samson had betrayed his promise to God, showing again that he cared more about his own way than he did about honoring God.

God still used Samson, though, didn’t He? Samson was treated awfully by the Philistines. Samson realized that he needed God and cried out to God for help, so God gave Samson strength one last time. Samson gave his life to save the Israelites from their enemy, the Philistines. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Samson’s sin led to his own death, but God used his death to save the Israelites from their enemies. Samson’s story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but God sent Him to die on the cross and rise again to rescue people from sin and give them eternal life. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 9, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Is it OK to be friends with someone who doesn’t believe in God?
2. How can you show love to those who don’t follow Jesus?