



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God will give us strength to do His will if we repent of our sin.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God will give us the strength to serve Him, if we repent of our sins.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 16:17-30, The Death of Samson

MEMORY VERSE:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (Nlrv)

SUMMARY:

The strongman can perform amazing feats of strength. Despite his many mistakes, at the end of his life, Samson asked God for a second chance and God allowed him to use his strength one final time to serve Him.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us our sins, and give us your strength!

In Jesus' name,

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

“How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his do-minion endures from generation to generation.” Daniel 4:3 (NIV)

“His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end.” Daniel 4:3 (NIRV)

LARGE GROUP:

Play a hip-hop beat on the drums, and rap the memory verse for the kids, then have them repeat it back to you. Do this 3-4 times. See if they can do it the last time without reading it off the screen.

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.



SKIT

MEET THE STRONG MAN

ITEMS NEEDED:

A ringmaster's costume for Adam

A Biblical costume for Samson and the boy

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

3 M

CHARACTERS:

Adam - A circus ringmaster

Samson - A former strong man, now blind

The Boy

Adam enters and takes center stage.

ADAM: Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, gather 'round, and step right up! The Bible Circus is back to astound you with feats and sights, strange and rare! Step right up and be the first to see what God has done for these amazing people. How amazing? What if I were to tell you that we have at center ring today the strongest man in the world? A man capable of incredible feats of strength and daring! A man who once ripped the gates off a city and carried them up a hill! A man who once ripped a lion up with his bare hands! A man who killed a thousand men with just the jawbone of a donkey! Be ready to be astonished when you meet... Samson!

Samson enters, led on stage by a small boy. Samson is blind.

ADAM: Samson? Is that you?

SAMSON: It is I, master of the ring.

ADAM: No, it can't be! You're not the man who ripped the gates off the city of Gaza.

SAMSON: And carried them up a hill? Yes, that was I.

ADAM: You can't be the man who fought a lion with his bare hands!

SKIT

SAMSON: Ripping him to shreds? Yes, that was I.

ADAM: What happened to you, Samson?

SAMSON: I messed up, master of the ring. I believed in my own strength more than the God who granted it to me. I gave away the secret of that strength, and now, I am made humble.

ADAM: Are you blind?

SAMSON: Not as blind as I once was. My enemies, the Philistines, plucked out my eyes when they captured me, but they opened my eyes to see how sinful I was. I never should have taken my strength for granted. Everything I had came from the Lord, and now, it is gone.

ADAM: Samson, I'm so sorry to hear that. You were a great hero to your people.

SAMSON: Yes, and I hope to be again. Tomorrow, they will be having a great celebration, and my captors plan to bring me out and show me off as their prize.

ADAM: How horrible.

SAMSON: Ah, but what the Philistines do not know is that God is the God of second chances. Tomorrow, my small friend will lead me to the two central columns in their main party house, God will restore my strength and when I push the columns down, all the Philistines will be destroyed.

ADAM: Amazing! But wait, won't you die too, Samson? I mean, you'll be right in the middle of the building with them.

SAMSON: Better to die doing the Lord's will than to live on as a sinful man, master of the ring. God sent me to save my people, and that I intend to do.

ADAM: What incredible strength. Ladies and gentlemen, for the last time ever—

SAMSON: Second to last time.

ADAM: Second to last, but please, nobody show up to his last appearance tomorrow.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A bike helmet and pads

How many of you guys have a bike helmet and pads? How many of you have parents who have told you, “Never ride a bike without your helmet and pads?” Now be honest: how many of you ride your bikes without your helmet and pads on?

When you first learn to ride a bike, this safety gear makes you feel more secure, but the more comfortable you get on that bike, the less you feel you need them. Pride gives you a false sense of security, but just when you think you’re perfectly safe, you hit a curb or a pothole and wipe out!

Pride causes us to let our guard down on a bike, the same as it did Samson. Samson’s pride cost him his strength, his freedom, and his eyesight. Pride leads us into sin, but the good news is that when we stumble, God will forgive us and give us strength to do his will. He will give us a second chance, just as he did Samson.

Always wear a helmet on a bike, and always keep your guard up against sin. God will give you the strength to turn from sin and do his will.



LARGE GROUP GAME

MUSCLE POWER

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose four players for this game who think they have muscle power. This is a simple pushup contest. Line the players up, and whomever can do the most is the winner.

VARIATION:

For a greater challenge, make the players do pushups with only one hand!

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God will give us strength when we turn from sin.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God will give us strength to do His will if we repent of our sin.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God will give us the strength to serve Him, if we repent of our sins.

KEY PASSAGE:

Judges 16:17-30, The Death of Samson

INTRO:

In the early days of the circus one of the biggest stars of the show was the strong man. These muscle-bound maniacs dressed in skin tight, often animal-printed costumes that showed off their enormous, muscular bodies and performed incredible feats of strength. The strong man could do things impossible for an ordinary man, and some of the acts performed in the late 19th century would astonish people today. In addition to lifting giant weights over their heads, strong men could do one handed handstands, break steel chains wrapped around their bodies by flexing their rib cage, rip phone books in half, bend steel bars with their teeth, and most incredible of all – catch a cannonball fired directly at their stomach!

Strong man competitions are even more popular today, with bodybuilders, football players, professional wrestlers, and other super strong athletes competing annually for the title of the World's Strongest Man. These modern day strongmen compete by tossing logs, lifting heavy stones, pulling trucks, and tug of war to prove who is the strongest man in the whole world.

The World's Strongest Man competition is a tight race every year. I can only imagine what it would look like if Samson had competed. Samson was one of the Judges who ruled Israel in Old Testament times before they had a king. When he was born, God told his mother that he would have incredible strength, and that he would save Israel from their enemies, the Philistines.

Samson did incredible feats of strength, things that no modern strongman could possibly equal, and he single handedly kept the wicked Philistines in check.

But things did not end well for Samson. The more Samson grew in power, the more his pride grew. Samson forgot that God had blessed him with all the strength for a reason. Samson's pride led to sin, and ultimately it led to his downfall.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Samson told the secret of his strength, and that strength was taken away from him. Samson was led away in chains, and his eyes were plucked out, leaving him a blind, broken man. But something even more incredible happened after Samson's defeat. Samson asked God for a second chance, and the Lord gave it to him!

READ JUDGES 16:17-30

MAIN POINT:

Samson knew he had messed up. He had no one to blame for his fall but himself. Samson had sinned, and there was no fixing the damage his sin had caused. But when Samson asked God for another chance, God restored his strength. God gave Samson a second chance, and Samson used it to strike one final blow at the Philistines.

We are all sinners, and we all mess up every day. We hurt God and we hurt others through the prideful, selfish actions we take. But just as God gave Samson a second chance, God can forgive us and give us a second chance too. God will always forgive a repentant heart, and He will give us the strength to do His will.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Samson's story is not unique in the Bible. If you read it cover to cover, you'll see God giving second and third and fourth and fifth chances over and over. Take the story of the apostle Peter. After denying Jesus three times, Jesus forgave Peter and gave him the strength to be a leader in Christ's church here on Earth!

God also knows there is nothing we can do to make up for our sins. No matter how many good works we do, we can never pay the price for our own sinfulness. That is why God sent His Son Jesus. Jesus, who never sinned, paid the price for our sins once and for all. Because Jesus died for us, He can forgive all our sins. When we repent, and tell God we are truly sorry for our sins, He will forgive us and give us the strength to do His will.

Some sins seem like they are little. Some seem like they are big. Sometimes we may feel like we've messed up so bad, no one could ever forgive us. Sins may seem big or small in our eyes, but it's all the same to God. That means there are no "little" sins in God's eyes, but that also means there are no sins too big for God to forgive. Like a strong man lifting a heavy boulder, God will remove those sins from your heart and make you strong!

God knows you are not perfect. He knows that we are going to struggle with sin so long as we live in this world. What you need to know is that God loves you and forgiveness is only a prayer away. If you have sin you need to confess, tell God, and tell Him you are sorry.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

God will give you strength to resist that temptation the next time, and He will strengthen you to do His will.

Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." If we confess our sins, we will receive strength from the Lord.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us our sins, and give us your strength!

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

How many push ups or chin ups can you do?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have everyone get up and do some exercises to get the heart pumping and build up some muscles!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Judges 16:17-30

Who was Samson?

What secret did Samson tell Delilah?

What happened after Samson's hair was cut?

What happened when Samson asked God for a second chance?

How can we receive strength from God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for making us strong and saving us from sin.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

How many push ups or chin ups can you do?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Daniel 4:3

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have everyone get up and do some exercises to get the heart pumping and build up some muscles!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Judges 16:17-30

Why did Samson tell the secret of his strength?

What happened after Samson's hair was cut?

Does God give people second chances?

How can we receive strength from God?

Why is it important to confess our sins to God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for making us strong and saving us from sin.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Samson was a Judge who fought against the _____.

- A. Philistines*
- B. Egyptians
- C. Babylonians

Samson lost his strength when he _____.

- A. was blinded
- B. was tied up with new ropes
- C. had his hair cut off*

When Samson asked God for a second chance, God _____.

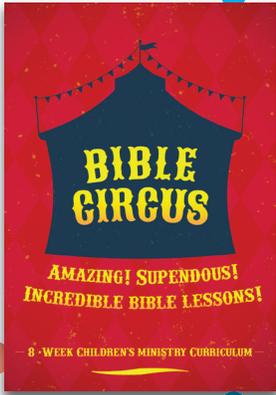
- A. ignored him
- B. restored his strength*
- C. didn't believe him

God gave Samson a second chance, and Samson _____.

- A. sacrificed himself to defeat the Philistines*
- B. regained his sight
- C. blew it

God can forgive our sins because _____.

- A. He loves us
- B. Jesus died for us
- C. Both A and B*



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Circus Lesson 6

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: SAMSON



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The strongman can perform amazing feats of strength. Despite his many mistakes, at the end of his life, Samson committed himself to God and used his strength one final time to serve Him. Judges 16:17-30, The Death of Samson



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Who is the strongest in your family? Who gets the call when something heavy needs moved, or when a jar needs to be opened? Ask your kids how God can give us strength, and what kind of strength God gives.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How did Samson lose his strength?
- How did Samson regain his strength?
- How can we gain strength by confessing our sins?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"His signs are great. His wonders are mighty. His kingdom will last forever. His rule will never end." Daniel 4:3 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

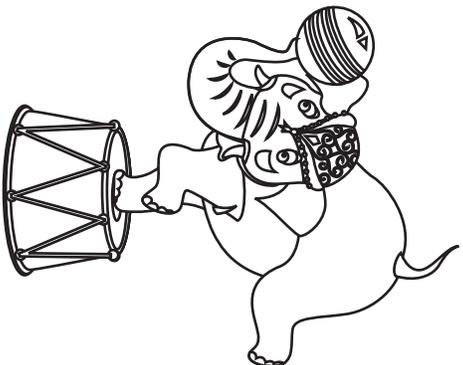
What you need to know:

When our heart is right with God, He will give us strength to resist temptation and do God's will. Ask God to give you and your children strength to live for Jesus every day.

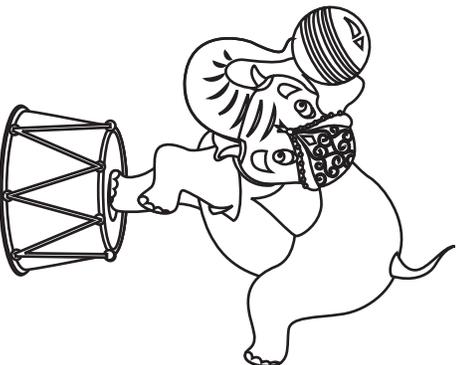


CRAFT ACTIVITY

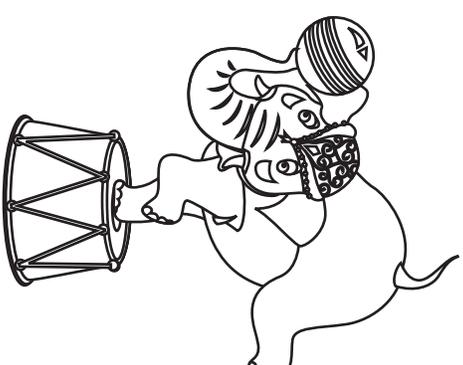
Have the kids make some strongman “weights” by taking two Dum Dum suckers and taping their sticks together with the suckers on either end. If there’s enough, let everyone make two strong man weights to take home and use to share the story of Samson with their family.



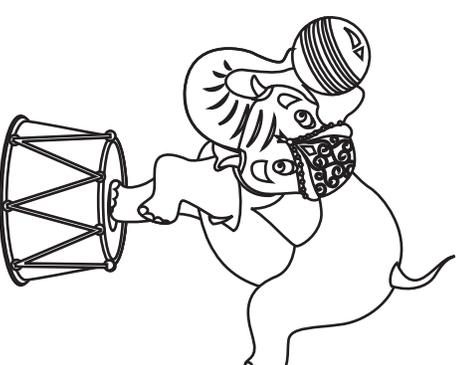
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