LESSON 17

SAMSON THE STRONG MAN



Aim: **To show the children that God gives us the abilities we need to do the work he wants us to do.**

Scripture Reading: **Judges 13:1–5, 24–25; 14:1–20**

Memory Verse: **Judges 13:24–25**
[T]he Lord blessed [Samson], and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him …

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Ask the children to describe what a good person is like. How does he or she behave? Possible answers: brave, hardworking, strong of character.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. After Gideon's death, the Israelites turned away from God once again. So God let the cruel Philistines rule them for many years (13:1–5). An Israelite called Manoah had no children. One day an angel told Manoah's wife that she would have a very special son, who would rescue Israel from the Philistines.
2. They called their son Samson. The Spirit of God made him extraordinarily strong (13:24–25). His long hair was a sign to remind him that his strength came from God (13:5).
3. When Samson was grown up he wanted to marry a Philistine girl. That made his parents sad, but Samson insisted, so they agreed in the end. Samson believed he should marry a Philistine in order to quarrel with her people and so have an excuse to free the Israelites from Philistine rule (14:1–4).
4. On the way to meet the girl Samson met a lion. God's power made Samson so strong that he killed the lion on his own, with no weapons but his bare hands (14:5–6). **Show Picture 17.**
5. Some time later, on the way to his wedding, Samson found that bees had made a nest inside the dead lion's body. He ate some of the honey (14:8–9).
6. At his wedding, Samson thought of what he had seen on the way there. To entertain his guests he turned the story into a riddle or puzzle. If they could guess the answer, Samson promised, he would give everyone a new suit of clothes. If they could not, however, every one of them had to give him a new suit of clothes (14:11–14).
7. The guests could not think of the answer. They became angry. "Samson is trying to trick us into buying him new clothes," they said. They even threatened the bride if she would not help them (14:15). **Describe how his new wife tricked the answer out of Samson (14:16–17).**

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8. When the guests gave Samson the right answer, he knew they must have heard it from his wife. He was very angry. Samson went to another Philistine town, where he killed thirty people and took their clothes. That was how he got the new clothes he had promised his guests (14:18–19).

Our Response to the Story

What gift did God give Samson? It was the gift of extraordinary strength, and he was meant to use it for doing God's work. But Samson used it for his own enjoyment and to satisfy his anger with the Philistines. This story is a warning to us. God gives us abilities and gifts first of all to help others and fulfil his purposes. Our gifts bring us the most joy when we use them to serve God and other people.

Instil the Memory Verse



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