LESSON 19



SAMSON LOSES HIS GIFT OF EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH

Aim: **To show the children that Samson lost his gift when he did not use it for the purpose God had given it to him.**

Scripture Reading: **Judges 16:4–20**

Memory Verse: **Proverbs 14:16**
A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

If someone keeps asking you a question that you don't want to answer, you may pretend not to hear them or you may just walk away. If the person goes on and on asking, you may become so tired of it you will finally tell him the answer just to make him stop.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Everyone kept asking the same question: "Where does Samson's extraordinary strength come from?" Samson loved a woman named Delilah. She, too, kept asking Samson this question: "What is the secret of your strength?" (16:4, 6).
2. Delilah was not true to Samson. The Philistine rulers promised her money if she would find out Samson's secret so that they would know how to take his strength away (16:5).
3. The first time Delilah asked Samson this, he told her that seven new bowstrings would be able to hold him. Delilah tied him up and then cried out, "Samson, the Philistines are coming for you!" Samson easily broke the bowstrings and he went off free. The Philistines were disappointed (16:6–9).
4. **Continue the story in the same way, recounting Samson's next two answers to Delilah's question: tying him up with new ropes (16:10–12) and attaching his hair securely to a loom (a heavy machine for weaving cloth; 16:13–14).** Nothing could hold Samson; the secret of his strength lay elsewhere.
5. Delilah became more and more upset with Samson's false answers, while Samson became tired of her never-ending questions. To make her shut up he told her the truth. His long hair was the sign of his God-given strength (16:15–17).
6. **Describe in your own words what happened next.** While Samson lay sleeping on Delilah's lap a man came and cut off his hair. **Show Picture 19.** This time, Samson could not escape when the Philistines came for him. They put him in prison (16:18–20).

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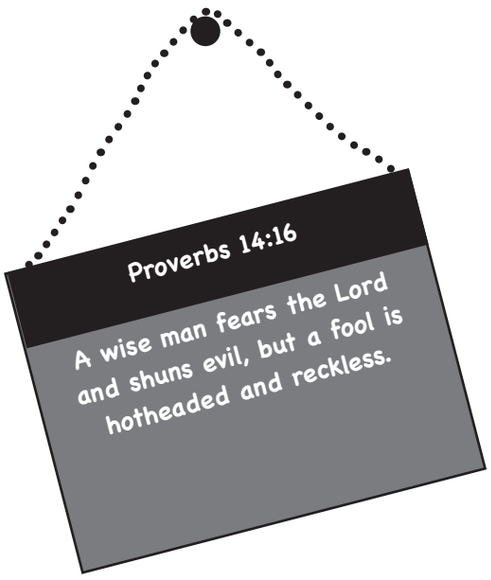


Our Response to the Story

Samson did not use his God-given strength to honour God or do God's work. Suppose someone who had been given a $100 note just tore it up and threw it away. You would be very surprised, because a gift that could have been put to good use had been wasted. This is what Samson did with his gift of extraordinary strength. He wasted it on his own selfish purposes instead of putting it to good use. When God saw how Samson misused his strength, he took it away.

Instead of listening to God's voice, Samson let himself be ruled by his hot temper.

Instil the Memory Verse



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