

Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Samson

Last week we learned that God sent an angel to tell Gideon that God had chosen him to deliver Israel. Gideon asked why Israel was suffering. The angel said God would help Israel. God was faithful to deliver Israel.

Judges 13-16

Read the Bible

READ: Judges 16:16-31 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

Don't ever get tired
of doing
the right thing.
II Thessalonians 3:13 NIV

“Once again the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord handed them over to the Philistines for 40 years.” (Judges 13:1 NIV)

The angel visited a man (Manoah) and woman from the tribe of Dan. He told them that they would have a son who would be special to God. Their son would save Israel from their enemies, the Philistines. He would be a Nazarite. A Nazarite was someone who was set apart for God. He must follow special rules and obey God. One rule was that he would not cut his hair. He was not supposed to drink wine. He was also supposed to stay away from dead bodies. (Judges 13:2-5)

Goals:

1. Understand that Samson was a Nazarite
2. Learn that Samson chose to do wrong.
3. Understand that Samson suffered the consequences for his sin.
4. Recognize that God was faithful to deliver Israel.

Samson grew up and decided to marry a Philistine woman. God had instructed the Israelites not to marry people who were not Israelites. (Deuteronomy 7:3) The woman Samson wanted to marry did not believe in God. She was from the race of the enemies of Israel. Samson’s parents explained the importance of finding someone who loved God, but Samson wouldn’t listen. He chose someone who did not have faith in God. He chose to do wrong. (Judges 14:1-3)

He went into the city and enjoyed his time with her. Samson’s parents arranged for them to be married. (Remember, in those days, the parents set up who a person married.) Samson challenged the people of her race to figure out a riddle. Secretly, they went to Samson’s fiancé and talked her into finding out the answer. (Judges 14:4-17)

Samson left, huffing and puffing. He was furious. He didn’t control his anger and it became sin in his life. Later, he found out that his fiancé was given to his best friend! Samson was so angry that he burnt up all their fields by tying up torches into foxes’ tails. (Judges 14:18-20)

Samson continued to show his strength. It was strength that came from God. God kept His promise to Samson’s parents even though Samson was disobedient.

One day he fell in love with a woman named Delilah (Da-lie-la). She lived in another city and she didn’t believe in God. (Judges 16:4) Some of the kings of the other countries found out that Samson liked her. Secretly they came to her and offered her lots of silver if she would find out where Samson’s strength came from. She

Samson – Bible Facts

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Israelites did evil before God.3. God sent Samson to deliver Israel.5. God was faithful to deliver Israel. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. God handed them over to the Philistines.4. Samson chose to do wrong. |
|---|--|

agreed. Her greed and desire for money was more important to her than a relationship with Samson. (Judges 16:5) Delilah asked Samson what would make him helpless. He told her that if someone tied him up with new string, he would be weak. (Judges 16:6-7) That night she tied him up while he was asleep. The kings were in the other room ready to capture him if it worked. (Judges 16:8-9) Surprise! Samson broke the string. Delilah was upset because she wouldn't get the money. (Judges 16:10)

Again, she asked Samson how someone could tie him up. Samson told her to weave seven braids of his hair into a loom with cloth. That night after Samson was sound asleep, she did this. But it didn't work! Samson had not told her the truth again. Now she was embarrassed again. (Judges 16:11-15) Day after day Delilah kept nagging Samson to know the truth. Finally, Samson got tired of hearing her cry. He told her all the truth. He told her that he had made a special promise to God not to cut his hair. He explained that if he cut his hair, the Spirit of God would not be with him and he would be weak. (Judges 16:16-17) Delilah knew that this was the truth. She told the kings to be there that night. (Judges 16:18)

Sure enough, when Delilah cut off his hair, he was helpless. Samson did not know that his strength was gone. Delilah's people grabbed Samson. They blinded him and made him a slave. (During this time—his hair started to grow back.) (Judges 16:19-22)

One day, they decided to have a large feast to honor their gods. The kings wanted to show off their slave, Samson. They paraded him around and placed him in between two large columns. (Judges 16:23-25)

Samson prayed to God and asked for strength one more time. Samson turned back to God and God heard his prayer. Suddenly He shouted, "Let me die with these people!" Then he pushed the columns apart. The whole place caved in. Everyone was killed, including Samson. (Judges 16:26-31) God was faithful to deliver Israel from their enemies. Jesus Christ gives us strength. He helps us face our enemies. Jesus will help us deal with bad things. God wants us to do right. "Don't ever get tired of doing the right thing." (II Thessalonians 3:13 NIV) He will help us do what is right.

Review

1. What did Israel do? (The Israelites did evil before God.)
2. What did God do? (God handed them over to the Philistines.)
3. What happened next? (God sent Samson to deliver Israel.)
4. What did Samson do? (Samson chose to do wrong.)
5. What did God do? (God was faithful to deliver Israel.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus died for us. He is alive now! Jesus came back to life three days later. Because He is alive, we know that there is hope for us when we die, if we know Jesus. We must trust Him with our whole lives. We must pray and ask Him to come into our lives. We must let him take control and do what He wants. (Teachers: Pray for the salvation of your pupils.)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you choose to do what is right.
4. Pray for friends and family members need to choose to do what is right.

Application

From the time he was born, Samson had been set apart to serve God. He was a Nazarite. But Samson chose to do wrong and he suffered the consequences for his sin. However, God was faithful to deliver Israel. God wants us to choose to do what is right.

Planning for the next week:

Ruth – Ruth 1-4

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Judges 16:16-31 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Make a puppet of Samson out of a paper sack to tell the story.

Hi! My name is Samson. I want to tell you a story that happened to me. It is in the Bible.

When I was growing up, I did not always listen to my parents. I should have listened, but I didn't. Because I did things my way, I got into a lot of trouble. My parents loved God and God had told them that I was someone very special to Him, just like you are special to God.

Believe it or not, God told them not to cut my hair. So I had very long hair. I loved God, too, but sometimes I forgot how I should act. Sometimes I would get really angry. So many people would get hurt because of my mistakes. Usually, I had to learn a lesson the hard way. Let me tell you about the hardest thing that ever happened to me.

When I grew up, I had a girlfriend who didn't believe in God. She was not always honest either. Her name was Delilah (De-lie-la). One day she asked me how I was so strong. I knew that God had made me the strongest man in the world and I knew that my hair was part of the reason I was so strong.

I knew in my heart that I could not trust Delilah, so two times I told her a lie. Sure enough, BAM! I showed her that I was still strong. Delilah was upset because I did not tell her the truth. She cried and cried because I lied to her. She kept asking me how I got my strength. Day after day, she would ask me. I got so tired of hearing her ask me this question. This time I told her the truth. I told her that if she cut my hair, I would lose all my strength.

That night she tiptoed into my house, cut my hair off and tied me up. This time my strength was gone. I was weak. She tricked me! Once again I knew that doing the wrong thing had gotten me into trouble. Not only did I not listen or obey my parents, but I also started to lie to people.

God was so good to me, even when I had done wrong. I told Him I was sorry for doing wrong and not following Him. He forgave me and helped me. He loved me so much. He loves you too!

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you choose to do what is right.

Memory verse for younger children

Don't ever get tired of doing the right thing. II Thessalonians 3:13

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Print the words of the Bible verse on index cards, one word on each card. Cut the cards in half like a puzzle piece. Hide the pieces and let the kids find them and put the verse in order.

•**Test your memory** — Make a Samson puppet out of a paper bag to tell the story. Use yarn for Samson's hair.

•**Taste activity** — Make sugar cookies in the shape of lions and foxes.

Use round crackers and shredded or squeeze cheese. Add raisins for the eyes to make a lion.

•**Think about it** — Samson made bad choices about his partners. Talk about the importance of seeking God about a partner and obeying Him.

Samson chose to do wrong. He suffered the consequences. Talk about the consequences of sin.

Make up scenarios of things the children face (friends that use bad language, friends that use drugs, etc.) Talk about how to choose to do right.

Even though Samson chose to do wrong, God was faithful to deliver Israel. Talk about God's faithfulness.

•**Touch activity** — Bring a wig with long hair. Use yarn and teach the children how to braid.

Use construction paper to make a headband with long hair.

Make balloons and use them to look like muscles.

Make a lion out of construction paper.

•**Run and play** — Build columns out of cardboard boxes. Then let the kids push the columns apart. Make sure everyone has a turn.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to choose to do right.

•**Sing** — Sing "Obedience," "Trust and Obey," or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the index cards with the memory verse for them. Pray with those who were absent about making good choices.

Don't ever
get tired
of doing
the right
thing.

II Thessalonians
3:13

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

samson

chose

to do

wrong

Word Search

T B T T R V P K A A J G W J K G F
P H D O S K S C L P K F V C J L M
S I R S R N R I K C V G S D C I P
Y D K E P C T A I L S R C H D D V
P S B J H H H G R L N D O I V M L
H S R B I T F O X E S E L V P K N
S P R V L O S G C K D L U M K S J
R K N J I R O A P F H I M K R T G
N T N I S C Y L M T C L N P S N H
J R H D T H J S F S J A S L N K P
N S T K I E R S K M O H D S G T J
J B S J N S D R T N F N P G N S K
G F T W E K R I D D L E H U F L R
S C K V S J H A I R F E C R J M S
M J N R S N G R D F N P T V K N T
L R F Q W V B T D G S S K J P L V
S B P V K T N J H C X R D L W B M

SAMSON

PHILISTINES

RIDDLE

FOXES

TAILS

TORCHES

DELILAH

HAIR

COLUMNS

Word Search

T B T T R V P K A A J G W J K G F
P H D O S K S C L P K F V C J L M
S I R S R N R I K C V G S D C I P
Y D K E P C T A I L S R C H D D V
P S B J H H H G R L N D O I V M L
H S R B I T F O X E S E L V P K N
S P R V L O S G C K D L U M K S J
R K N J I R O A P F H I M K R T G
N T N I S C Y L M T C L N P S N H
J R H D T H J S F S J A S L N K P
N S T K I E R S K M O H D S G T J
J B S J N S D R T N F N P G N S K
G F T W E K R I D D L E H U F L R
S C K V S J H A I R F E C R J M S
M J N R S N G R D F N P T V K N T
L R F Q W V B T D G S S K J P L V
S B P V K T N J H C X R D L W B M

SAMSON

PHILISTINES

RIDDLE

FOXES

TAILS

TORCHES

DELILAH

HAIR

COLUMNS

Word Search

F C K B P V S G B J R H
G P H I L I S T I N E S
P R G P M T S B F R G K
S A M S O N B H T Y K F
J R V M P D G B P R V H
M F P K S D E L I L A H
W B M L S T F G P B C M
P A R E N T S H F G T D
S M V D N C S J C D P F
H K N J S E N E M I E S
F R G S C B K P F C T S
H A I R L M G M H B S T

PARENTS

SAMSON

DELILAH

PHILISTINE

ENEMIES

HAIR

Word Search

F C K B P V S G B J R H

G P H I L I S T I N E S

P R G P M T S B F R G K

S A M S O N B H T Y K F

J R V M P D G B P R V H

M F P K S D E L I L A H

W B M L S T F G P B C M

P A R E N T S H F G T D

S M V D N C S J C D P F

H K N J S E N E M I E S

F R G S C B K P F C T S

H A I R L M G M H B S T

PARENTS

SAMSON

DELILAH

PHILISTINE

ENEMIES

HAIR

Anagram

AAONHM

LNGAE

TRNZAAIE

IRAH

EST TRAAP

RSAPETN

SHEOC

ONRGW

EEEOUNNCCSSQ



Anagram

MANOAH

ANGEL

NAZARITE

HAIR

SET APART

PARENTS

CHOSE

WRONG

CONSEQUENCES