

Materials I Need:**Legend:**



 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“Then Samson prayed to the LORD, ‘O sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more.’” Judges 16:28

Hook:

Judges Sin Cycle Hopscotch (Review/Game). ,  Use the Hopscotch game from the first week’s lesson (**JDG01.GF3 Pgs. 1 & 2**) for review. This week add Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson to the judges’ names already in the squares. Have the entire team say the following:

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Othniel, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Ehud, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Shamgar, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Deborah, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Gideon, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Tola, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Jair, Rest for the nation.



Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Jephthah, Rest for the nation.



Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Ibzan, Rest for the nation.


Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Elon, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Abdon, Rest for the nation.

Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration by Samson, Rest for the nation.

Review the Judges (Review/Game). ,  Use the Judges “activity cards” from **JDG02.GF12 Pgs. 1 - 3**, to review the judges that we have studied so far. Introduce Samson today. You may also choose to play one of the games associated with the cards.

Promises, Promises, and the Nazarite Vow (Discussion). ,  Ask the students if they have ever made a promise. What types of promises have they made? Is it easy to keep promises, and are they able to keep them? Talk about the difficulty of keeping promises exactly as they are made, not even fudging a little bit. Using **JDG04.GF1**, discuss with the children what it would have been like to make and live up to the Nazarite vow. In today’s Bible Adventure, they will hear about someone who was supposed to be set apart for God by this Nazarite vow, his ability or inability to keep the vow, and the consequences he faced.

Seven Consequences of Sin (Discussion).  The Bible Adventure is about a man who made a promise (vow) to God. He failed to keep his vow. Sometimes when we become angry or vengeful, we may have a tendency to want everything our way. God tells us that this is sin. God also tells us that there are consequences for sin. Discuss with the students some of the consequences of sins, using **JDG04.GF2** to compare what the Bible says the consequences are.

- What Do You Know About Samson? (Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Ask the students who Samson was, and write their answers/thoughts on half of the white board. To get them started you may need to ask more specific questions (i.e., In what book of the Bible do we find him? What did he do? What were some of his characteristics?) Most of them probably know that he was strong, had long hair, and that he knocked down a temple. Tell them to listen closely to today's Bible Adventure to find out if what is written on the board is correct, and what else they may be surprised to learn about Samson and his life. (See LOOK time for follow-up.)
- What Is Strength? (Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Ask the students what strength is. What are some different kinds of strength (i.e., physical, spiritual, emotional, moral character, brainpower, etc.)? What are the positive things that come from possessing these different types of strength? How do we become strong in these different areas? How does God fit into the picture here? What might some negatives be to having strength? How do the choices we make to use our strength affect our lives and the lives of those around us? Today's Bible Adventure is about a man named Samson to whom God gave GREAT physical strength. Ask the students to listen to hear how he used this strength and how it affected the lives of the people in his time.
- Choosing Your Spouse and Friends (Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Samson made poor and selfish choices in whom he selected for his wives and friends. Talk about what makes good friends, and what we should look for in a husband or wife.
- I've Got A Secret (Activity).** 🦋, 🦋 As the students enter the classroom, have one of the teachers tell some of them a secret. Have the teachers and the other students spend the HOOK time trying to get those who know the secret to tell them what it is. Anything goes...bribery included! When someone tells us a secret, we should keep that secret and not tell anyone (unless it will hurt someone or is against the law).
- Test Your Strength (Activity).** 🦋, 🦋 Bring in a weight set or free-weights and give the students an opportunity to lift them. Be careful to watch the students individually to avoid injuries. You might invite someone to your class who lifts weights regularly so the students can see their muscles. Tell them that Samson's supernatural strength was given to him from God.
- Do You Have Self-Control? (Activity).** 🦋, 🦋 Set up a table and let several students take turns sitting with you. Have really interesting items available for them to touch. Instruct the students not to touch any of the items until told to do so. Have a bowl of treats on the table and periodically take one for yourself. Tell the students that they will be allowed to have a treat at the end. Ask them what they would do if the teacher were not at the table, yet the instructions were the same (not to touch any item or have a treat until instructed to do so). Would they have the same amount of self-control? This exercise will hopefully give you something to refer back to during the BOOK time as you talk about self-control.
- Answer This Riddle (Activity).** 🦋, 🦋 Bring in a book of riddles and let the students have fun trying to guess the answers, or use the riddles below. Samson used a riddle to trick the Philistines into giving him costly fabrics and clothing. Because of his lack of self-control and poor choices, Samson ended up with drastic consequences.
1. Why is a bad riddle like a poor pencil? (It has no point.)
 2. What flowers do you always wear? (Tulips – two lips.)
 3. What has ears but can't hear? (A cornstalk.)
 4. My face is marked, my hands keep moving; I've no time to play – I must run all day. (A clock.)
 5. What are the biggest ants in the world? (GI – ANTS.)
 6. What is lighter than a feather, but you can't hold it for ten minutes? (Your breath.)
-



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Samson, the Hairy Man of Steel (Presentation Idea). 🦋, 🦋 Dress up with a wig and long underwear stuffed with “muscles.” Make a jawbone out of cardboard to hang from your belt. Act out the Bible Adventure from the perspective of Samson reflecting on his life—the mistakes he made and the consequences he had to face. Make sure that you stress the fact that Samson was not necessarily a nice man. He was a sinner who was chosen by God to do His will.



Self-Control (Activity). 🦋, 🦋 Ask the students NOT to do something while listening to the Bible Adventure. Tell them that during the Bible Adventure their self-control will be tested. (Choose something age-appropriate that will not disrupt the teaching time such as: Give each student a lifesaver candy. Instruct them to put it in their mouths but NOT to bite or break it. Or tell them to keep their feet on the floor and NOT cross their feet or legs the entire time, or to fold their hands and NOT move them during the story.) Tell them that they should make sure they are self-controlled and not to be concerned about what their neighbor is doing! Reward those students who were self-controlled with a small treat.



Pledging Self-Control for the Bible Adventure Time (Activity). 🦋, 🦋 Lead the students in making promises to sit still and have self-control during this morning’s Bible Adventure time. You can have them recite a pledge/promise or sign a more formal commitment. Give them something to hang around their necks, pin to their clothes, or wear on their arms to remind them that they have taken this vow to have self-control. Tell them that they will hear about a very gifted man who broke his promise and suffered a great consequence.



The Foxes Burn the Fields (Illustration/Coloring Page). Judges 15:3-5, **JDG04.GF3.**



Samson Fights the Philistines (Illustration/Coloring Page). Judges 15:14-17, **JDG04.GF4.**



Samson Is Blinded (Illustration/Coloring Page). Judges 16:18-21, **JDG04.GF5.**



Samson’s Death (Illustration/Coloring Page). Judges 16:28-31, **JDG04.GF6.**

Bible Adventure –

There is an old saying that goes like this: “Same song, second verse: a whole lot louder and a whole lot worse!” People say it when they see the same bad thing happening over and over again. Perhaps this should be our theme song as we watch the Israelites fall into their sin cycles in the book of Judges. Do you remember the cycle of sin the Israelites kept repeating? First, they rebelled against God. Then God disciplined them, they regretted their foolishness, and they cried out to God in repentance. God raised up a judge to restore the nation to Himself so that, lastly, the nation could be at rest.

After Gideon, God raised up seven other judges to restore peace to various parts of Israel. These men brought rest to their portion of the land for a total of 81 years. But, alas, we read for the seventh time in the book of Judges: “Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD...” (Judges 13:1) The people chose to rebel against God again! But God, in His compassion and mercy, raised up one last judge, a man by the name of Samson. Samson was not the kind of man we would expect God to raise up as a judge. He was a contrast of physical strength and spiritual weakness. But in spite of Samson’s sinful weaknesses, God used him to accomplish His purposes for Israel.

Samson was the son of a man named Manoah. He and his wife had been trying to have children for years but were unsuccessful. This is a sad thing for any couple so you can imagine Samson’s mother’s joy when an angel of the Lord appeared to her and declared, “You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son” (Judges 13:3). The angel then gave specific instructions on how Samson was to be raised. He was never to cut his hair, he was never to drink wine or eat any unclean foods and he was not to touch a dead body. The angel explained that the boy would be a Nazirite of God from birth until the day of his death. Samson’s mother went to her husband and told him the exciting news. They were going to have a son, and he would be set apart by God to be a judge of the nation of Israel.

But Samson's parents did a poor job of raising him to be a godly man. Samson consistently made bad choices and was spoiled and demanded his own way. He had a hot temper and didn't have the self-control to keep him from doing the wrong thing.

As a young man, Samson's spoiled nature displayed itself in his determination to marry a Philistine woman—one of the enemies of Israel. His parents tried to talk him out of it because she was a foreign woman who worshipped idols but Samson insisted. His parents gave in and a wedding day was set. Samson and his family threw a seven-day wedding feast at the home of the bride's parents, as was the custom of the day. You would have expected the bride to be happy and excited, but she was not. She was in tears because Samson had made a foolish bet that forced her to choose between him and her family. Samson bet 30 new friends (his wife's family and friends) that he could tell a riddle that they wouldn't be able to figure out. If they couldn't guess the correct answer, they would have to give him 30 linen garments and 30 suits of clothes. If they figured out the riddle, Samson would have to give them 30 linen garments and 30 suits of clothes. Samson's wife cried and begged for the entire week of the wedding feast trying to coerce Samson into giving her the answer to the riddle. Because she continued to press him, on the last day of the feast Samson told her the answer. She immediately ran to her people and explained the riddle so they could win the bet. Well, Samson was a poor loser! In his fury, he went out and killed 30 Philistines to get the clothes he owed his wife's family. And he was so mad at his wife for taking sides against him that he gave her away to his best man! Later, when Samson had cooled down, he regretted giving his wife away and tried to get her back. But his father-in-law said absolutely not! He wouldn't let Samson see her, and he gave her away permanently to the best man. Again, Samson's fury began to boil. His lack of self-control led him to a cruel action. He captured 300 foxes and tied their tails together in pairs. He then lit them on fire and the foxes ran through the Philistine's fields in a panic. All the crops were destroyed. Needless to say, the Philistines were very angry and came to find Samson.

The Israelites feared the Philistines so they tied Samson up and handed him over to them. As the Philistines came to get him they shouted a war cry, but the Spirit of the Lord came down upon Samson, and he became so powerful that he was able to snap the ropes that bound him. He then grabbed the jawbone of a donkey and struck down 1000 Philistines all by himself. From that point on Samson led Israel for 20 years and kept the Philistines from harming them.

Near the end of Samson's rule as a judge, Samson fell in love with another Philistine woman named Delilah. This was foolish and reckless on Samson's part because Delilah was a greedy pagan woman with evil intentions. Judges 16:5 tells us, "The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, 'See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.'" Hungry for their money, she came to Samson and said, "Tell me the secret of your great strength." Samson should have known better, but instead he decided to play games with her and lie. "If anyone ties me with seven fresh thongs (leather ties) that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man." The Philistines brought her seven fresh thongs, and she tied Samson up. With the Philistines hidden in the room, she cried, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But Samson snapped the leather as if they were weak strings and the secret of his strength was not revealed.

Delilah tried again and again to get Samson to tell her why he was so strong. He lied and told her his strength would be gone if he was tied with new, fresh ropes. Then he told her that if she wove the seven braids of his hair and tied them with a pin, his strength would be gone. But still the secret of his strength was not revealed.

Finally, Samson got sick of Delilah's nagging, whining, and begging to tell her the secret of his strength. Finally, he told her the truth: that if she shaved his head, his strength would leave him because he had taken the Nazirite vow. While Samson slept, the Philistines shaved his hair and his strength left him. Delilah again cried, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" Samson awoke, thinking he was as strong as ever, but he was in for a bitter surprise. He was powerless because he had broken his promise to God. Samson's strength wasn't in his hair but in his obedience to God!

The Philistines grabbed him, gouged his eyes out and took him down to Gaza where they made fun of him and his God. They were happy and had a big celebration because of Samson's capture. They cheered, "Our god has delivered Samson into our hands." They brought Samson out to entertain them. Samson was utterly humiliated. His choices and friends had put him in the worst kind of prison.

In the end, however, Samson cried to God for help. "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes" (Judges 16:28). In a crowded Philistine temple, Samson pushed with all his might two supporting pillars and the entire temple came crashing down, killing thousands of people, including Samson.

Clearly, it was not because Samson was a godly man that God used him. God had worked through Samson's bad, selfish, out-of-control choices to punish the evil Philistines and work out His perfect plan. And just as He used foolish Samson, God worked out His purposes for all of Israel even though they repeatedly rebelled against Him. We can see that God is merciful and patient with His children despite their many failures.

Samson was very spoiled. He wanted what he wanted when he wanted it! He had no self-control over his feelings and desires. We learn from the life of Samson the vital importance of developing self-control. Without it, we will make foolish choices like Samson and face devastating consequences.

Our study of the book of Judges reveals to us just how powerful God is and how patient He is toward His children. Even through all their cycles of sin, God helped the Israelites when they repented of their rebellion. God is still the same today for those of us who are His children. Because Jesus died and forgave us of every sin we will ever commit, God will always be patient with us. God is all-powerful and will take even our mistakes and work them out for His perfect plan. Never forget the promise of Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

Aim Questions:

1. **What is the five-step cycle of failure?** *Rebellion, Regret, Repentance, Restoration, and Rest.*
2. **Which judge did God choose to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines?** *Samson.*
3. **As Samson grew up, what were his greatest weaknesses?** *He lacked self-control over his temper and was spoiled.*
4. **What did Samson do at his first wedding?** *He told a riddle and made a foolish bet, which he lost.*
5. **What was the real reason behind Samson's power?** *God's power was in him through his obedience to the Nazirite vow.*
6. **What was the name of the woman who got the secret from him?** *Delilah.*
7. **What happened to Samson when he disobeyed God and revealed the secret?** *God's power left him, and he had his eyes gouged out!*
8. **What one last event took place at the end of Samson's life?** *God allowed him to destroy many of the Philistines.*



Look:



Good Choice/Bad Choice (Worksheet). 🦋 Have students read each of the stories of Samson and then decide if the choice that Samson made was a good choice or a bad choice. Remind the students that God was able to use him even when he made mistakes, **JDG04.GF7 Pgs. 1-4.**



What Do You Know About Samson? (Follow-Up Discussion). 🦋, 🦋 Ask the students to look at the information on the board that was written during the HOOK time. Can they identify any incorrect information? If so, ask a student to come up and erase that information about Samson's life and change it to the correct information. Call on students to give additional information that they learned today. What did they learn about his character? God used him despite the choices he made, but Samson suffered great consequences because of those choices. What were the consequences to the choices made by Samson?

- Samson's Mistake (Worksheet).** 🦋 Have students complete the puzzle and discuss the questions. *Answer Key: Across: 1. jawbone; 3. blinded; 6. God; 8. Nazirite; 9. Delilah; 11. Samson; 12. secret; Down: 1. Judges; 2. prisoner; 4. Israelites; 5. Dagon; 7. Philistines; 10. hair, JDG04.GF8.*
- Why Samson? (Worksheet).** 🦋, 🦋 Have students look up the Bible verses at the bottom of the page to discover which one would help Samson with his poor choices. Have them cut the Bible verses out and glue them in the correct area, **JDG04.GF9.**
- Help!! (Memory Verse Activity).** 🦋 Today's verse has lost all of its vowels! Have students return them to their places, **JDG04.GF10.**
- Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🦋 Have students answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure, **JDG04.GF11.**
- Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **JDG04.GF12.**

 **Songs:**

- Sin Cycle** 🦋 (tune: "Frere Jacques")
 Sin was punished; sin was punished. *(Raise one fist straight up to the sky.)*
 "Help," they cried; "Help," they cried. *(Fold your hands in a prayer position.)*
 Go-od sent a ju-udge; Go-od sent a ju-udge. *(Bring down your fist like a gavel.)*
 Peace outside; peace inside. *(Stretch out your arms, smile, then pat your heart.)*

- Can We Take the Land?** 🦋 (tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")
 Can we take the land? Can we trust the Lord? *(March with your arms.)*
 Chariots are way too strong. *(Flex your muscles.)*
 We will just give up. *(Relax your body in a slump.)*

- Can we take the land? Can we trust the Lord? *(March with your arms.)*
 God is bigger; God is stronger. *(Flex your muscles.)*
 We will not give up. *(Sit up straight and breathe deeply.)*

- There Was a Judge From Israel** 🦋 (tune: "B-I-N-G-O")
 (Write the four judges' names on the board so the students can spell them as they sing.)

- There was a judge from Is-ra-el
 And Othniel was his name-o. *(Insert the names Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, and Samson in the next verses.)*
 O-T-H, N-I-E-L...O-T-H, N-I-E-L...O-T-H, N-I-E-L
 And Othniel was his name-o.



Took:

- Here Comes The Judge (Review Game).** 🦋, 🦋 Use the hand signals below to help the students remember the judges.

Ehud, the Left-Handed Judge: Form an "L" with your left hand using your thumb, index, and middle finger. Use your left hand to reach across your waist, pull out an imaginary sword from its sheath and hold it up with your arm straight forward.

Deborah, the Lady Leader, a Prophetess, and a Judge: Make a hand motion from the top of the head down to the neck to indicate long, flowing hair (lady leader). Put your hand to your mouth with fingertips together, and then bring away and open hand as if words are coming forth (prophetess). Pound one hand in the open palm of the other hand as if it were a gavel (judge).




Gideon—From Fleeces to Flaming Torches: Rub one open hand on your other arm (fleece). Hold your arm up as if bearing a torch (torch).




Strong Samson/Weak Samson: Put both arms up as if flexing muscles in a body builder pose (strong). Do a thumbs down sign with both hands (weak).

 **My Potential for God Puppet (Craft/Discussion).** ,  Each student will need:

JDG04.GF13 copied onto cardstock
2 chenille wires
brads
a craft stick
¼ piece of construction paper
scissors
coloring crayons or markers

Samson had great potential. God had selected him to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines. His selfish and uncontrolled character brought on harsh consequences for himself. God still used him, however, even with his faults. Using **JDG04.GF13**, have students write on the body parts their unique skills, abilities, and personal character traits that are unique to him or her. Cut these out, connecting the body parts with brads, and attach to craft stick as shown. Attach wires to the hands and operate like a puppet. Construct the pocket to store the puppet using the remaining portion of the sheet of construction paper. If you have access to an instant camera, or want to take pictures this week and complete the craft next week, you could add a photo of the student's actual face to the face of the puppet. Talk with them about how God has created each one of them uniquely to serve Him. Ask them how they think God will use them in their lives.

 **Vowing to Serve God (Discussion/Activity).** ,  Talk with the students about how they think God might use them in their lives. Explain that our purpose, as children of God, is to glorify Him in all that we do. Our lives are to be focused on serving Him and displaying Him to others. Use **JDG04.GF14**, and ask the students to write a personal note to God. The note should contain some words of heartfelt adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God for who He has created them to be. Ask the students to include some ideas or prayers as to how God might use them during their lives. Instruct the students to meditate on what they have written in the note during this week and make any additions they want to make. They should then pray and watch for opportunities for God to use them. The note is then to be folded up and dated for sometime in the future (at least six months). At that time, they can look at the note and see if God has been using them to their full potential.

 **Are You Self-Controlled? (Activity).** ,  This is a great game to play to see if the students are practicing self-control. You will need a large sheet queen size or larger for the younger students and a parachute for the older ones. Have everyone in the class sit around the perimeter of the sheet or parachute. Every student needs to listen to the teacher's instruction. If they do not, they will be out for a round. (You will need to strictly enforce this for the game to have an impact). When the teacher calls out a command, the student must do it. Suggestions:

1. Certain students may go under the sheet while the rest of the class holds it up
2. Play a game with a ball and see how long you can keep it on
3. Play a game with a ball and see which side loses the ball first.

When the sheet is at rest, the students cannot be shaking it, etc. This will show which students are self-controlled.

Promises, Promises, and the Nazirite Vow

Could you meet the challenge?
Can you keep the promise?

“If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of separation (set apart) to the Lord as a Nazirite...”

(You must keep **ALL** of your promises.)

Numbers 6:2

Yes?

No

“No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth...” (not even a haircut or a trim)

Judges 13:5

Yes?

No

“...he must abstain from wine and other fermented drink...he must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins.”

Numbers 6:3-4

(not even green grapes or raisin bran)

Yes?

No

“...he must not go near a dead body. Even if his own father or mother or brother or sister dies...” (no funerals)

Numbers 6:6-7

Yes?

No

When the period of his separation is over the Nazirite is to make offerings and shave off his hair in front of the tent of meeting and burn it in the fire that is under the sacrifice of the fellowship offering.

Numbers 6:13-19

Yes?

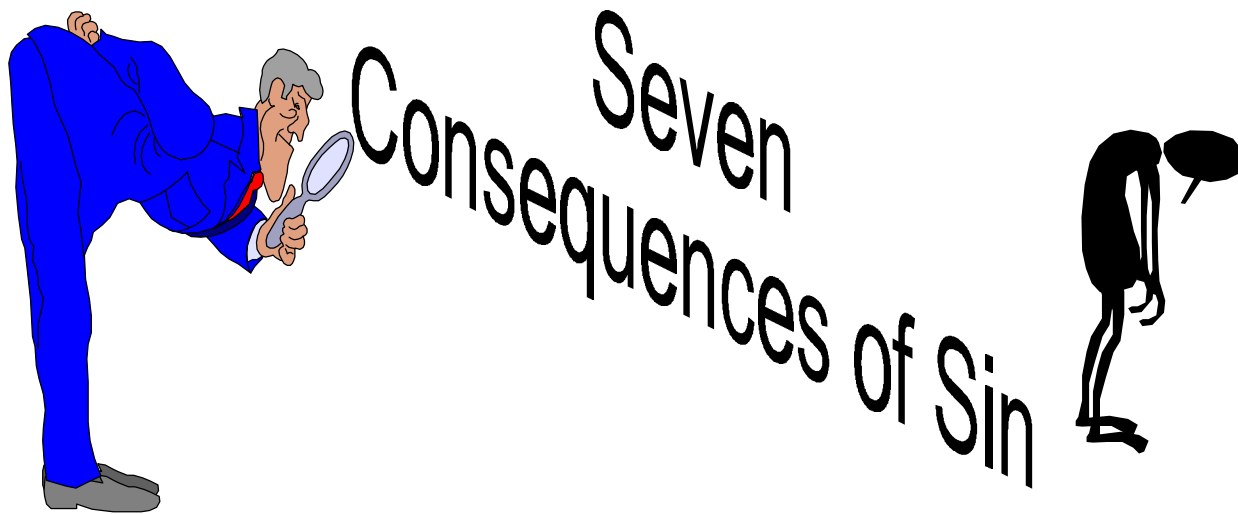
No

He must be holy and fulfill the vow he has made, according to the law of the Nazirite. (no lying, cheating, stealing)

Numbers 6: 5, 21

Yes?

No



1. It brought immediate judgment upon Satan.
Rev. 12:9
2. It will someday doom Satan forever in hell.
Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10
3. It brought physical death upon man.
Gen. 5:5; Psalm 90:10
4. It brought spiritual death upon man.
Matt. 7:23; 25:41; Rev. 2:11; 20:6;14; 21:8
5. It brought disorder and pain to nature.
Gen. 3:17; Rom. 8:19-22
6. It served as an object lesson for the angels.
1 Cor. 4:9; 1 Tim. 5:21; Gal. 3:19; 1 Pet. 1:12; Heb. 1:14
7. It caused God to end His rest after creation and begin His work of redemption.
Gen. 2:1-2; John 5:17; 9:4; Phil. 1:6

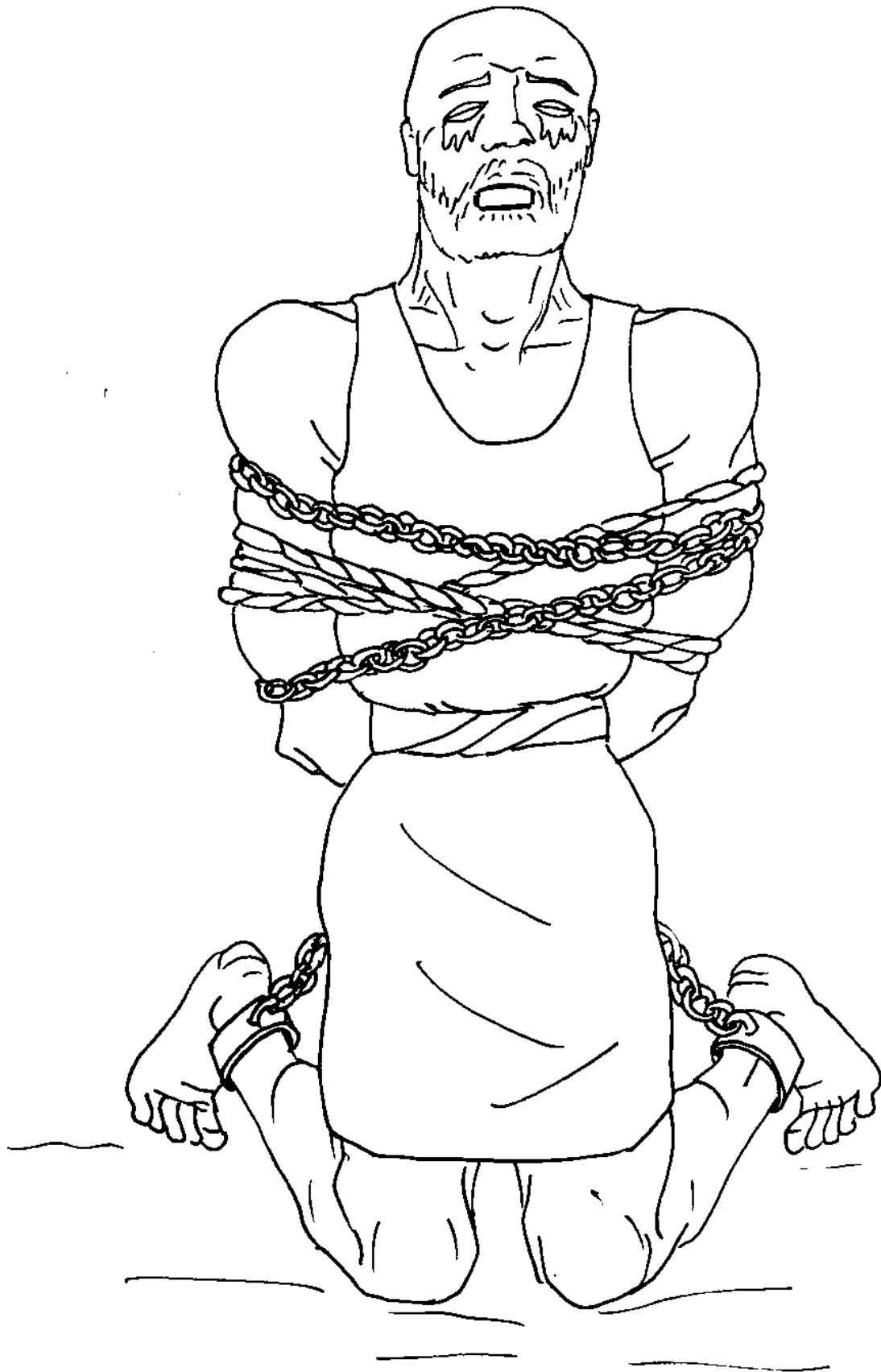
The Foxes Burn the Fields



Samson Fights the Philistines



Samson Is Blinded



Samson's Death



Good Choices/Bad Choices

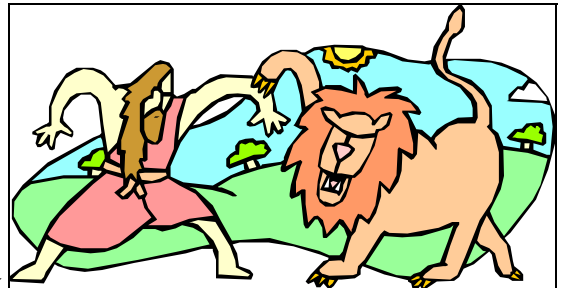
Read each of the stories of Samson and then decide if the choice that Samson made was a good choice or a bad choice. Remember that God was able to use him even when he made mistakes.

#1

Judges 14:1-4

“Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, ‘I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.’ His father and mother replied, ‘Isn’t there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?’ But Samson said to his father, ‘Get her for me. She’s the right one for me.’” (His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.)

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

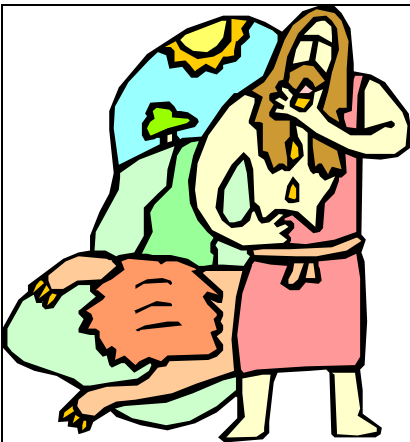


#2

Judges 14:5-6

“Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice



#3

Judges 14:7-9

“Then he (Samson) went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her. Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion’s carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey, which he scooped out with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion’s carcass.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#4

Judges 14:10-20

“Now his father went down to see the woman. And Samson made a feast there, as was customary for bridegrooms. When he appeared, he was given thirty companions. ‘Let me tell you a riddle,’ Samson said to them. ‘If you can give me the answer within the seven days of the feast, I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. If you can’t tell me the answer, you must give me thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes.’ ‘Tell us your riddle,’ they said. ‘Let’s hear it.’ He replied, ‘Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet.’ For three days they could not give the answer. On the fourth day, they said to Samson’s wife, ‘Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father’s household to death. Did you invite us here to rob us?’ [Samson’s wife sobbed and pestered him the whole seven days of the feast until he told her the answer. Then she told the answer to her people.] Before sunset on the seventh day the men of the town said to him, ‘What is sweeter than

honey? What is stronger than a lion?’ Samson said to them, ‘If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle.’ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father’s house. And Samson’s wife was given to the friend who had attended him at his wedding.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#5

Judges 15:1-5

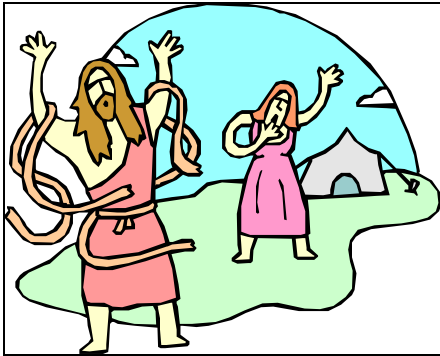
“Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, ‘I’m going to my wife’s room.’ But her father would not let him go in. ‘I was so sure you thoroughly hated her,’ he said, ‘that I gave her to your friend. Isn’t her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead.’ Samson said to them, ‘This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them.’ So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and the standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#6

Judges 15: 6-8

“When the Philistines asked, ‘Who did this?’ they were told, ‘Samson, the Timnite’s son-in-law, because his wife was given to his friend.’ So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death. Samson said to them, ‘Since you’ve acted like this. I won’t stop until I get my revenge on you.’ He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. Then he went down and stayed in a cave in the rock of Etam.”

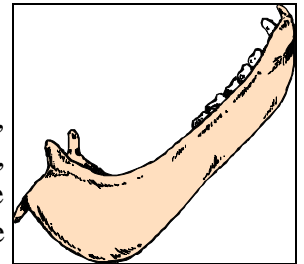


Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#7

Judges 15:9-17

“The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, spreading out near Lehi. The men of Judah asked, ‘Why have you come to fight us?’ ‘We have come to take Samson prisoner,’ they answered, ‘to do to him as he did to us.’ Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, ‘Don’t you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?’ He answered, ‘I merely did to them what they did to me.’ They said to him, ‘We’ve come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines.’ Samson said, ‘Swear to me that you won’t kill me yourselves.’ ‘Agreed,’ they answered. ‘We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you.’ So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men. Then Samson said, ‘With a donkey’s jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey’s jawbone I have killed a thousand men.’ When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone; and the place was called Ramath Lehi.”



Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#8

Judges 15:8-20

“Because he was very thirsty, he cried out to the Lord, ‘You have given your servant this great victory. Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?’ Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring

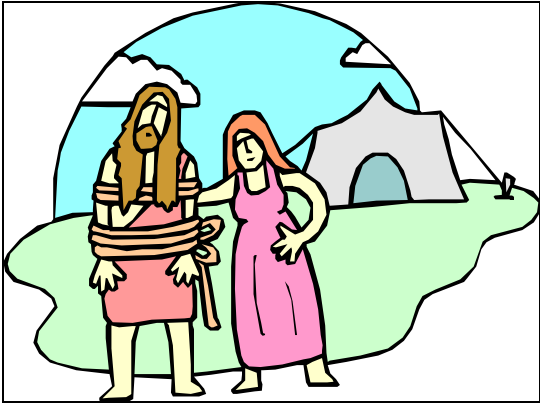
was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi. Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#9

Judges 16:1-3

“One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. The people of Gaza were told, ‘Samson is here!’ So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, ‘At dawn we’ll kill him.’ But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.”



Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#10

Judges 16:4-9

“Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, ‘See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.’ So Delilah said to Samson, ‘Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.’ Samson answered her, ‘If anyone ties me with seven fresh thongs that have not been dried, I’ll become as weak as any other man.’ Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh thongs that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. With men hidden in the room, she called to him, ‘Samson, the Philistines are upon you!’ But he snapped the thongs as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#11

Judges 16: 10-12

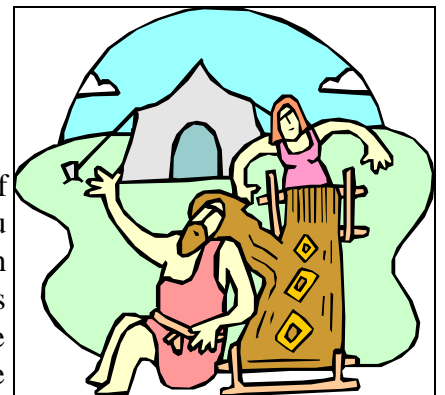
“Then Delilah said to Samson, ‘You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied.’ He said, ‘If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I’ll become as weak as any other man.’ So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, ‘Samson, the Philistines are upon you!’ But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#12

Judges 16:13-14

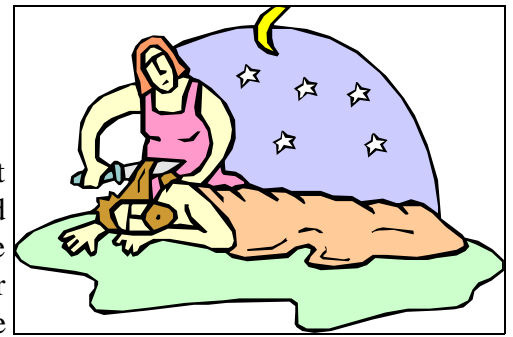
“Delilah then said to Samson, ‘Until now you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied.’ He replied, ‘If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.’ So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric and tightened it with the pin. Again she called to him, ‘Samson, the Philistines are upon you!’ He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.”



Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#13

Judges 16:15-22



“Then she said to him, ‘How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.’ With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. So he told her everything. ‘No razor has ever been used on my head,’ he said, ‘because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.’ When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines. ‘Come back once more; he has told me everything.’ So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. Then she called, ‘Samson, the Philistines are upon you!’ He awoke from his sleep and thought, ‘I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.’ But he did not know that the Lord had left him. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad choice

#14

Judges 16:23-30

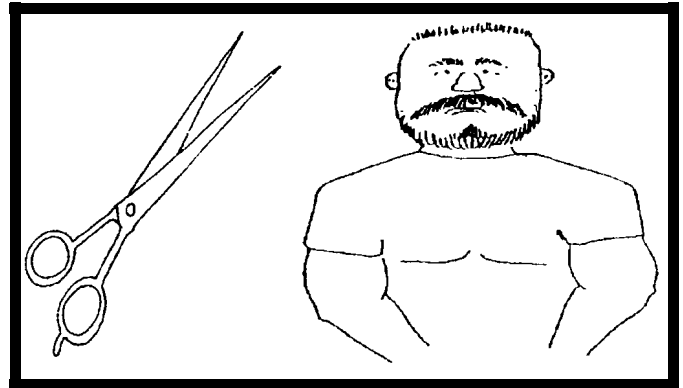
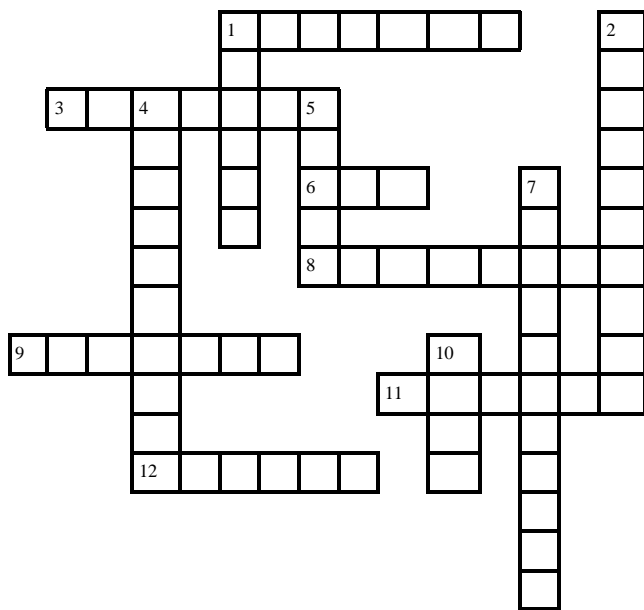
“Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, ‘Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.’ When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, ‘Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain.’ While they were in high spirits, they shouted, ‘Bring out Samson to entertain us.’ So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, ‘Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.’ Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, ‘O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.’ Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.”

Circle one: Good choice Bad



choice

SAMSON'S MISTAKE



FOR DISCUSSION

1. What things about Samson do you think might have disappointed his parents?
2. Do you think it was okay for Samson to marry a Philistine woman? Why or why not?
3. Pretend that Samson came to you and asked you about who he should marry. What advice would you give him?
4. If you were to marry, how would you know what kind of person you should marry?
5. What are some situations in which God can use people's weaknesses to accomplish His purposes?

ACROSS

1. Samson killed 1000 Philistines with this.
3. The Philistines did this to Samson's eyes.
6. Samson's strength really came from ____.
8. Samson never cut his hair because of this vow.
9. Samson's temptress.
11. Judge known for his strength.
12. Delilah wanted to know Samson's _____.

DOWN

1. The book of the Bible we are studying.
2. Samson became the Philistines' _____.
4. God's chosen people.
5. Philistine temple that Samson destroyed.
7. Israel's enemies were the _____.
10. With this cut, Samson's strength was gone.

NAZIRITE

Can you make 10 words from our Bible Adventure out of the word NAZIRITE?

“Then Samson prayed to the LORD, ‘O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.’”

Judges 16:28

HELP!!

TODAY'S VERSE LOST ALL OF ITS VOWELS. WE FOUND THEM, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RETURN THEM TO THEIR PROPER PLACES.

(HINT; CROSS OUT THE VOWELS AS YOU USE THEM.)

A
A
A

E E E E
E E E E
E E E E
E E E E

I

O O O
O O O
O O O
O

U

"Th__n S__ms__n pr__y__d t__
th__ L__RD, '__ S__v__r__gn
L__RD, r__m__mb__r m__. __
G__d, pl__ __s__ str__ngth__n
m__ j__st __nc__ m__r__."

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What is the five-step cycle of failure (sin)?
2. Which judge did God choose to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines?
3. As Samson grew up, what were his greatest weaknesses?
4. What did Samson do at his first wedding?
5. What was the real reason behind Samson's power?
6. What was the name of the woman who got the secret from him?
7. What happened to Samson when he disobeyed God and revealed the secret?
8. What one last event took place at the end of Samson's life?

*Are there areas of your life where you lack self-control?
Without self-control we make foolish choices.
Avoid the negative consequences of making mistakes by
asking God to give you the strength to say "NO" to foolish choices.*



"Then Samson prayed to the LORD,
'O Sovereign LORD, remember me.
O God, please strengthen me just once more.' "
Judges 16:28

27. What did Delilah do after Samson fell asleep? 16:19

28. What did the Philistines do to Samson after his head was shaved? 16:21

29. Samson's hair began to grow again while he was in prison. The rulers of the Philistines assembled together to offer sacrifices to Dagon their god and decided that they wanted Samson to entertain them. Tell the events that led up to Samson's death. 16: 25-30

30. Where was Samson buried? 16:31

Passage Review Questions

Judges 10:6 - 21:26

1. Who was the father of Samson, and from what tribe did he come? 13:2a
2. Samson's mother could not have any children. Who appeared to her and told her that she was going to have a child? 13:3
3. What instructions was she to follow while she carried this child? 13:4
4. Why was she to obey these instructions? 13:5a
5. Samson was to _____ the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the _____. (This means that he would not finish what he started to do.) 13:5b
6. To whom did Samson's mother go with this news, and what did he do? 13:8
7. What happened when the angel of the Lord came back? (Tell the events.) 13:11-21
8. Samson went down to Timnah. Who did he see there, and what did he tell his father when he returned? 14:1-2

9. What was Samson's parents' reply to their son's demands? 14:3

10. What did his parents not know about this? 14:4

11. As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, what happened? Did his parents know about it? 14:5-6

12. When Samson went back for the wedding ceremony and the feast, what did he find? What did he do with what he found? 14:8-9

13. What was Samson's riddle, and how did the Philistines guess the right answer? 14:10-15

14. In his anger, what did Samson do to get the clothing he promised the men who got the answer to the riddle? 14:19

15. Because Samson left his bride with her father, what happened to her? 14:20

16. When Samson went back at the time of the wheat harvest to visit his wife, what did he find out, and what did Samson do in his anger? 15:2-5

17. When the Philistines learned who did this to them, what did they do to the one he loved and her father? 15:6

18. What did Samson do to the Philistines for killing her? 15:7-9

19. When the Philistines camped in Judah, who came to where Samson was staying and what did they do with him? 15:13

20. What was the next thing that happened to the Philistines? 15:14-17

21. How many years did Samson lead Israel? 15:20

22. When Samson went to Gaza, what did he do there, and how did the Philistines lose the city gate? 16:1-3

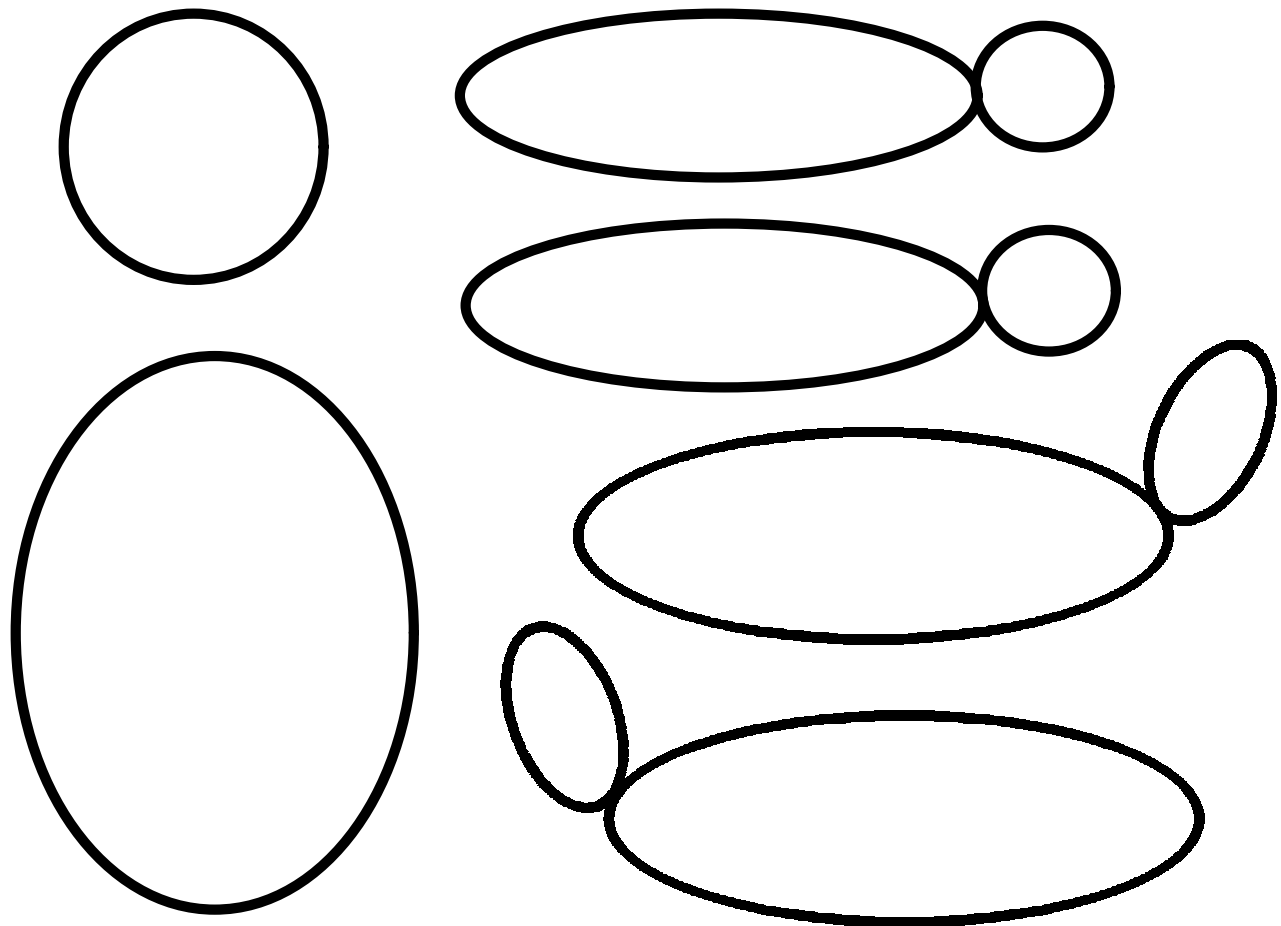
23. Who was the person that he got mixed up with next? 16:4

24. What did the rulers of the Philistines want her to do for them, and how much would each of them pay her? 16:5

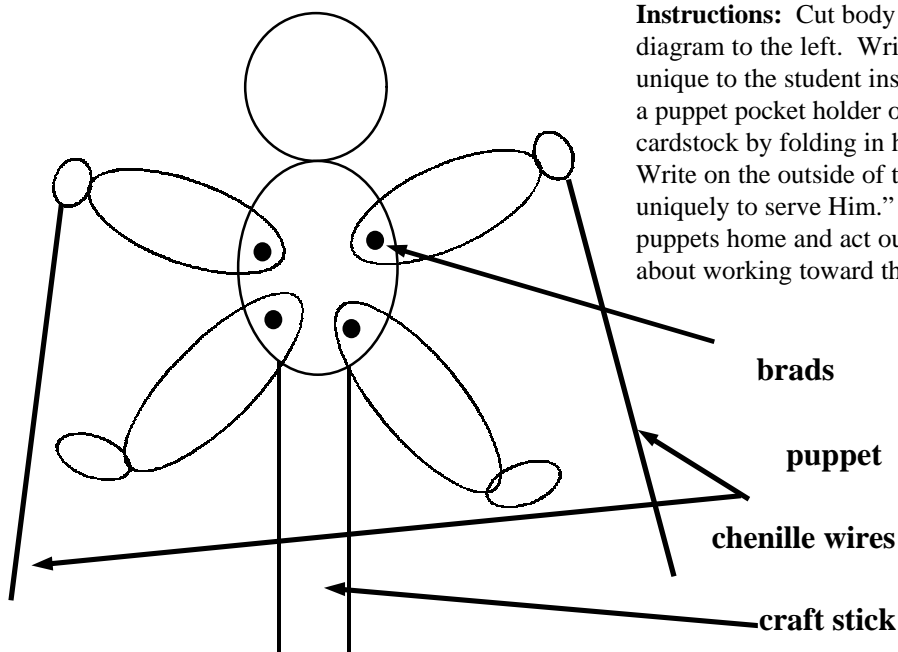
25. There are three times that Delilah is deceived by Samson as to the source of his powerful strength. Which of these three was the closest to the truth? 16:7-9, 11-12, 13-15

26. With her constant nagging and pestering, what did Samson finally tell Delilah that the power of his strength was? 16:16-18

My Potential for God



Instructions: Cut body parts above and assemble as shown in the diagram to the left. Write skills, character traits, or abilities unique to the student inside each of the puppet's body parts. Make a puppet pocket holder out of a 1/4 piece of construction paper or cardstock by folding in half and stapling on two of the four sides. Write on the outside of the puppet pocket, "God has created me uniquely to serve Him." Encourage your students to take their puppets home and act out actions serving the Lord. Talk to them about working toward their full potential for God.



*God has
created me
uniquely to*



**Vowing
to
Serve God**

Dear God,