

October 01, 2000

Judges 10:6-21:25

Early Childhood

JDG04EC

Strong Samson Rescued the Israelites from the Philistines.

**Memory Verse:**

Two- and three-year-old verse: Judges 2:12: They disobeyed the Lord. . .and worshipped idols.

Four- and five-year-old verse: Judges 2:12: They forsook the Lord. . .They worshipped various gods of the peoples around them.

**Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:**

1. **Let's say the different parts of the sin cycle that the Israelites got into when they disobeyed God.** (*Sin--hold your fist straight up in the air; Punished--slap your hand; Repent--raise your hands in a prayer position; Rescue--bring down your arm like a gavel.*)
2. **Was Samson the strongest judge?** (*Yes. Flex your arms as you say "Samson."*)
3. **Did Delilah cut Samson's hair so that he would be weak?** (*Yes. Delilah was a Philistine and did not love God.*)
4. **Did God make Samson strong to push the Philistine temple down?** (*Yes. God punished the Philistines.*)

**Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:**

1. **Let's say the different parts of the sin cycle that the Israelites got into when they disobeyed God.** (*Sin--hold your fist straight up in the air; Punished--slap your hand; Repent--raise your hands in a prayer position; Rescue--bring down your arm like a gavel.*)
2. **What was the name of the judge God sent to rescue the Israelites from the Philistines?** (*Judge Samson.*)
3. **What did the angel tell Samson's parents about raising Samson?** (*The angel told Manoah and his wife never to cut Samson's hair.*)
4. **What disobedient choice did Samson make?** (*Samson loved a Philistine woman who worshipped idols.*)
5. **How did God use Samson to punish the Philistine enemy?** (*Even though Samson was in jail, God gave him supernatural strength to knock the Philistine temple walls down. All the Philistine leaders were killed.*)

**Key for symbols:**

This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.

② This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.

④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

**Background Information for Teachers**

Judges 10:6-21:26 (JDG04)

Sin Cycles 5-7: Samson

Synopsis

We have been learning about the “sin cycles” of Israel in the book of Judges. Let’s review the sin cycle again: 1) Israel rebelled; 2) God disciplined them and the nation had regrets; 3) the nation cried out in repentance; 4) God raised up a judge to restore the nation; 5) the land remained at rest.

**(Background Information, continued)**

After Gideon, God raised up seven other judges to restore peace to the various parts of the land. The names of these 7 judges are Abimelech (8:33-9:57), Tola (10:1-2), Jair (10:3-5), Jephthah (10:6-12:7), Ibzan (12:8-10), Elon (12:11-12), Abdon (12:13-15). These men brought rest to their portion of the land for a total of 81 years! But just like before, guess what the people chose to do? That’s right! They chose to rebel against God.

In Judges 13:1, it says, “Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.” And once again, our faithful and loving God had compassion and mercy upon His chosen people and raised up the last judge, a man by the name of Samson.

Samson was the son of a man named Manoah who was from the tribe of Dan. Just as the angel came to Mary and Joseph and told them they would soon have a baby, the angel of the Lord came to Manoah’s wife and told her that she would now have a son who would be set apart to be a judge. She was shocked to hear this because all her life, she was unable to have any children. The angel gave specific instructions for how they were to raise Samson: 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. These were all promises of a vow called “the Nazirite vow.”

As Samson grew up, he consistently made poor choices in his life. In fact, his parents did a poor job of raising him up to be a godly man. Instead, he was spoiled and got his own way. How do you know if you’re a spoiled person? How many of you would say that you are spoiled? One of the ways in which Samson was spoiled was in his angry temper and foolish choices. He didn’t have the self-control to keep him from doing the wrong thing.

One time, he saw a Philistine woman he liked and demanded that his parents go fetch her as his wife. When Samson’s parents tried to talk him out of marrying a foreign woman who worshipped idols, he would not listen to them! A wedding day was set and Samson and his family threw a 7-day wedding feast at his bride’s parents’ home, as was the custom. It should have been a happy time, but Samson’s bride spent the entire week crying. Why was she so sad? It was because Samson had made a foolish bet that forced her to choose between him and her family. Samson bet his 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 right 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. All week his wife cried and begged him to tell her the answer to the riddle. Finally, the last day he told her. She immediately went to tell her family the answer so that they would win the bet.

When Samson lost his foolish bet, he became very angry! He didn’t like to lose. Plus, he didn’t like the fact that his wife took sides against him. To pay the bet, he went and killed 30 Philistines and gave their clothes to his wife’s family. Then he gave his wife away to the best man in the wedding! Samson could not control his temper and only wanted to get even with his wife and her family and friends.

Later, when Samson’s anger had cooled down, he went to try to get his wife back. His father-in-law wouldn’t even let him see her and said that he had given his daughter permanently to his best man. Samson was furious again! His lack of self-control led him to catch 300 foxes. He then tied their tails together in pairs and lit their tails on fire. As the foxes ran through the fields in panic, they burned all the crops down. The Philistines were very mad and came to find him.

The Israelites were afraid of the Philistines, so they tied Samson up to hand him over to them. But God’s power came mightily upon Samson and he broke the ropes as if they weren’t even there. He then grabbed a donkey’s jawbone and killed 1,000 Philistines all by himself. That was the beginning of 20 years that Samson led Israel and kept the Philistines from harming them.

Near the end of Samson’s rule as judge, he again fell foolishly in love with the wrong woman. The woman’s name was Delilah. She was a greedy woman and did not have a good heart. The leaders of the Philistines came to her and asked her to find the secret to Samson’s amazing power. They offered to give her 28 pounds of silver if she found it out. She came to him one day and asked, “What is the secret of your great strength?” Samson should have known better, but instead, he lied to her and told her, “If anyone ties me with seven fresh leather bow strings that have never been soaked in water and dried, I’ll be as weak as any other man.” Delilah went straight to the rulers and told them what Samson had told her. They gave her the 7 leather straps and she then tied Samson up with them. With men hidden in the room, she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” Samson snapped the leather straps as easily as if they were a piece of string.

Delilah came to Samson again, and again Samson lied to her. He told her that if they used new, fresh ropes, his strength would be gone. Was that the secret to his power? (No!) He then told her that if she wove the seven braids of his hair and tied them all up with a pin, his strength would be gone. Was that the secret to his power? (No!)

Delilah didn't quit! She nagged and whined and pouted and begged Samson to tell her the secret to his strength. Finally, Samson could take no more of her constant nagging, and told her the secret. He told her that if she shaved his head, his strength would leave him because he had taken the Nazirite vow. While Samson slept, the Philistines shaved Samson's hair and his strength left him. When Delilah called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" Samson awoke thinking he could fight them as before, but this time, he was powerless. The Lord's power had left him because he broke his promise to God. Samson's strength wasn't in his hair, but in his obedience to God!

They grabbed him, gouged out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza where they made fun of him and his God. They were happy and had a big party to celebrate Samson's capture. They said, "Our god has delivered Samson into our hands." They then brought blind Samson out to entertain them. Samson had never been more humiliated in his life! His choices and friends had put him in the worst kind of prison.

But Samson knew where to go for help. He prayed to the Lord, "O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me get revenge on the Philistines." God answered his prayer and gave him incredible strength. Samson pushed with all his might against the two pillars that were supporting the temple of Dagon, the god of the Philistines. The entire temple came down and thousands of people were killed that day, along with Samson.

God used Samson, not because he was a godly man, but because He wanted to punish the Philistines. God worked through those bad, selfish, out-of-control choices that Samson made to be a part of His good plan. Just as God worked out His perfect plan with an imperfect, foolish Samson, he also worked out His plans for the entire nation of Israel even though they continually sinned against Him. This shows us the incredible patience and love God has for His people, that even when we sin and fail Him, He is powerful enough to work out His good plans despite our failures.

### **Application**

#### **Spoiled or Self-Controlled?**

Samson was very spoiled. In other words, he got what he wanted no matter what! The reason he was spoiled was because he lacked self-control over his feelings and desires. This lesson should teach us just how important it is to learn self-control. Without, we will make the same foolish choices that Samson made. Let's avoid the mistakes he made and learn to say "no" to foolish choices.

#### **God Is Patient and Powerful**

The book of Judges helps us to see just how powerful and patient God is towards His people. Even when they sinned continually in the "sin cycles," God still helped them when they repented of their sin. This is true for us today who are His children. Because Jesus died and forgave us of every sin we will ever commit, God will always be patient with us. This also shows that God is strong and powerful enough to take our mistakes and to fit them all together into His wise and perfect plan, just like a jigsaw puzzle!

### **Hook:**

- Baby Doll Center:** Bring several dolls with clothes and other baby care items for the children to practice their parenting skills. In today's Bible Adventure, we'll learn about some parents who were visited by an angel. God's angel told them that they would have a baby boy.
- "Samson Grew Seven Braids" Center: (JDG04ECGF5)** Materials needed: Picture (GF5) for each child, several glue sticks, crayons, strips of 3" yarn. Color the hair on Samson and then, using a glue stick, glue seven strands of yarn to Samson's head. Samson was the next judge that God chose to help rescue the Israelites from the people around them. God gave Samson strength in a very unusual way which we will learn about in today's Bible Adventure. Samson was so strong that he killed a lion with his bare hands.
- "Weight Lifting" Center:** Bring in some weights and, under careful supervision, allow the children to lift them to see how heavy they are. "Today, we'll learn that Samson was very strong because God gave him His strength. Samson could lift these weights with no problem." Have the children show the small group their muscles and ask how and what they had to do to get their muscles.

**Braid Demonstration Center:** Use a clean mop, lengths of heavy rug yarn tacked to a bulletin board on the wall or taped to a heavy piece of cardboard, or a wig with hair long enough to show the children how to make a braid. Help the children practice braiding the pretend hair. Today our Bible Adventure is about Samson and his braided hair.

**Play Dough Head Set Center:** Provide a play dough set that allows a head to grow hair by pushing the dough through a sieve to form the hair. In today's Bible Adventure, a man named Samson grew lots and lots of hair! Using Christmas cookie cutter angels or cardboard stencils, roll out the dough and cut out angels. An angel gives a man and woman a special message in our Bible adventure today. Listen carefully to find out what that message is going to be.

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**Lion Center: (JDG04ECGF9)** Bring in lion puppets or stuffed lions for the children to play with and talk about. (The head of the GF9 lion can be taped to a paper bag to make a puppet.) Where do lions live? What do they eat? What sounds do they make? What would you do if you saw a lion? Today's Bible Adventure tells about a man named Samson who met a lion on the road and what he did about it.

**Exercises:** Lead the children in doing exercises like jumping jacks, running in place, push ups, etc. Include small cans of food or bags of lentils or rice to use for lifting weights. Doing this helps us get stronger. Samson in our Bible Adventure was a very strong man. God gave him extra strength as long as he obeyed Him. God had a job for him to do.

④ **Coin Rubbings:** Provide several coins, white computer paper, and crayons with the paper removed. Assist children in placing the coins under the paper and rubbing them to find out what they are. Talk with the children that God doesn't want us to think about money all the time and all the things it can buy. Someone in our story today is greedy about money and makes a wrong decision just because she wants more money.

④ **Tape the Tail on the Lion: (JDG04ECGF9)** Tape the colored lion picture on the wall. Cover with clear contact paper if you want it to last longer. Cut or tear out several tails to be used. Blindfold the children and let them take turns trying to tape the tail on the lion. Samson had to fight a lion in our Bible Adventure today. How did he get so strong?

④ **Bride and Groom Dress-Up Clothes:** Let the children try on clothing you have purchased at the thrift store and pretend to be getting married and walking down the aisle. Talk about marrying the right person that God and your parents want you to marry. God always wants a Christian to marry another Christian. In today's Bible Adventure, we will learn that Samson disobeyed and loved a Philistine woman who loved idols more than God. Listen to what else happens to Samson.



## **Book:**

### **Presentation Ideas -**

Color and mount the **JDG04ECGF1**, **JDG04ECGF2**, **JDG04ECGF3**, and **JDG04ECGF4** pictures on construction paper. Show them as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save the pictures and use them for review throughout the four Judges lessons.

Put a marker in your Bible and let a child come up and open your Bible to the book of Judges. The book of Judges is in the Old Testament (the first half of the Bible). Tell the children you love reading the Bible because it is God's Word and every word is true. Hug the Bible to your chest.

### **Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-**

Do you remember the name of the Bible book we are learning from? Judges is in the Old Testament. *(Have the children say "Judges" as they bring down one of their arms like a gavel.)*

*(Show the review JDG01ECGF5 picture.)* Sin cycle! The Israelites kept going on a sin cycle. They worshipped idols, and then God would let their enemies punish them. When the Israelites repented and cried out to God, He gave them a judge to rescue them.

*(Show the review JDG02ECGF3 picture.)* The first judge God sent to rescue the Israelites was left-handed Judge Ehud. He blew his trumpet and called the Israelites to fight against the Moabite enemies.

*(Show the review JDG03ECGF5 picture.)* The next judge we learned about was Judge Gideon. He rescued the Israelites from the Midianites.

A man named Manoah and his wife, Mrs. Manoah, lived in Israel but they had no children. Mr. and Mrs. Manoah were getting older, but one day, God sent an angel to Manoah's wife. (*Cradle a doll in your arms.*) The angel told her that she would have a baby boy who would become the next judge of Israel. The angel said, "Never cut your son's hair as long as he lives." Mrs. Manoah ran as fast as she could to find her husband. She said, "An angel came to me. He said, 'You will have a son. Never cut his hair. He will be the next judge of Israel.'"

When Mrs. Manoah gave birth to a baby boy, they named him Samson. (*Have the children say "Samson" as they flex their muscles.*)

(*Show the JDG04ECGF1 picture.*) God helped Samson grow up to be very strong. One day, a lion attacked Samson, but God gave him strength to kill the lion with his bare hands. As long as Samson obeyed God and didn't cut his hair, God kept him strong.

(*Show the JDG04ECGF2 picture.*) One day, Samson went walking to a Philistine town where he saw a woman named Delilah. (*Have the children say "Delilah" as they stroke their long hair.*) Delilah didn't love God. Delilah worshipped Philistine idols. Samson should not have loved a woman who didn't love God.

Delilah's Philistine friends wanted to hurt Samson because he was so strong. These friends asked Delilah to find out what made Samson so strong. Delilah began begging Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong."

Samson should have said good-bye to Delilah. He should have told her that his power came from God, but he didn't. Delilah kept nagging and pestering. She would stomp her feet and cry.

Finally, Samson gave in and told Delilah, "All right! I will tell you the secret if you will quit nagging me all the time. If my hair is cut, I will not be strong."

(*Show the JDG04ECGF3 picture.*) While Samson was asleep on Delilah's lap, one of Delilah's Philistine friends cut Samson's hair off. His seven long braids were laying on the floor when Delilah woke Samson up. The Philistines were stronger than Samson and grabbed him. The Lord was not helping Samson because he had disobeyed.

(*Show the JDG04ECGF4 picture.*) The Philistines took Samson away to the town of Gaza. The Philistine people were cheering and laughing. They said, "Our idol is stronger than Samson's God." That's not true, is it?

Samson prayed to God for help. His hair was growing longer, and he was getting stronger. Samson prayed to the Lord, "Oh, Lord, please help me. Give me strength one last time." Then Samson put his right hand on one pillar of the Philistine temple and his left hand on the other pillar. He pushed with all his might. The whole temple, all the walls, pillars, and roof, came tumbling down. Everything was crumbled and all the people were killed. Samson died, too. God had used Samson to rescue the Israelites from the Philistines.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for rescuing the Israelites from the Philistines by giving Samson great strength. Help me learn to obey You by obeying my parents. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-**

Do you remember the name of the Bible book we are learning from? Judges is in the Old Testament. (*Have the children say "Judges" as they bring down one of their arms like a gavel.*)

(*Show the review JDG01ECGF5 picture.*) Sin cycle, sin cycle, we are with the Israelites on a sin cycle. Sin, punished, repent, and rescue. Sin, punished, repent, and rescue. The cycle kept going over and over because the Israelites kept making bad choices and sinning. They worshipped Baal idols and Asherah poles rather than God. God let the enemies punish the Israelites. When the Israelites repented and cried out to God, He gave them a judge to rescue them.

(*Show the review JDG02ECGF3 picture.*) Who can remember the name of the first judge God sent to rescue the Israelites? Left-handed Judge Ehud blew his trumpet and called the Israelites to fight against the Moabite enemies.

(*Show the review JDG03ECGF5 picture.*) Who was the next judge we learned about? God gave Judge Gideon a plan to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites.

(*Show the review JDG01ECGF1 map. Point to the section called Dan.*) Living in the hill country of the tribe of Dan was a man named Manoah. Manoah and his wife lived in a house together and loved each other. They had a problem, though. Manoah's wife couldn't have children so there were no little feet running around their house, no babies crying, no kids laughing and playing.

Then one day when Manoah and his wife were getting older, God sent an angel to Manoah's wife. The angel told her that she would have a baby boy who would be God's choice to be the judge of Israel. She was shocked to hear this. Could it be true that she would have a son? The angel went on to say,

"Never cut your son's hair. Don't drink wine and don't eat wrong foods because your baby will be set apart for God's good plan." Mrs. Manoah was excited. She couldn't wait to find her husband and tell him the news. Where was he? Out in the garden? In the shop? She ran as fast as she could until she found him. Out of breath, full of smiles, she said, "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God. He was awesome. He said to me, 'You will have a son. Don't drink wine or eat anything unclean and don't ever cut his hair from the day he is born. He will be set apart to God for a special purpose.'"

Manoah was thrilled. The first thing he did was pray to the Lord. He said, "Oh, please, Lord, teach us how to bring up this boy." Manoah asked God to help him raise his son. Manoah loved God and wanted to obey all of God's commands. Your dad probably asks God for help to raise you in the right way, too. Ask your dad if he does ask God for wisdom to help you. We can ask God to help us, too. We just need to talk to God in prayer and ask him to help us obey Dad and Mom as they try to raise us to love the Lord.

Later, Mrs. Manoah gave birth to a tiny baby boy. As she held him and looked into his eyes, she was thankful to God for this special baby boy who would rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. The Manoahs named their baby Samson. *(Have the children say "Samson" as they flex their muscles.)*

*(Show the JDG04ECGF1 picture.)* God helped Samson grow up to be very strong. Samson was the strongest man alive. One day, Samson was attacked by a lion, but God gave him strength to kill the lion with his bare hands. As long as Samson obeyed God and didn't cut his hair, eat wrong foods, or drink wine, God gave him amazing physical strength.

One day, Samson went walking to a Philistine town. It looked like a nice place to visit but God was using the Philistine enemy to punish the disobeying Israelites. The Israelites were crying out to God for help.

*(Show the JDG04ECGF2 picture.)* While staying in the Philistine town, Samson saw and fell in love with a woman named Delilah. *(Have the children say "Delilah" as they pretend to stroke their long hair.)* Delilah didn't love God. She was an enemy Philistine. Delilah worshipped the Philistine idol, Dagon, and beside that, she was greedy. Delilah loved money and wanted more for herself. Was it right for Samson to love a woman who didn't love God? No way! God wants what is best for us, and God's best is to marry someone who worships only Him.

Delilah had Philistine friends who wanted to hurt Samson because he was so strong. One day, while Delilah was sitting in the shade, enjoying a nice warm day, a Philistine friend came to visit her. He was a Philistine ruler. He didn't love God, either. He said, "See if you can trick Samson into showing you the secret of his great strength so that we can capture him. Each of us will give you twenty-eight pounds of silver if you can find out what makes Samson so strong."

Delilah thought about what she could buy with all that silver. She was greedy and didn't care if she hurt Samson. She didn't care if it was wrong to trick someone. Delilah looked into Samson's eyes, teased him a little, and then began begging, "Tell me the secret of your strength. Please, Samson, if you love me, tell me what makes you so strong."

Samson was being influenced by a friend who didn't love God. He should have said good-bye to Delilah. Instead, he teased her and lied to her. Samson told her that the way to make him weak was to tie him up with seven fresh leather strings. Delilah was excited to hear the news. Immediately, she called the Philistine ruler and told him what Samson had said. He didn't waste any time getting the seven leather strings for her. Delilah found a way to tie Samson with the seven fresh leather strings. What was going to happen now? Philistine men were hiding in the same room with Delilah and Samson. Delilah shouted, "Samson, the Philistines are coming!" Samson flexed his muscles and SNAP, the leather snapped off as if it was a thin piece of string.

This didn't stop Delilah. She kept begging. "You lied to me. You don't love me. Come on, tell me your secret." Samson definitely should have made a right choice and said good-bye to this "friend" who didn't love God. He should have told her that his power came from God and that God was his best friend. He didn't. Samson teased and lied to her again and again. Delilah kept nagging, pestering, and pouting. She would stomp her feet and cry. She wanted more money.

Finally, Samson gave in to temptation and said to Delilah, "All right! I will tell you the secret if you will quit nagging me all the time. Here is the truth. I have been set apart for God since birth. If the hair on my head is cut, my strength will leave me."

*(Show the JDG04ECGF3 picture.)* Delilah sent a messenger running as fast as he could to the Philistine ruler. Her message was, "Come quickly. He has told me the truth." When the Philistines arrived, their arms were full of the silver they had promised Delilah. They knocked on the door. Knock. Knock. The door was opened and there was Samson asleep on Delilah's lap. She asked one of the Philistines to cut Samson's hair. He had seven braids. Before long, there was his hair, cut off, and laying on the floor. Samson's strength left him as God had said. When Delilah woke him up, Samson couldn't get away from the Philistines. The Lord was not helping him because he had disobeyed.

(Show the JDG04ECGF4 picture.) The enemy Philistines gouged out Samson's eyes and took him away to the town of Gaza. The people in Gaza were cheering and chanting. They thought their idol god, Dagon, was stronger than Samson's God. The Philistine leaders had a giant party at Dagon's temple with their wives and friends to celebrate Samson's capture. There was dancing, music, cheering, and shouting. "Our idol has given us Samson. Our idol is stronger than Samson's God," they shouted.

Samson was hurt and sad but he knew where to go for help. Samson was standing near the pillars that held up the whole Philistine temple. The Philistine temple was crowded with happy Philistine people celebrating the fact that Samson was caught. Cheering people were everywhere, on the roof and packed into corners all over.

Samson prayed to the Lord, "Oh, Sovereign Lord, please strengthen me just one last time." Then Samson put his right hand on one pillar and his left hand on the other pillar. He pushed with all his might. That whole temple, all the walls, pillars, and roof, came tumbling down. Everything was crumbled and all the people were killed. Samson died, too. God had used Samson in His plan to punish the Philistines for being cruel to His people, the Israelites.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for rescuing the Israelites from the Philistines by giving Samson great strength. Help me learn to obey You by obeying my parents. In Jesus' name, amen.



### Look:

- Aim Questions:** If you brought in a stuffed lion, place the numbered questions under the tail of the sleeping lion and have each individual child carefully lift the tail to retrieve the next question to be read.
- Snack:** Serve rice cakes with squeezable cheese from cans. Have the children draw lion's faces, teeth and hair on their round crackers before eating them.
- Snack and Conversation:** Serve bread and water as if eating with Samson in jail. Discuss what he might have been thinking about. He was sorry for marrying an enemy that was not God's choice for him. He was wrong to have lied. He was wrong to yield to Delilah's temptation. She was not loyal to him. He was wrong to disobey God's orders for him.
- Memory Verse Review:** Draw a large sin cycle on a paper on the floor and include Judge Samson and the memory verse on the spokes of the wheel. Say the sin cycle and memory verse. Have a child come up and toss a bean bag on the cycle from a short distance and what it lands on is what the child says (sin, punished, repent, rescue, Judge Ehud, Judge Gideon, Judge Samson, memory verse).
- Samson Puppet:** The children can make a Samson puppet by rolling a half sheet of construction paper into a tube and stapling or taping it (teacher will need to help with this). Then, using child-safe scissors, the children can cut slits in the tube about 1/3 of the way down. These slits will be folded down to form Samson's hair. The children can then draw a Samson face on the front of the tube, and a scrap piece of rectangular shaped fabric can be glued on for a robe.
- Samson and Delilah Puppets: (JDG04ECGF11)** Samson and Delilah puppets can be made by gluing GF11 faces onto the ends of craft sticks or plastic spoons. Let the children make their puppets talk to each other about what makes Samson so strong. Let the children know that Samson should have said "good-bye" to Delilah because she loved idols.
- Block Table:** After the children have made their Samson puppets, they can build a temple using wooden building blocks and take turns letting their Samson puppet knock the pillars down. Explain what a pillar is by showing them a picture from the Bible Adventure.
- Hair Headband: (JDG04ECGF8)** Give each child a large sheet of black or brown construction paper to make a headband. Show them how to cut strips every 1 1/2" leaving a band free at the top. Cut off the fringe across the front and staple the headband to fit the child's head at one side. Discuss what God had told Samson to do for his whole life and how he disobeyed and suffered the consequences of losing his eyes and going to the enemy prison.

**Bible Adventure Review: (JDG04ECGF6 and JDG04ECGF7)** Tape a GF6 face of Delilah on the bristles of a broom and the GF7 face of Samson on the strings of the mop. Review a shortened version of the Bible Adventure using the broom and mop like puppets.

I want to introduce you to Samson. Say "Hi" to Samson. God had set Samson apart to do a job for Him. God had asked Samson never to drink any wine or cut his hair. (*Stroke the mop.*) When Samson obeyed, he was the strongest man alive. He even killed a lion.

One day, Samson met Delilah. (*Hold up the Delilah broom.*) Samson fell head over heels in love with Delilah. (*Turn the mop upside down.*) Delilah was an enemy Philistine. (*Hold her up.*) Samson listened to her. (*Drop his head in shame.*)

The Philistines were tired of Samson's strength and asked Delilah to find out the secret of his strength. (*Jump the broom up and down saying "please, please."*)

Finally, Samson told her that if she cut his hair, he would be as weak as a mop! (*Stroke the mop.*) So when Samson went to sleep (*lay the mop on the table*), Delilah had his hair cut. (*Cut some pieces of yarn.*) Delilah woke him up and Samson was very weak. The Philistines captured him, blinded him, and put him in prison. (*Place the mop in a corner.*)

One day, the Philistines had a big party to celebrate. (*Dance the Delilah broom up, down, and around.*) Samson prayed (*mop looks up*) and asked God for strength. Samson put out his arms against the pillars of the building and down they came along with all the people, including Samson. (*Place the mop and broom on the floor.*)

Cut more pieces of yarn and let the children put one or more pieces into the fourth baggie of their Judges Booklets. This will remind the children of the story about Judge Samson.

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**Arm Muscles:** Give each child two 8"-10" pieces of nylon stockings. Tie a knot in one end of each. Let children stuff the stocking pieces with newspaper. Help them tie the other end. Tuck these in their shirt sleeves to make pretend muscles. Use these with the mask listed above.

② **"Growing" Finger Play:** Today we learned that Samson was a tiny baby who grew up to be big and strong because he did not cut his hair. Because he obeyed God, he was the strongest man around.

When I was a baby,  
I was very small.

Now I am (three) years old,  
And I'm growing big and tall!

When I was a baby,  
I could only crawl.

Now I can walk and I can jump,  
But sometimes, down I fall!

Tell the children to "fall" gently! While the children are still lying down, invite them to show you ways a baby moves (rolling over, sitting up, crawling) before the children stand to repeat the activity.

④ **Blindfold Samson Tag:** Samson went to prison blind and with his hair short. It did grow back and God gave him strength again to do a job for Him. Push tables and chairs to the side of the room. Blindfold one child you have chosen to be Samson. He is to tag another child. No running is allowed--only walking! When Samson says "Samson," the other children have to respond by saying "Delilah." When they are heard and then tagged, they become the new Samson. To end the game, tell the children that the building is falling and everyone is to get down on the floor!

### 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; Samson was the ju-udge. (*Bring down your fist like a gavel.*)

Peace outside; peace inside.

(*Stretch out your arms, smile, then pat your heart.*)

**Judges 2:12 Memory Verse Song for 4's & 5's** (tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

They forsook the Lord; they worshipped various gods

Of the peoples around them.

Judges two-o twelve.



## Took:

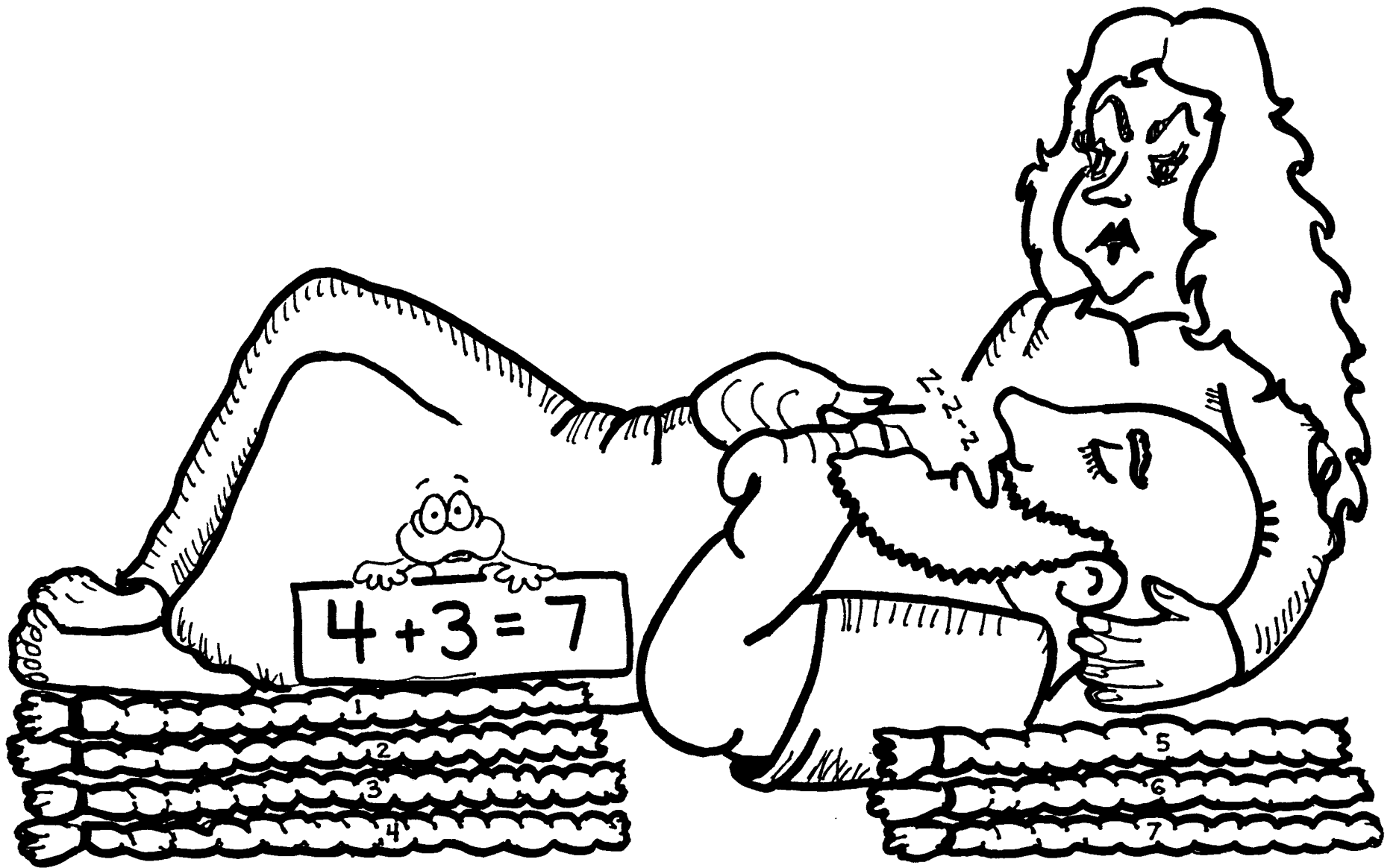
- Judges Booklet Page: (JDG04ECGF10)** Let the children color the GF10 pictures for their Judges Booklet this week, reviewing the Bible Adventure together. Put in the fourth bag of the booklets several pieces of yarn or a braid made of yarn to represent Samson's hair. Send the Judges Booklets home with the children this week. Let them review all of the Judges stories by looking at the four pictures in their booklets.
- Samson and Barbell Craft: (JDG04ECGF8)** Using a toilet paper tube for Samson, glue fabric around the bottom for the body. Draw a simple smiling face on the side. Glue or tape 4" pieces of yarn to the inside of the tube for hair. Punch holes in the sides with the point of a pencil and push a chenille wire through it to form arms. Make a barbell out of a round toothpick and two miniature marshmallows pushed onto both ends. Fold the end of one arm around the barbell. Practice pushing the hair inside the tube as if it were cut short and hiding the barbell behind or taking it off because Samson lost his strength when he disobeyed and had his hair cut off.
- Paper Plate Samson Mask: (JDG04ECGF8)** Cut eye holes and add brown or black paper strips or yarn for hair. Glue these on with Elmer's type of glue. Use markers to draw a mouth and nose. Punch holes on each side for an 8"-10" piece of yarn, string, or strip of fabric. Tie the masks onto their heads and let them retell the Bible Adventure in the first person.
- Preschool Page for Parents: (JDG04ECPPP)** Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.



God made Judge Samson strong as long as he didn't cut his hair.



Samson fell in love with a greedy woman named Delilah.



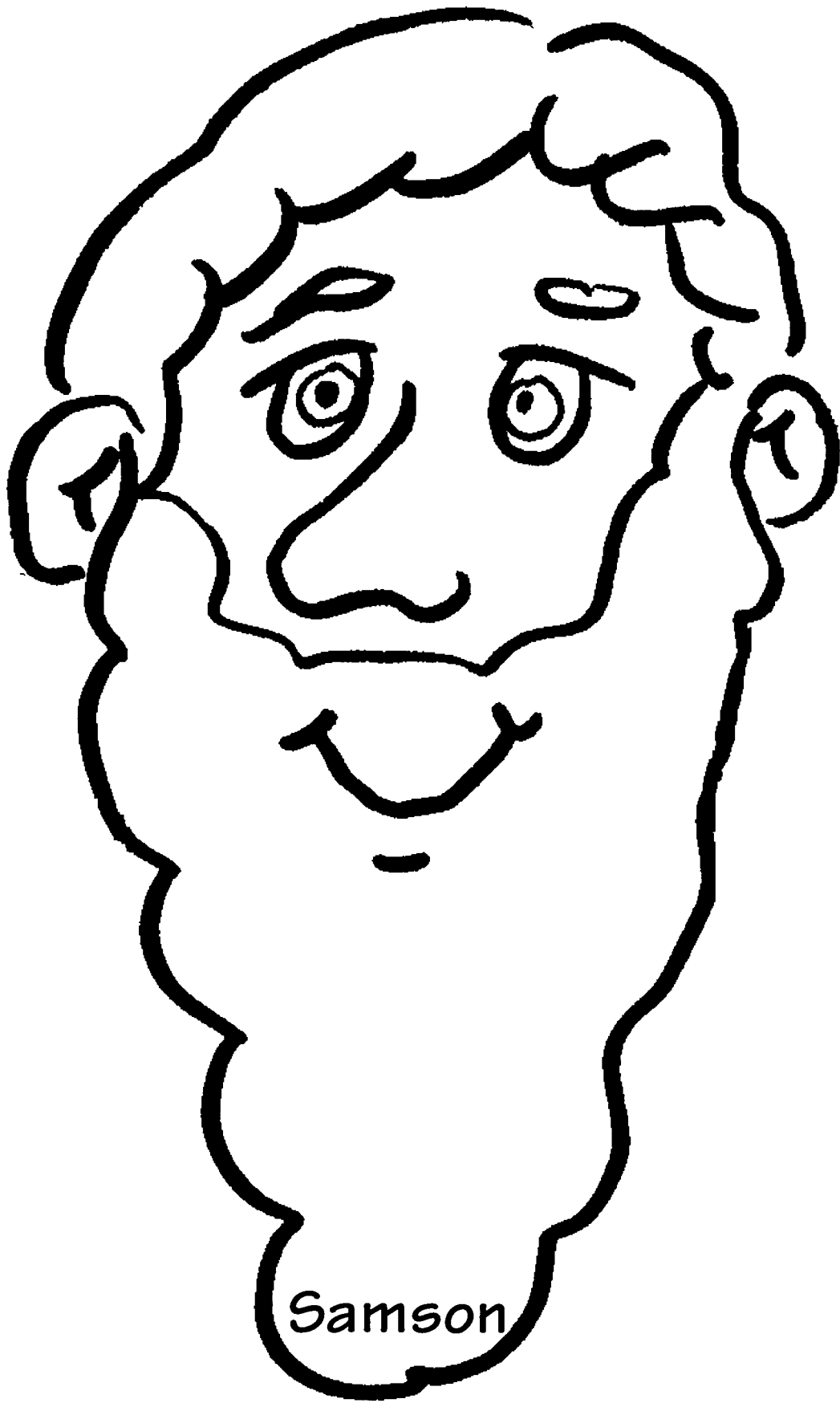
Delilah cut Samson's hair and his strength was gone.



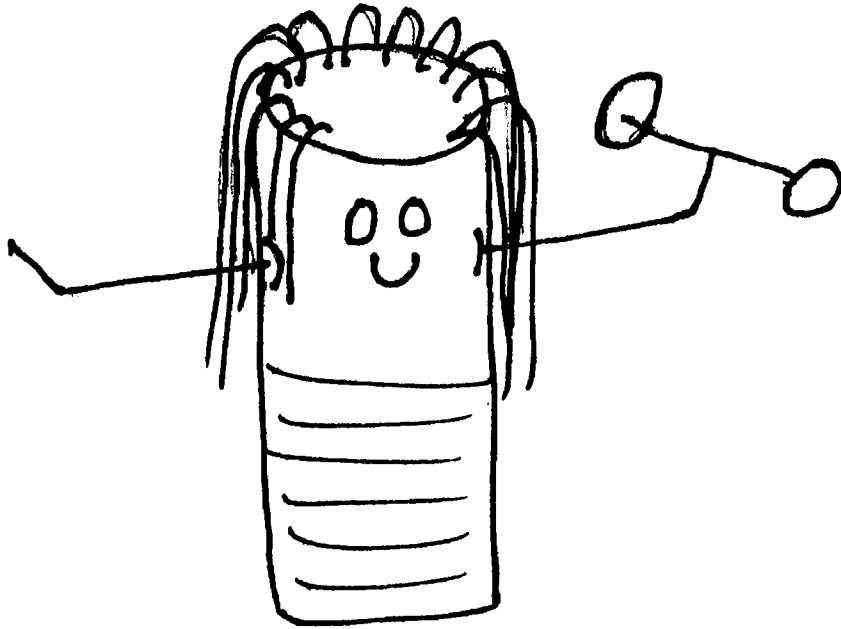
God gave Samson strength to knock the Philistine temple down.



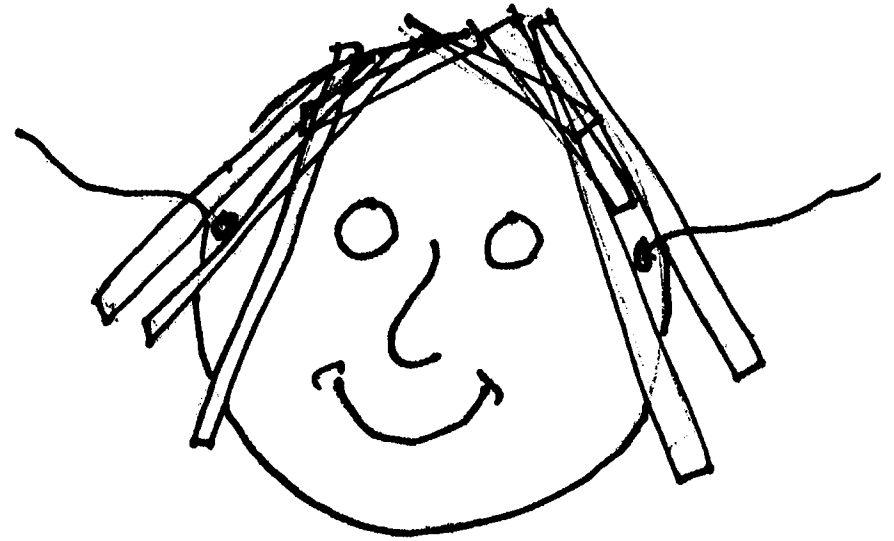




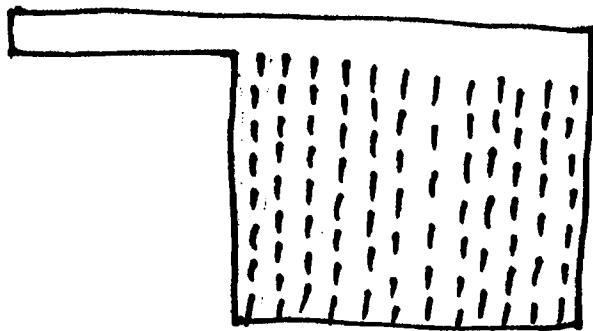
Samson



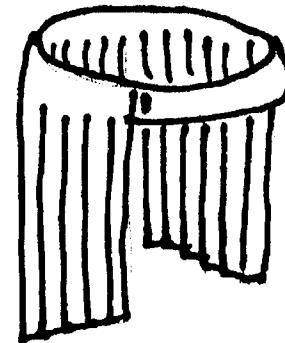
Samson and Barbell Craft



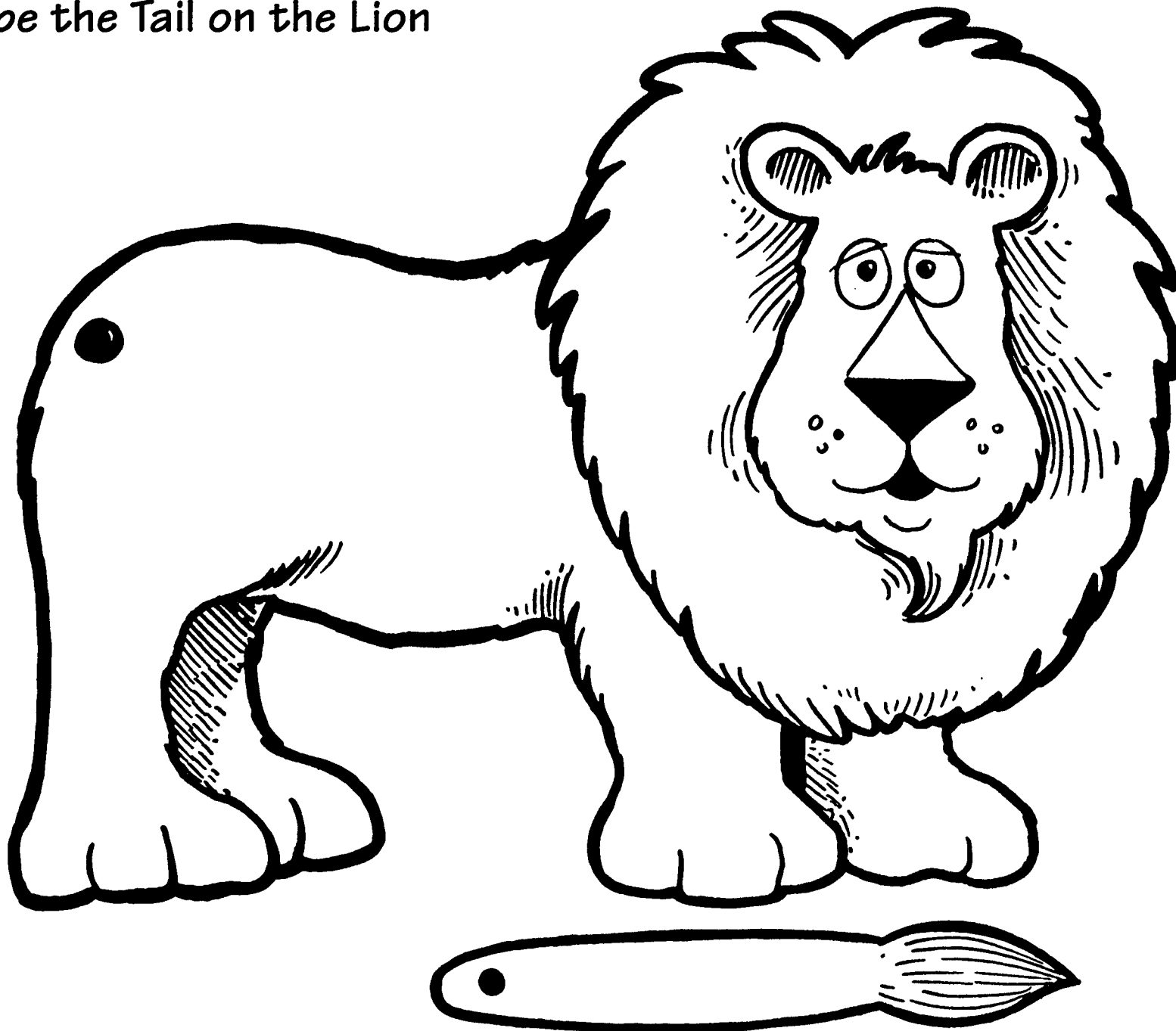
Paper Plate Samson Mask



Hair Headband

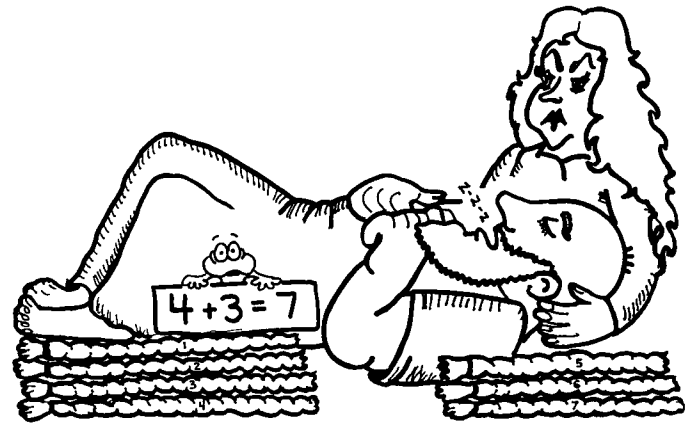


Tape the Tail on the Lion

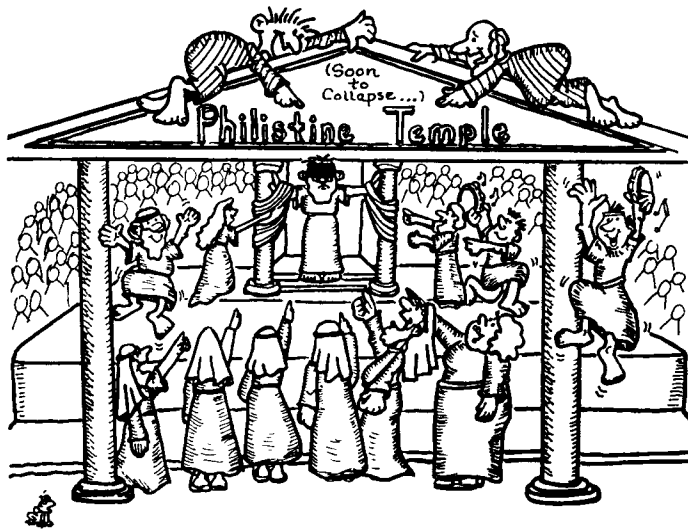




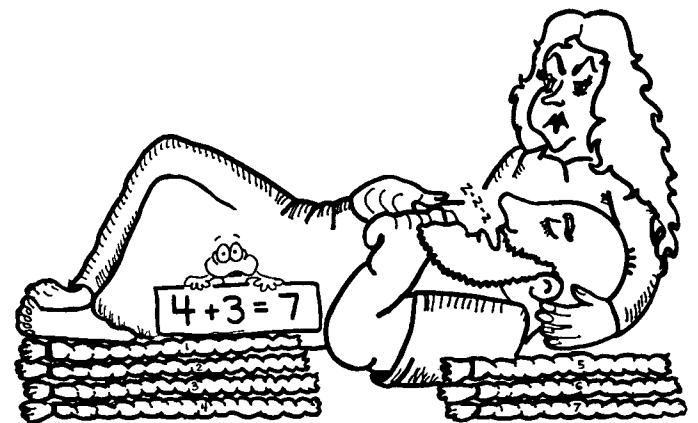
God used Samson to rescue the Israelites from the Philistines.



Judge Samson disobeyed God when he let Delilah's Philistine friends cut his hair.



God used Samson to rescue the Israelites from the Philistines.



Judge Samson disobeyed God when he let Delilah's Philistine friends cut his hair.

Cut on both lines, making two sets of two pictures. Fold each set in half to put in the Judges Booklets.



# PPP

Preschool Page for Parents  
Extended Bible School Training in the Home

October 1, 2000  
Judges Chapters 10:6-21:25



## This is what I learned today!

Today we learned about another judge who rescued the Israelites from the Philistines. His name was Samson. God told Samson's parents that he would be strong as long he didn't drink wine, eat wrong foods, or cut his hair. Samson grew to be so strong that he was able to kill a lion with his bare hands! But Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah who did not love the one true God. She tricked Samson and some soldiers cut off his hair. He lost his strength and the Philistines arrested him. But God helped Samson one last time by giving him the strength to push over the Philistine temple, killing many Philistines as well as himself. The Israelites were rescued again from their enemies.

### Today's Memory Verse:

**2's & 3's: They disobeyed the Lord...  
and worshipped idols.  
Judges 2:12**

**4's & 5's: They forsook the Lord...  
They worshipped various gods of the  
peoples around them. Judges 2:12**

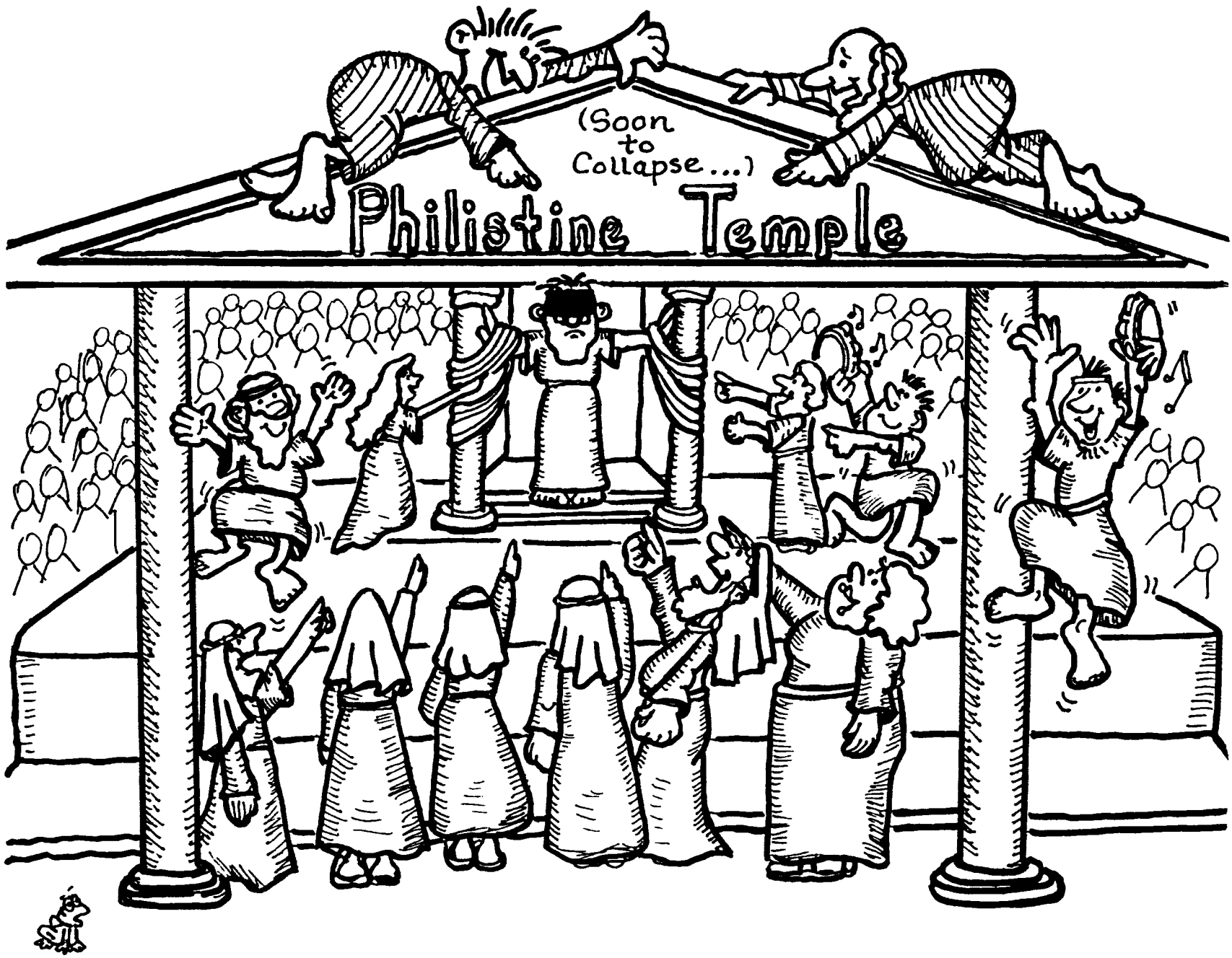
**Strong Samson  
became weak as  
a kitten.**



Drape a towel over your child and trim his hair. This trim can be a tiny bit of hair to illustrate your point. Tape the child's hair into his scrapbook and label his age. In today's Bible Adventure, the man God chose to be judge for the Israelites got an unwanted haircut. When Judge Samson broke his promise to God and let his hair be cut, his power was gone. Talk about obeying God and keeping your word all the time.

**Sin Cycle Song**  
(tune: "Frere Jacques")

Sin was punished; sin was punished.  
"Help," they cried; "Help," they cried.  
Go-od sent a ju-udge; Samson was a ju-udge.  
Peace outside; peace inside.



God gave Judge Samson strength to knock the Philistine temple down.