

# Lesson 22

## Special People of the Bible Sampson's Great Strength

### Sampson's Great Strength

**2-5 Years:**

**Opening prayer** to start the class. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen"

**Bible Story:**

Tell the story of Samson in a language that this age can understand. Be sure that it is a simplified version. There are several picture versions in children's Bibles that are appropriate or you may want to use a paraphrased version such as this:

God chose someone who was once little just like you. He chose Samson to grow up to be strong and to be a hero. God wanted Samson to save his special people, the Israelites, from the Philistines. The Philistines were fighting and being mean to the Israelites. Samson's job was to help the Israelites fight the Philistines. As Samson grew, he was a Nazirite, which means he ate healthy things, nothing dirty, and no wine. He didn't cut his hair either. Because God chose Samson, he had super strength. When Samson got older, he didn't listen to God all the time and he let his own

wants get in the way of being good and listening. Some people got hurt because of that. Samson did not listen to God, and told a lady named Delilah the secret to his strength. She cut his hair, and God took the strength away. Samson was also taken by the Philistines and made blind. In the end, Samson prayed to the Lord and asked God to remember him and give him strength one more time. God loved Samson, even when he made mistakes, so God said yes, He would give him strength one more time so Samson could do God's work.

**Discussion:**

What helped Samson to be so strong? Why does God give us jobs to do?

**Song:** The Lord is mine and I am his  
 His banner over me is love.  
 The Lord is mine and I am his,  
 His banner over me is love.  
 The Lord is mine and I am his  
 His banner over me is love.  
 His banner, over me, is love.

**Verse:**

He is the vine and we are the branches  
 His banner over me is love. (3 times)  
 His banner, over me, is love.

He leads me to his banqueting table  
 His banner over me is love. (3 times)  
 His banner, over me, is love.



**Activity:**

From magazines or other appropriate materials, have students cut out pictures of things that would help to make them healthy and strong. Have them glue the pictures to a piece of paper. On the back, they can draw a picture of their hero and share why that person is important.

**Closing Prayer:** thanking God for the day. Example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about Samson. Please help us to listen when you tell us something. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow your ways this week. Amen”

## 6-8 Years:

**Opening prayer:** Start the class by praying together. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

### **Bible Story:**

Tell the story of Samson in a language that this age can understand. Be sure that it is a simplified version. There are several picture versions in children’s Bibles that are appropriate or you may want to use a paraphrased version such as this:

God chose someone who was once little just like you. He chose Samson to grow up to be strong and to be a hero. God wanted Samson to save his special people, the Israelites, from the Philistines. The Philistines were fighting and being mean to the Israelites. Samson’s job was to help the Israelites fight the Philistines. As Samson grew, he was a Nazirite, which means he ate healthy things, nothing dirty, and no wine. He didn’t cut his hair either. Because God chose Samson, he had super strength. When Samson got older, he didn’t listen to God all the time and he let his own wants get in the way of being good and listening. Some people got hurt because of that. Samson did not listen to God, and told a lady named Delilah the secret to his strength. She cut his hair, and God took the strength away. Samson was also taken by the Philistines and made blind. In the end, Samson prayed to the Lord and asked God to remember him and give him strength one more time. God loved Samson, even when he made mistakes, so God said yes, He would give him strength one more time so Samson could do God’s work.

### **Discussion:**

What helped Samson to be so strong? Why does God give us jobs to do? What jobs do you think God wants you to do?

### **Game:**

Split the students into two teams. Have them sit in a single file line, facing each other. Play tug-of-war!

### **Activity:**

Write each of the students names on a single sheet of paper. Have the class write positive attributes of each student on the papers.

**12-14 Years:**

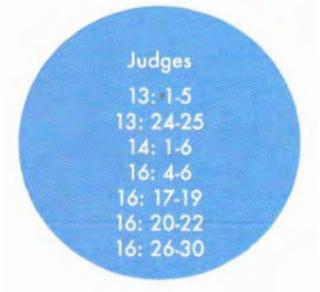
**Opening prayer:** Start the class by praying together. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us this day together to learn more about you and what you have done for us. Amen”

**Bible Reading:**

In this lesson, God chooses Samson at birth to be a hero for the Israelites against the Philistines. Have the students read the following selections.

Judges 13: 1-5  
 Judges 13: 24-25  
 Judges 14: 1-6  
 Judges 16: 4-6  
 Judges 16: 17-19  
 Judges 16: 20-22  
 Judges 16: 26-30

**Discussion:**

You are set apart by God from birth also. What do you think God made you to do or to be? Did Samson fill the job God had for him?

**Activity:**

Relate muscle strength to strength in your Christianity. No matter how strong you are, it is easier to pull someone down than to lift them up. Have one student stand on a chair; ask another to stand on the floor. The student in the chair should try to lift the person on the floor into the chair. It can't be done! Samson had strong muscles, but he was weak around girls.

**Game:**

Bring small, soft balls, or make some out of paper. One for each student. Split the class into two teams and tape a playing field. Each ball is a weakness that is weighing them down. The object is to have as few weaknesses on their side of the playing field. As one team is throwing their balls, the other side is doing the same. Set a time limit, and count the number of balls on each side when the time is up.

**Closing Prayer:** thanking God for the day. Example:

“Thank you God for bringing us together today to learn about Samson. Please help us to listen when you tell us something. Thank you for making us. Help us to follow your ways this week. Amen”