

Lesson 72

Samson Receives Strength

God gave Samson supernatural strength to fight the Philistines.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry for our sins.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who should we worship? The one true God.
When can we trust God? All the time.
What should we do if we love God? Obey him.
What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? Wise.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Review

Have the books you brought ready for the strength competition.

We're going to talk about strength in today's lesson, so let's start with a strength-testing competition! I need two volunteers to start. Choose two students to come up front. If you have a large class, you may choose more volunteers. If there's time, you may want to do several rounds.

Okay! I'm going to give each of you a book to hold. Then I'll add another book. I'll keep adding books until you say, "No more!" Ready? Have volunteers hold out their hands in front of them. Start stacking one book at a time onto each student's hands until they cannot hold any more.

Great job! How many books did you each hold? Count how many books each volunteer was able to hold before they said, "No more!"

We tested your strength today because we're going to talk about someone in the Bible who was given supernatural strength from God. But first, let's see what we remember from the last lesson.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. So far in the book of Judges, we've seen how God sent enemies against the Israelites to punish them for worshipping false gods. But whenever they cried out to God for help, he would choose a judge to rescue them.

Refer to the Lesson 71 Flip Chart. Who did God choose to lead the fight against the Midianites? What was his name? Gideon.

Gideon started out with a pretty big army, but God made it smaller and smaller because he didn't want the people to think they won by themselves. One night, Gideon and his men surrounded the enemy camp. They smashed their jars, raised their torches, and blew their trumpets. With God's help, the Midianites were defeated! Only God could win a battle like this!

Samson's Strength

Today's lesson starts at a time when the Israelites had forgotten God again and were worshipping false gods and idols. God sent enemies to rule over the Israelites to punish them for their sin. The Israelites were miserable—who would rescue them from the evil Philistines?

One day the angel of the Lord appeared to the wife of a man named Manoah and promised that she would have a son. God told her that her son would help save Israel from the Philistines. Since God would set him apart for this special purpose, there were certain rules her son should follow: he should never drink wine or cut his hair. When their son was born, they named him Samson.

God blessed Samson with great strength as he grew into a man. One day when Samson was traveling along a road, something jumped out of the bushes to attack him!

Judges 14:5–6

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look in the book of Judges to find out what Samson did. Who has the Bible? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Judges 14:5–6 starting halfway through verse 5 with "And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring."

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What attacked Samson on the road? A young lion.

And what did Samson do to the lion? Tore it to pieces with his bare hands.

Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Wow! This is amazing! Samson had nothing to fight the lion with except his bare hands.

What gave Samson the power to fight this lion? What rushed upon him? The Spirit of the Lord.

God sent his Spirit to give Samson the strength to save himself from this dangerous lion.

Samson's Downfall

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. God chose Samson to be a judge who would help Israel by fighting against the Philistines with the great strength God gave

him. But Samson fell in love with an ungodly woman who worshipped false gods. Her name was Delilah.

When the Philistines found out Samson loved Delilah, they came to her and said, "We will pay you lots of money if you find out the secret of Samson's strength."

What was the secret of Samson's strength? Who made him strong? God.

Delilah wanted the money. She asked Samson three times for the secret of his strength, and each time Samson lied. Delilah was upset. "Samson," she whined, "how can you say you love me, and then lie to me about the secret of your strength. Please tell me the truth."

Finally, Samson gave in and told Delilah, "Because I am set apart to God, I have never cut my hair. But if my head were shaved, my strength would leave me."

Delilah quickly called for the Philistines saying, "Hurry, bring my money. He's told me the secret of his strength."

Uh-oh! Is this going to get Samson into trouble? Show of hands.

While Samson was sleeping, Delilah called a man to shave Samson's head! After Samson's hair was cut, Delilah woke him up. He got up and tried to break free from the Philistines, but his strength was gone—God's Spirit had left him.

Remember, God gave Samson the power to fight the Philistines. His strength didn't come from his long hair. But Samson's long hair was a sign of his special relationship with God. Samson let Delilah become more important to him than loving and obeying God, so God left him.

The Philistines captured Samson. They blinded his eyes, bound him in chains, and took him to prison. It seemed like it was all over! How could Samson help rescue the Israelites now?

Samson's Last Feat

Well, as we've seen many times before, God was still in control because he is sovereign—and he wasn't done with Samson yet. There came a time when many Philistines gathered at a feast to worship their false god. They called for Samson to come up from the prison so they could make fun of him. Because Samson was blind now, he asked the boy who guided him to lead him between the two tall pillars that held up the building they were in.

Judges 16:28–30

Let's find out why he wanted to stand there. Read the verses.

What did Samson pray for? He prayed for God to remember him and give him strength one more time.

Samson cried out to God for help and strength. And God answered! What did Samson do with the last bit of strength God gave him? He pushed on the two middle pillars supporting the house. What happened to the house they were in? It collapsed.

Refer to the Flip Chart. God helped Samson fight against the wicked Philistines one last time. He gave Samson the strength to knock down two enormous pillars and make the whole building fall down. Thousands of Philistines died there that day, and so did Samson.

God gave Samson special strength to fight the evil Philistines alone. But Samson sinned by letting Delilah become more important to him than obeying and loving God. However, when he knew he was wrong and cried out to God, God heard his prayer and answered him one last time.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Review

Have the books you brought ready for the strength competition.

We're going to talk about strength in today's lesson, so let's start with a strength-testing competition! I need two volunteers to start. Choose two students to come up front. If you have a large class, you may choose more volunteers. If there's time, you may want to do several rounds.

Okay! I'm going to give each of you a book to hold. Then I'll add another book. I'll keep adding books until you say, "No more!" Ready? Have volunteers hold out their hands in front of them. Start stacking one book at a time onto each student's hands until they cannot hold any more.

Great job! How many books did you each hold? Count how many books each volunteer was able to hold before they said, "No more!"

We tested your strength today because we're going to talk about someone in the Bible who was given supernatural strength from God. But first, let's see what we remember from the last lesson.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. So far in the book of Judges, we've seen how God sent enemies against the Israelites to punish them for worshipping false gods. But whenever they cried out to God for help, he would choose a judge to rescue them.

Refer to Lesson 71 Flip Chart. Who did God choose to lead the fight against the Midianites? What was his name? Gideon.

Gideon started out with a pretty big army, but God made it smaller and smaller because he didn't want the people to think they won by themselves. One night, Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianite camp. They smashed their jars, raised their torches, and blew their

trumpets. With God's help, the Midianites were defeated! This was a victory that could only happen through God's power!

Samson's Strength

Today's lesson starts at a time when the Israelites had forgotten God again and were worshipping false gods and idols. Once again, God sent enemies to rule over the Israelites to punish them for their sin. The Israelites were miserable—who would rescue them from the evil Philistines?

One day the angel of the Lord appeared to the wife of a man named Manoah and promised that God would give her a son. This was exciting news since she didn't have any children! God told her that her son would help save Israel from the Philistines. Since God would set him apart for this special purpose, there were certain rules her son should follow: he should never drink wine and should never cut his hair. Soon, Manoah and his wife had a son, and they named him Samson.

God blessed Samson with great strength as he grew into a man. One day when Samson was traveling along a road, something jumped out of the bushes to attack him!

Judges 14:5–6

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look in the book of Judges to find out what Samson did. Who has the Bible? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Judges 14:5–6 starting halfway through verse 5 with "And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring."

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Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Wow! This is amazing! Samson had no weapon or anything to fight the lion with except his bare hands.

What gave Samson the power to defeat the lion? What rushed upon him? The Spirit of the Lord.

God sent his Spirit to give Samson the strength to save himself from this dangerous lion.

Samson's Downfall

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. God chose Samson to be a judge who would help Israel by fighting against the Philistines with the great strength God gave him. But Samson had a weakness; he fell in love with an ungodly woman named Delilah. Instead of choosing a woman who worshipped the one true God, Samson wanted to be with Delilah, who worshipped false gods.

When the Philistines found out Samson loved Delilah, they came to her and said, "We will pay you lots of money if you find out the secret of Samson's strength."

What was the secret of Samson's strength? Who made him strong? God.

Delilah liked the idea of getting lots of money. She asked Samson to tell her where his strength came from. Samson said, "If someone tied fresh bowstrings (cords) around me, I would become weak."

So Delilah tied bowstrings around Samson. Then she shouted, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!"

How many of you think Samson got caught? Show of hands.

Well, Samson got up and snapped those bowstrings right off. That wasn't the secret of his strength.

Delilah asked two more times for Samson's secret, and each time Samson lied. Delilah was getting upset. She wanted the money that was promised to her. "Samson," she whined, "how can you say you love me, and then lie to me about the secret of your strength. Please tell me the truth."

Delilah pestered Samson day after day to tell her his secret. Finally, one day Samson gave in and said, "Because I am set apart to God, I have never cut my hair. But if my head were shaved, my strength would leave me."

This time, Delilah knew Samson was telling her the truth. She quickly called for the Philistines saying, "Hurry, bring my money. He's told me the secret of his strength. I know it will work this time."

Judges 16:19–20

Uh-oh! Is this going to get Samson into trouble? Let's find out what happened next. Listen as I read Judges 16:19–20. Read the verses.

While Samson was sleeping, Delilah called a man to come in. What did that man do? Shaved Samson's head.

After Samson's hair was cut, Delilah woke him up. What was Samson thinking he would do this time? He thought he'd break free as he'd done before.

Did Samson know that God wasn't with him when the Philistines attacked this time? No.

Samson was given power from God to fight the Philistines, so his strength didn't come from his long hair. But, God had set Samson apart for a special purpose, and Samson's long hair was a sign of his special relationship with God. Samson let Delilah become more important to him than loving and obeying God, so God left him.

Samson's Last Feat

The Philistines captured Samson. They blinded his eyes and bound him in chains, and he was taken to prison. It sure seemed like it was all over for Samson. Now he was blind and suffering in prison. How could he help rescue the Israelites now?

Well, as we've seen many times before, God was still in control because he is sovereign—and he wasn't done with Samson yet. There came a time when many Philistines gathered at a feast to worship their false god. They called for Samson to come up from the prison so they could make fun of him. Because Samson was blind now, he asked the boy who guided him to lead him between the two tall pillars that held up the building they were in.

What do you think Samson was going to do with those pillars? Any guesses? Allow guesses.

Judges 16:28–30

Let's find out. Listen to Judges 16:28–30. Read the verses.

What did Samson pray for? He prayed for God to remember him and give him strength one more time.

Samson cried out to God for help and strength. And God answered!

What did Samson do with the last bit of strength God gave him? He pushed the two middle pillars supporting the house. What happened to the house they were in? It collapsed, killing Samson along with all the Philistines.

Refer to the Flip Chart. God helped Samson fight against the wicked Philistines one last time. He gave Samson the strength to knock down two enormous pillars and make the whole building fall down. Thousands of Philistines died there that day, and so did Samson.

Samson's life was different from other judges because God gave him special strength to fight the evil Philistines alone—the other Israelites didn't join him to fight. But Samson sinned by letting Delilah become more important to him than loving and obeying God. However, when Samson knew he was wrong and cried out to God, God heard his prayer and answered him one last time.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Two beanbags
Three laundry baskets or boxes
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Three chairs set out for bases
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Game Board
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Six to ten empty water bottles
Softball or other small playground ball
Masking tape
Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and

Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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Bible Version

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