

Lesson Four: God Wants to Forgive Me

(Preschool/Elementary)

Lesson Theme:

God wants me to turn away from the bad things I do and trust in Jesus to forgive me of my sin.

Theme Verse:

“So turn to God! Give up your sins, and you will be forgiven.”

Acts 3:19 CEV

* If you have extra time, have the students come up with motions for the theme verse from today.

Bible Story – Samson from the Book of Judges

Ice-Breaker Activities

ACTIVITY #1: SAMSON AND DELILAH CHASE

- This is played much like the old game of Duck, Duck, Goose.
- As children sit in a circle, the IT person will walk slowly around the outside perimeter of the circle and tap each person and say SAMSON.
- When they tap a classmate and shout DELILAH, that person will jump up and chase the IT person until they reach the space that is empty.
- If they are caught, then the new IT person will continue to play.

ACTIVITY #2: SIN CAN MAKE US POWERLESS

- Follow the instructions on the “Sin Can Make Us Powerless” page in the **Lesson 4 – Activity Sheets Packet**.
- The goal of this activity is to illustrate these points:
 - Just as my magnet is now powerless to do the things it once did, Samson could no longer do the great deeds he once did because of the consequences of sin!
 - If we allow sin to come into our lives, we will become too weak and powerless to serve God!

ACTIVITY #3: ACTIVE LISTENING ACTIVITY

- This activity will be used during the Bible story-telling time.
- The goal of this activity is to give the students ‘key words’ to listen for so they know when to act out that part of the story. This will encourage them to be more attentive to the overall story.

What You Need:

- Some sort of “sign” to designate each of the main characters.
- Assign the following characters and actions to various students.

- Samson
- Delilah
- People from Israel
- Philistine People



- Flex muscles or Dab
- Blow kisses
- Sign Language for Jew
- Fish motion with hands because Dagon was the “Fish God”



What To Do:

- As you share the Bible Story Paraphrase, each character should stand and do any connected action when the story mentions them by name.

Bible Story – God Wants Us to Turn to God and Be Forgiven—Samson

Lesson Three Review

In our class yesterday, we studied about Gideon and how God used a very small group of soldiers in a very unique way to accomplish His will.

Does anyone remember how many soldiers Gideon led to fight against the thousands upon thousands of Midianites?

Only 300 men.

What unique weapons did Gideon and his soldiers have to fight against the Midianite army?

A torch, a trumpet and a water pitcher.

What happened during the battle and what was the outcome?

God caused the Midianites to be confused and they turned on one another. The Israelites watched them as they defeated themselves, thus winning the battle and overthrowing the Midianites.

In much the same way, God wants me to depend upon Him to do really big things in my life too!

[If using the “Active Listening Activity,” start it now!]

Judges 16 (Paraphrase)

Today, we are studying about the twelfth judge of **Israel (+)**. His name was **Samson (+)**. Just like all the times before, as soon as Abdon—the previous judge in **Israel (+)**—died, the people began to do what was evil in God’s sight, so God sent the **Philistines (+)** to punish them. For 40 years, the **Philistines (+)** ruled over Israel. **Samson’s (+)** parents were faithful servants of God that dedicated **Samson’s (+)** life to God. They made special promises to God about the way **Samson (+)** would live his life (no drinking, no cutting hair & no touching dead stuff). This was called a Nazirite vow.

As he was growing up, **Samson (+)** did not always keep his promises to God. Rather than choosing to marry someone from **Israel (+)**, he wanted to marry a **Philistine (+)** woman. Even though his parents did not approve, **Samson (+)** pushed and pushed until he got his way.

Have you ever been told “No!” about something but you keep bugging your parents until they finally give in?

This is what happened with Samson and his parents.

What do you think, is it good or bad to manipulate your parents to get what you want? What does the Bible say about that?

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 says, “Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.”

Samson (+) thought that he loved this **Philistine (+)** woman, but his actions did not match the Bible’s description of what love is. **Samson (+)** hated the **Philistine (+)** people and he really didn’t care much for the people of **Israel (+)** either—he really only cared for himself. This became very clear as the Bible tells many other stories about his life in Judges 14-15. **Samson (+)** did what he wanted, when he wanted to and did not answer to anyone.

Samson (+) grew big and strong—in fact, he was the strongest man in the world! One day, he met and fell in love with a beautiful woman, named **Delilah (+)**. She acted like she loved him too, but she really didn’t. She was being paid by the **Philistines (+)** to find out what the real source of his strength was. Three times, **Samson (+)** lied to **Delilah (+)** about the source of his strength; but finally, after continually nagging him to tell her, she discovers the truth. She informs the **Philistines (+)** so that they can capture **Samson (+)** get revenge for all the terrible things he had done toward them.

When the **Philistines (+)** came to capture him, the Bible says that, “He did not realize that the Lord had stopped helping him” (Judges 16:20 CEV). **Samson (+)** was unable to fight off the **Philistine (+)** soldiers. They captured and subdued him while **Delilah (+)** just watched! They poked out his eyes so that he could not see, and forced him to do hard work turning a millstone to grind grain.

It seemed as if **Samson’s (+)** life and leadership of **Israel (+)** was over—the enemy seemed to have defeated him. To celebrate this monumental victory, the **Philistines (+)** held a great feast in the Temple of Dagon, the fish god. Because they wanted to mock and ridicule **Samson (+)**, the **Philistines (+)** had him come out to entertain the guests at the celebration honoring their god, Dagon, and laugh at **Israel’s (+)** fallen hero. When they brought **Samson (+)** out into the crowd, he asked the young man leading him to be able to lean against the large pillars upon which the house was supported.

The temple was completely filled with people. All the **Philistine (+)** rulers were there, and there were about 3,000 men and women on the roof who were watching as **Samson (+)** amused them. He was disgraced. His bad decisions had brought shame and consequences upon the whole nation of **Israel (+)**. At this point, **Samson (+)** was truly a broken man.

Only once before had he ever said a prayer to the God of **Israel (+)**, and that prayer was rude and demanding. But on this day, in the Temple of Dagon, **Samson (+)** prayed to the God of **Israel (+)** with a broken and repentant heart. He said, ““Sovereign Lord, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time.” Finally, **Samson (+)** acknowledges that it is God who gives him strength. Because he turned away from his sinful pride and turned to the God of **Israel (+)**, God forgave **Samson (+)**. God answered his prayer by giving him the strength to bring judgment upon all who were there in the pagan temple. He put his hands on the two center pillars that held up the temple. Pushing against them with both hands, ³⁰ he prayed, “Let me die with the **Philistines (+)**.” And the temple crashed down on all the people, killing more people in his death than in his entire lifetime.

Bible Story Review

What kind of life did Samson live? Did he live in obedience to God?

Samson really didn't care much for people—he really only cared for himself. This became very clear as the Bible tells many other stories about his life in Judges 14-15. Samson did what he wanted, when he wanted to and did not answer to anyone—including God.

Why did Delilah act like she was in love with Samson?

She was trying to earn his trust so that he would tell her the secret to his amazing strength. Each of the Philistine leaders was paying her 1,100 pieces of silver for her help.

What was the symbol of Samson's devotion to God? What did Delilah do to it?

His hair—and the fact that it had never been cut—was a picture of the commitment Samson had made to God in the Nazirite vow. Shaving a person's head is a symbol of completing or breaking that particular vow. When Delilah had someone come and shave Samson's head, his vow was broken and the strength of the Lord departed from him.

What did Samson do that prompted God to forgive him?

Samson turned away from sin and turned to God. This is called repentance. The Bible says, "if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away" (1 John 1:9 CEV).

Have you come to a place in your life where you have asked God to forgive you of your sin? Would you like to do that today?

Say today's theme verse again with the motions you created:

"So turn to God! Give up your sins, and you will be forgiven."

Acts 3:19 cev

Application Activities

WORD SEARCH & COLORING SHEETS:

- Download the **Lesson 4 – Activity Sheets Packet** for coloring sheets and other activities for your students.

CRAFT: SAMSON PAPER BAG PUPPET

- Download the **Lesson 4 – Activity Sheets Packet** for supply list and instructions for this craft.