

# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Samson

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 1 WEEK 10

1

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Various items around your home  
(see instructions below)

### LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- Judges 13:2-5
- Judges 13:24
- Judges 16:4-30

2

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

It happened again! The Israelite people began to forget about God. They began to worship idols. So, God allowed the Philistines to hurt them and make fun of them. The people asked God to save them. A good woman, who was married to an Israelite man named Manoah, was all by herself one day. She was thinking, "I wish I had children. I have prayed and prayed to God but He still hasn't given me a baby."

An angel of the Lord came to talk to her. "I know you have waited for a long time to have a baby. God has heard your prayers and you will soon have a son." A baby! The lady was so excited she ran to tell her husband. Her husband said that he hoped the angel would come back to tell them how to raise the child." The angel did and told them their son would be special. Manoah and his wife were to keep a special promise. The promise was called the Nazarite Vow. They must promise that the baby was to never ever cut his hair or touch a dead body or drink any alcohol.

When their son was born, Manaoh and his wife called him Samson. They taught Samson that he must always keep the Nazarite Vow – the promise. He must never cut his hair or drink alcohol. Samson grew up to be a strong man. Once he killed a lion with his bare hands. Israel was very proud of Samson because they knew that the Lord gave them strength.

Samson was strong, but he often got into trouble because he wanted his own way. Even though Samson was not always good, the Lord gave him strength. The Lord wanted the Philistines to know that the Israelites were His people. He wanted them to know that God is strong and He can give strength to His people. Samson kept his promise. He never cut his hair or drank any alcohol.

After time had passed, Samson fell in love with another woman. Her name was Delilah. The Philistines still hated Samson. They did not understand how he could be so strong. They wanted to know the secret of his strength so they could capture him. When the Philistines heard about Samson and Delilah, they decided to use Delilah to find out Samson's secret. They went to Delilah and offered her lots of money to trick Samson into telling the secret of his strength.

Three times Delilah nagged Samson to tell her the secret of his strength, and three times Samson tricked her by giving her an answer that wasn't true: tying him up with leather strings, tying him up with new ropes and weaving his hair into a loom. Every time Delilah tried one of these things, the Philistines rushed in to capture Samson and every time he broke free and wasn't captured.

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## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Delilah was getting angry. Why wouldn't Samson tell her his secret? So, she kept relentlessly nagging him. Finally, Samson got tired of Delilah's nagging. He decided to tell her about the Nazarite Vow. He told her that if he ever cut his hair then all of his strength would leave him.

Now Delilah knew that she had the real secret. She told the Philistine man to hide in the room one more time. After Samson was asleep, Delilah got one of the men to sneak over and shave off Samson's hair. This time, when Delilah said: "Wake up Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" Samson jumped up but had no strength. He had broken his promise to God and all of his special strength left him.

The Philistines captured Samson and made him a slave in a mill where grain was ground up into flour. They also made him blind. Now all of the Philistines could come and watch Samson and make fun of him. Samson worked hard. As time passed, his hair grew longer and longer.

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The Philistines did not believe in the Lord. They worshipped a false god named Dagon. The people had a big temple where they worshipped Dagon. One day the Philistines decided to have a big party to give praise to their god. They wanted to celebrate and show everyone how Dagon was stronger than Samson. The Philistines put Samson in front of all of the people at the temple. 3000 Philistines were there that day. They all laughed and made fun of Samson.

Finally, when the people had stopped watching Samson for a while, Samson asked a servant to lead him to a place where two strong pillars were. These pillars held up the roof of the temple. Samson asked the servant to help him put his hands on the pillars. Samson knew now that his strength didn't come from himself, but from God. So, he prayed to God asking for strength. Then he pushed on the pillars and knocked them down. When the pillars began to fall, the roof fell down and killed everyone in the building – even Samson. Samson killed many more Philistines that day than he had ever killed before. Now everyone knew that Samson was strong because of the Lord.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Why?
- What was the "superpower" that God gave to Samson?
- What is a Nazarite Vow?
- Why did Delilah try to trick Samson?
- What were some of the things Samson told Delilah to trick her?
- Why did Samson finally tell Delilah that his strength was in his hair?
- When the Philistines cut Samson's hair, what did they do with him?
- why did the Philistines bring Samson to the temple of Dagon, their false god?
- How did Samson destroy the temple?

## 5

**LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER**

- Was Samson's strength in his hair?
- Why did God give Samson so much strength?
- What were some of the wrong things Samson did?
- Why was Samson still super strong even when he lived a sinful life?
- What did God accomplish through Samson's life even though he sinned?
- Why do you think Samson's only prayer was at the end of his life?
- Do we sin? Can God still use us to do great things for Him?
- What special gifts or "superpowers" did God give you (what are you really good at)? What are you doing with these "superpowers"? Are you using them to show others how great you are, or are you using them to bring glory to God?

## 6

**LET'S PRAY TOGETHER**

Pray together:

- Thank God that He uses us, even though we sin and make many bad choices.
- Thank God for the gifts and "superpowers" he gave you.
- Pray that God would help you to use your "superpowers" responsibly and to bring glory to His Name.

## 7

**LET'S HAVE SOME FUN**

Who is the "strongman" or "strongwoman" of your family? Try any or all of these challenges to see who in your family is best at what. Remember to cheer each other on and to celebrate the things you and your family are really good at.

- Thumb wars: Pair up and play a round of thumb wars against each other then let the winners keep playing against each other until you have a thumb war champion.
- Balancing: Who can balance on one leg for the longest to become the balancing champion? *(If this isn't difficult enough, have family members close their eyes while they try to balance)*
- Weight lifting: Find things around your home with different weights - start with the lighter things and work your way to heavier things to see who the weight lifting champion of your family is.
- High knees: Who can run on the spot, lifting their knees up high, for the longest and become the high-knees champion?
- Who can hold their arms out to their sides the longest to become the arm holding champion?
- Arm wrestling: Pair up and arm wrestle each other then let the winners keep playing against each other until you have an arm wrestling champion.
- Who can jump the highest to become the high jump champion?
- Who can throw a ball the furthest to become the ball throwing champion?
- Who can do the most burpies to become the burpie champion?

*Parents, please feel free to get creative and add any other activities that would suit your family.*