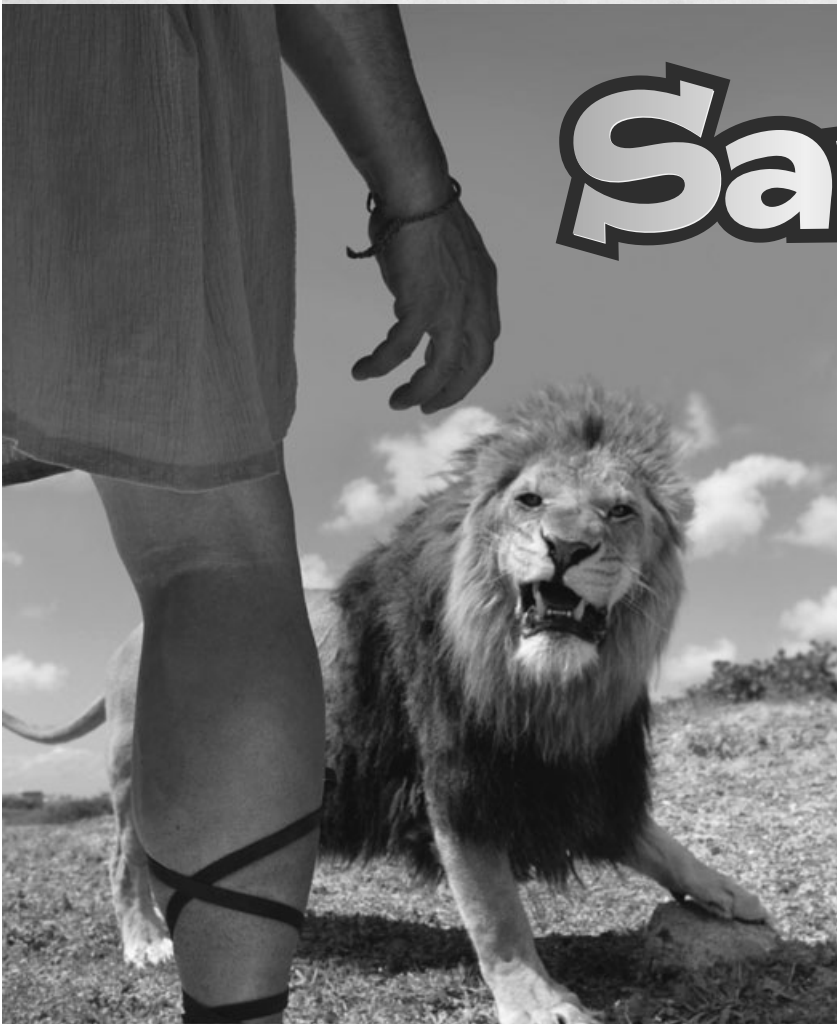


Samson

The Strong Judge



Track 20



ROOOAAAARRR!

The lion charged
at Samson.

Samson thought fast. He
had no sword. He had no
stick. What should he do?
That lion wanted to eat
him for lunch!

1-2-3. *Swoosh!* Samson jumped on the lion. The Lord made Samson so strong that he killed the lion with his own bare hands.

Samson knew he was special. Before he was born, an angel told his parents that Samson would begin to save Israel from the Philistines. The angel also said he must promise to do what God wants. If he did, God would make him strong.

Samson left the lion and went with his parents down to the village of Timnah. They were on their way to get Samson a Philistine wife. But his parents weren't happy about it.

"Why don't you marry an Israelite girl?" his parents said. "God's holy people should not marry the sinful Philistines. Plus, they're our enemies."

"This is the girl I want to marry," said Samson. "I'll do what I want."

So Samson married the Philistine girl. But trouble started at the wedding. First, the Philistines tricked Samson. Then Samson got angry. Then later the Philistines killed Samson's wife.



"This means war!" yelled Samson. God made Samson stronger than ALL the Philistines put together. Samson began to save Israel, just as the angel had said.

After a while, Samson met another Philistine woman named Delilah. "I love you, Delilah," said Samson. He knew God said to stay away from sinful women. But Samson did what he wanted.

Delilah begged Samson to tell her why he was so strong. She begged and begged and begged. “If you really love me, you’ll tell me,” she said.

Finally, Samson told her the truth, “From my birth, I promised to do what God wants. As part of that promise, I must never cut my hair. If I do, I won’t be strong anymore.”

Samson went to sleep. Then he awoke with a start! The Philistines were all around him. Samson stood up to fight, but something felt different. He touched his head. His long braids were all cut off!

That wicked Delilah had tricked Samson. She didn’t really love him.

The Philistines grabbed Samson and made his eyes blind. Then they brought him to prison and locked him in chains.

“Now I am weak,” cried Samson. “I have broken my promise to God. I have sinned and done just what I wanted.”

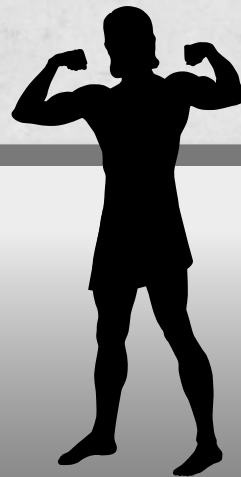


Little by little, Samson's hair began to grow again.

One day, the Philistines brought Samson to a big party for their fake god, Dagon. Samson prayed for another chance: "O Lord God, please remember me. Make me strong one last time."

Samson pushed the pillars of the house with all his might. The house tumbled down on Samson and all the people in it.

Strong Samson was strong in the Lord once again! Even though Samson died, he killed more Philistines on *that* day than he had ever killed in his whole life.



**Learn from
Samson's biography:**

- God is the one who makes His people strong.
- Obey, God! Do what He wants you to do.

Parent Ideas

Samson, the Strong Judge

Scripture: Judges 13-16

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- God is the one who makes His people strong.
- Obey, God! Do what He wants you to do.

1. Read-together activity –

Before you read the biography make two signs. One sign should have a picture of Samson on it, along with the phrase “What Samson wanted.” Another sign should have a picture of a Bible on it, along with the phrase “What God wanted.” As you read the biography to your child, ask him to stand and hold up the Samson sign whenever Samson did what he wanted instead of what God wanted. Your child should hold up the God sign whenever Samson did what God wanted. For example, Samson did what he wanted when he disobeyed his parents and married a Philistine girl. Samson did what God wanted when he prayed for strength at the end of the biography.

2. Discussion activity – Ask your child to retell the biography in her own words. Guide her by asking her to tell you what happened at the beginning, middle and end. Then discuss the character of Samson. Ask the following questions:

- Would you like to be like Samson? Why or why not?
- What did Samson do wrong? What did he do right?
- How can you tell God still loved and forgave Samson, even after he did wrong?

Parents, children are often attracted to Samson’s strength, and they tend to blame his downfall on Delilah’s trickery. But through your discussion, help your child to see that Samson’s troubles came about because he was focused on doing what he wanted instead of on what God wanted. He shouldn’t have been hanging around a sinful woman like Delilah in the first place – especially since he was a Nazarite, called to be holy and separated to the service of God (Numbers 6:2, 8).

3. Application activity

– Ask your child to draw two pictures. In one picture, he should draw a time when he did what he wanted, instead of what God wanted him to do (e.g., fighting with his sister, complaining to mom, etc.). In the other picture, he should draw a situation when he did what God wanted him to do. Consider drawing pictures about your own life, to share with your child as an example.

Then discuss the pictures. Remind your child of God’s forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ. Invite him to trust Jesus Christ as Savior if he has not yet done so. (Talk to your child’s Sparks leader if you have questions about trusting Christ as Savior.)