



# God Uses Samson to Deliver Israel

*Judges 13–16*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will praise God, who delivers His people, and will use the gifts that God gives for His glory.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Describe how God prepared Samson to deliver Israel.
- Explain how Samson was defeated and God was exalted in his life.
- Evaluate what was good and bad in Samson's life.
- Analyze how God sovereignly accomplished His will through Samson's life.

## KEY VERSE

“Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, ‘O LORD God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!’” (Judges 16:28).

## APPLICATION

- Thank God for delivering rebellious sinners.
- Examine your life to see how God has designed you to serve.
- Repent of sin that you pursue instead of obeying God.
- Commit yourself to doing everything for God's glory.

## NEXT WEEK

God's Sovereignty in the Book of Ruth  
Read the book of Ruth.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

The book of Judges begins with Israel’s failure to drive the Canaanites from the Promised Land. Because Israel disobeyed God, He allowed the Canaanites to stay in the land to test whether Israel would obey Him or follow the Canaanites. Judges 3:7–16:31 records six cycles of Israel’s apostasy, the Lord’s punishment, Israel’s cry to God, and the Lord’s deliverance. Every time Israel disobeyed God, He sent a nation to oppress them. When they finally called to Him for help, He raised up men called judges to deliver the people from the oppressors. While the judges did amazing things through faith in and empowerment by God, the book of Judges shows that God used the judges in spite of who they were and not because of who they were. After being used by God to lead the defeat of Midian, Gideon was characterized by cruelty, vengeance, pride, and idolatry (Judg. 8). Jephthah, whose defeat of the Ammonites is recorded in the fifth cycle, was later marked by the sacrifice of his daughter and his killing of 42,000 Israelites (Judg. 11–12)! The sixth and last cycle of deliverance involved Samson, who ignored his unique calling as deliverer (Judg. 13–16). The story of Samson is both a call to praise God, who graciously delivers His people, and a warning against failing to use God’s gifts for His glory.

### God Calls a Deliverer for Israel (Judges 13)

The last cycle of Judges begins with Israel again doing evil in the eyes of the Lord and the Lord delivering them over to be oppressed by a pagan nation, the Philistines. The cycle comes to an abrupt halt when Israel fails to cry out to the Lord. While Israel never had deserved deliverance, now they showed no signs of even desiring it! But Israel’s failure to cry out to the Lord did not cause God to forsake them. Amazingly, the Lord called the next deliverer in the most dramatic way yet!

The angel of the Lord came to a barren Israelite woman, the wife of Manoah from the tribe of Dan, and told her that she would have a son who would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines (Judg. 13:2–5). The angel announced that the son was to be a Nazirite. Numbers 6:1–8 describes how an Israelite could take a Nazirite vow and separate himself to the Lord. For a limited period of time, the Nazirite would refrain from drinking alcohol or eating anything made from grapes, from cutting the hair on his head, and from going near a dead body. This child of Manoah was to be a Nazirite, not by choice but by God’s calling, and not for a limited time but “from the womb to the day of his death” (13:7). Because he was to be a Nazirite from conception, even his mother was “not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean” (13:4). The directions for raising the boy were confirmed to Manoah and his wife when the angel of the Lord came to them in response to Manoah’s prayer (13:8–23). As He had promised, God gave the barren woman a son, whom she named Samson (13:24). As Samson grew, he was blessed by the Lord.

### Additional Reference Materials

*Judges, Ruth; New American Commentary* by Daniel I. Block

*Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges* by Dale Ralph Davis

*Ruth*. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by F. B. Huey Jr.

*Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament* by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, eds.

*Judges*. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by Herbert Wolf

The circumstances surrounding Samson's birth pointed to his becoming a powerful and righteous deliverer for Israel. His miraculous birth was announced by the angel of the Lord, his life was dedicated to the Lord under the Nazirite vow, and his youth was blessed by the Lord. Samson had the qualifications and preparation necessary to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines. When the Spirit of the Lord began to move Samson (Judg. 13:25), the reader expects Samson to begin battling the oppressors, as Gideon and Jephthah had (Judg. 6:34, 11:29). But sadly, chapter 14 begins with Samson showing no concern about following the Lord or delivering Israel!

### **God Begins Deliverance through Samson (Judg. 14–15)**

Instead of battling Philistines, Samson wanted to marry a Philistine! Manoah and his wife were obviously disappointed, but the narrator reveals that Samson's "father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines" (Judg. 14:4). Chapters 14–15 record how God began to deliver Israel through a strange chain of events, beginning with Samson's desire to disobey God and marry a Philistine. Despite Samson's lack of regard for the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord repeatedly strengthened him (14:6, 19; 15:14). The narrative slowly escalates from Samson killing a lion with his bare hands, to his killing 30 Philistines, and finally to his killing 1,000 Philistines with a donkey's jawbone. Both Samson and Israel are revealed to be in a poor spiritual state. Samson was disobedient to his parents and the Lord, disregarded his Nazirite vow, and was dominated by his desires, lusts, pride, and thirst for vengeance. In his victory, he did not glorify the Lord (15:16) and acknowledged the Lord only when he was thirsty and concerned for his own life (15:18). Samson's claim to be God's servant is questionable in light of his continual disregard of the Law. The spiritual condition of Israel was no better. When Samson was being pursued by Philistines, the men of Judah came to arrest Samson with 3,000 men because they wanted to maintain peace with the Philistines (15:11–12). God's punishment for their rebellion had become an accepted way of life.

### **God Continues Deliverance through Samson's Unfaithfulness (Judg. 16)**

Samson's victory over the Philistines resulted in his leading Israel for 20 years "in the days of the Philistines" (Judg. 15:20). Unlike other judges, whose reigns resulted in the land having rest, Samson led Israel during a period of Philistine domination. Chapter 16 begins with a short, mysterious account of Samson going to Gaza, one of the five major Philistine cities, 45 miles from his home, to visit a prostitute (16:1)! Samson obviously had learned little from his previous encounter with a Philistine woman. Even so far from his home, the Philistines hated Samson and desired to capture him. Aware of the plot, Samson snuck out of the city, tore down its massive gates, and carried them 40 miles to the top of a hill in Israel. Although God's Spirit is not mentioned in connection with the mighty act, surely God again was using Samson's sin, his hostility toward the Philistines, and his powerful desire for revenge to destroy complacent relations between the Israelites and the Philistines.

Even after his second disastrous encounter with a Philistine woman, Samson again "loved a woman in the valley of Sorek" (Judg. 16:4). The Valley of Sorek, although not far from his hometown, still was in a Philistine territory. Too much had happened between the Philistines and Samson for the Philistines to pass up this opportunity to capture Samson while he was in territory under their control. Disappointingly, Samson was not in the enemy territory to plan an overthrow of the Philistines, but to satisfy his lusts. While Samson's first wife had betrayed him after she was threatened, Delilah was simply willing to betray Samson for a vast

amount of money (each Philistine governor offering 1,100 pieces of silver). The Philistines were aware that Samson's strength was supernatural and asked Delilah to find out how they could overpower him (16:5).

Delilah was alarmingly open in her request: "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you" (Judg. 16:6). Samson lied to Delilah three times, deceiving her about how he could be defeated. Every time Delilah thought that she had weakened Samson and called the Philistines to capture him, he quickly escaped the trap. Samson obviously was enjoying taunting the Philistines by giving them false hope and then using his God-given strength to escape. As his first wife had done, Delilah began to accuse Samson of not loving her (because he did not let her trap him). Despite his physical strength, Samson revealed his weakness of character and gave in to Delilah's demands. Because "she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death...he told her all his heart, and said to her, 'No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb'" (16:16-17). For the first time in the narrative, Samson reveals that he knew of his Nazirite calling, even though he had disobeyed God throughout his life. How could he so willingly throw away this knowledge to a woman he knew was seeking his downfall? Samson's lust had overpowered both his common sense and his devotion to God.

When Samson had revealed "his heart" to Delilah, she knew that she had found out the truth (16:18). Once more, she planned a trap for Samson, even succeeding at having a man sneak in and cut off his hair (16:19). When she awoke Samson to tell him of the approaching Philistines, he said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free" (16:20). Could it be possible that Samson did not notice his missing hair? Or had he assumed that God would still strengthen him no matter how much he disregarded his Nazirite call? For whatever reason, Samson "did not know that the LORD had departed from him" (16:20). He could no longer toy with Delilah and the Philistines. Previously, God had strengthened Samson regardless of his disobedience. Now God accomplished His sovereign work by allowing Samson to bear the consequences of his frivolous regard for the Lord. Samson was captured, blinded, and brought to the Philistine city of Gaza, where he was placed in bronze fetters and forced to grind flour (16:21). But all was not lost. Though Samson had forsaken his divine calling as a Nazirite, "the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven" (16:22). God was not finished delivering Israel through Samson.

The Philistines appear to have had a better understanding of what was at stake with Samson's capture than Samson himself did. Despite Samson's willingness to join with the enemy, God had engineered events so that the Philistines hated Samson. The Philistines rejoiced and praised their false god Dagon for delivering their enemy Samson to them (16:23-24). They understood that the contest between them and Samson was a contest to see whose god would win. Enjoying their god's seeming victory, the Philistines called for Samson to perform before them. Having asked his guide to place his hands on the pillars that supported the temple (16:26), blind Samson prayed to the Lord, "O LORD God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" (16:28). Samson, who had shown so little concern for God during his life, exercised tremendous faith in God when he asked Him for strength to destroy the Philistines. Although Samson should have been motivated to destroy the Philistines more for their pagan worship than for personal vengeance, God had worked events so that Samson once again hated the Philistines enough to kill them. As throughout the story, Samson still was motivated by his own program rather than by a desire to deliver Israel. Personal vengeance

was enough of a victory for Samson. He was willing to die with the Philistines as long as he took enough of them with him (16:30). Pushing against the two pillars, Samson caused enough damage to the temple's support so that the temple fell inward, killing the Philistine lords inside and the 3,000 people who were watching from the roof. In summary, the narrator of Judges says, "So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life" (16:30).

Samson had been enabled to kill 1,000 men with a jawbone and 3,000 in his death; how much more of a deliverer could he have been if he had followed God with all his heart? Samson ignored his calling and preparation as a deliverer as he squandered his life chasing the satisfaction of his flesh and his desire for vengeance. Of the six cycles in Judges, the cycle of Samson best reveals that God delivered Israel because of who He is and despite who they were. Throughout the story of Samson, Israel was perfectly content existing under Philistine domination, and Samson was content to have relationships with Philistine women. It was God alone who caused Samson to be hated by the Philistines and who strengthened him so that the Philistines were defeated. Although both Samson and Israel had been given a divine calling, blessing, and strengthening, it was only God who exercised concern for the deliverance of His people.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"*  
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

What troubles were the Israelites having?

*Each year, after the Israelites had planted seeds in the ground and the food grew, the Midianites would go in, steal or destroy everything, and take the animals of the Israelites.*

Why did the Israelites have all these problems?

*The Israelites were being very disobedient to God. They were worshiping other gods, not the one true God. So God allowed the enemies of the Israelites to cause problems so that they might turn to God, repent, and ask Him to help them.*

Whom did God use to deliver the Israelites from their troubles?

*A man named Gideon.*

What happened when the Midianites saw and heard Gideon and his men?

*The Lord caused the Midianites to attack one another with their swords and run away. They were very frightened and confused.*



### **Nazirite Vows**

The Hebrew term behind the word *Nazirite* literally means “to separate.” A Nazirite separated himself to the Lord by separating himself from certain things such as wine, touching dead bodies, and cutting the hair (Num 6:1–8). A person wishing to show dedication and devotion to God could choose to take a Nazirite vow for a fixed period of time. During this time, he would be regarded as holy to the Lord. A modern counterpart would be becoming a monk or nun or deciding to fast. Ask the students whether they ever have given something up in order to devote time to God. (Some examples may include not playing a certain sport so that they can go to church, going to a Bible club rather than watching their favorite television program, etc.) What is it like to give something up for God?



### **A Promise**

Ask the students whether they ever have made a promise (to take out the trash, to obey an older brother or sister, to clean their room, etc.). Ask them if it was easy or hard to keep that promise. Talk about how important it is to keep promises completely and not half-heartedly. Talk about the promise that Samson had to make, the Nazirite vow. Tell them that Samson’s promise was not just a promise to another person, but was a promise was made to God.



### **Supernatural Strength**

Bring in various weights or heavy objects, and allow the students (under careful supervision) to lift them to see how heavy they are. (Instruct the students to bend from the knees, not the waist, when lifting the objects, so they do not injure their backs.) Tell the students that today they will learn about a man with supernatural strength. His name was Samson. He could lift huge weights with no problem. He was so strong that he could kill a lion with his bare hands. Have the students show their muscles, and ask how they got their muscles. They got them from God. Samson was very strong because God gave him his strength.

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

#### Reading of the Text

Read Judges 13–16.

#### Introduction

Before Samson was born, the angel of the Lord announced that Samson would begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines (13:5). No other judge had been announced as Samson was. Samson was going to be a special person in the hands of God. He would be a Nazirite for life, which means that he would be specially devoted to the Lord.



#### Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** What was a Nazirite?

**Answer:** Numbers 6 gives the law regarding a Nazirite. A Nazirite was someone who was specially dedicated to the Lord for a period of time. During that time, he could not eat any grapes or anything made from grapes, he could not cut his hair, and he could not go near a dead body. Taking the Nazirite vow was very special and entirely optional.

**LOQ:** In the story we hear about, who was a Nazirite?

**Answer:** Samson was a Nazirite.

**LOQ:** How long was Samson a Nazirite?

**Answer:** Samson was a Nazirite from his birth (Judg. 13:5). Even his mother stopped drinking wine before she became pregnant with him because the angel of the Lord told her to do so (13:4). Although taking the Nazirite vow normally was optional and would last a limited period of time, Samson was to be a Nazirite for life according to the command of the Lord.

**LOQ:** What did the angel of the Lord say that Samson was going to do?

**Answer:** The angel of the Lord told Manoah and his wife that Samson was going to begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines (Judg. 13:5). At the time Samson lived, the Philistines were powerful. They even controlled what many people in Israel did (13:1). Of course, this was not the way that God wanted it. God had told Joshua and the Israelites that they were to have the Promised Land all for themselves. But after Joshua and the elders died, the Israelites didn’t want to obey God anymore. So God allowed the people who were still in the land to cause prob-

lems for Israel so that Israel would have to ask God for His help. This happened over and over. It seems that the Israelites never learned.

**LOQ:** Why did God let the Philistines have control over the Israelites?

**Answer:** God allowed the Philistines to have control over the Israelites because the Israelites were doing evil (Judg. 13:1), and God wanted them to learn that they needed Him or they were going to have many troubles.

**LOQ:** What special gift did God give to Samson?

**Answer:** The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he became very, very strong (Judg. 14:6, 19; 15:14). There was never anyone as strong as Samson. When the Bible says that the Spirit of the Lord came upon someone, it means that the Holy Spirit gave that person special energy and power to do a special job for God.

**LOQ:** Why did God make Samson super strong?

**Answer:** Samson was to begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. He was not to have a lot of people following him to build an army. Instead, by himself, Samson was to use his strength to cause problems for the Philistines. Since Samson was so strong, all the Philistines were afraid of him. He had killed many of them, but no one was able to hurt him until the end. It is important to remember that without God, Samson had normal strength (16:20). But with God's help, Samson became stronger than anyone else. God did not make Samson as strong as He did so that Samson could boast in his strength. God made Samson strong so that he could serve God and help Israel.

**LOQ:** How did Samson lose his strength?

**Answer:** Samson lost his strength because the Spirit of God left him (Judg. 16:20). Instead of being obedient to God and telling Delilah not to ask where he got his strength, or leaving her because she wanted him to sin, Samson told her about his hair (16:15–20).

**LOQ:** Why was Samson's hair special? Was it because he was a Nazirite?

**Answer:** Because Samson was a Nazirite, he was not allowed to cut his hair. Samson's hair was special because it meant that he was dedicated to God. When people saw Samson's long hair, they knew that he was doing something special for God. But when Delilah had Samson's hair cut off, it meant that Samson wanted to make Delilah happy instead of God.

**LOQ:** Was Delilah Samson's friend?

**Answer:** No. Delilah wanted money. Even though Samson loved her, she did not love him. She did not care what happened to Samson, even if that meant he would die (Judg. 16:18–20). But Samson wasn't very wise. He told Delilah what she wanted to know and sinned against God. Samson was supposed to be a special servant for God, but he was disobedient to God. Because of this, God took away Samson's strength.

**LOQ:** What did the Philistines do to Samson after he lost his strength?

**Answer:** After Samson lost his strength, the Philistines were able to capture him. They poked out his eyes and put him in prison, where he was a grinder. They humiliated Samson (16:20–21).

**LOQ:** Why did the Philistines bring Samson out of the prison?

**Answer:** The Philistines brought Samson out of prison because they were celebrating their god Dagon. They believed that Dagon had helped them capture Samson, who was their enemy (Judg. 16:23–24). They wanted to make fun of Samson at their party (16:25).

**LOQ:** What did Samson do when he was in the temple of Dagon?

**Answer:** Samson asked God for strength to destroy the temple. Samson knew that he had sinned against God. He was sorry. By this time, some of Samson’s hair had grown back, and he had been obedient to God. He was trying to serve God again (Judg. 16:28). All those Philistines in the temple were worshiping their god Dagon, who was not a real god. Samson had failed when he had sinned, but God had not. God was stronger than anyone else. Now, instead of the Philistines thinking that their god had won, the real God would help Samson, and everyone would know that the God of Israel was the strongest and the greatest. With strength from God, Samson pushed the main pillars of the temple so that the whole temple fell and was destroyed, with Samson and all the wicked Philistines in it (16:28–30).

### Summary

God chose Samson to be dedicated to Him and to serve Him even before he was born. Samson was to be a Nazirite all his life and was to begin to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. God had given Samson great strength so that all the Philistines were afraid of him. Samson caused a lot of trouble for the evil Philistines, just as God had planned. But Samson sinned by revealing his secret to Delilah. Samson made Delilah happy instead of God, and so God took His Spirit from Samson, and Samson became weak. But in the end, Samson asked God for help one last time in order to destroy the temple of the Philistine god Dagon. God heard His servant’s request and gave him strength one last time.

### Application

God’s enabling His people through gifts, whether great strength or something else, should be used to serve Him. His people should never do anything that would cause God to be displeased. Samson learned that lesson the hard way. When we repent and turn back to God, we may still be able to use our gifts to serve Him.

### Presentation Ideas



#### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



#### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



#### Chain of Events

The events in Samson’s life clearly showed the hand of God over every detail. Use various pictures or toys as visual aids during the lesson—for example, a bone, gate, lion, honey, a Barbie doll (to represent Samson’s wives), scissors, and rope. God sovereignly used this chain of events to incite Samson against the Philistines. If God could use every detail of Samson’s life, He can use the details in your life, too.

## Praise and Worship

*Change My Heart, Oh God*

*Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down*

*God Is So Good*

*Grace Greater than Our Sin*

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (stanza 2)*

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

*Make Me a Servant*

*Undivided Heart*

*We Will Glorify*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### “God Delivers” Game Board

Materials: copies of the “God Delivers” game board, crayons, buttons (for game pieces)

This preprinted game board can be colored in class and then played. Review the cycle of Israel’s disobedience, God’s punishment, and God’s deliverance through judges. Show the students that God helped Israel even while they were disobeying.



### How Can We Glorify God in Various Careers?

Bring in pictures, puppets, paper dolls, or felt-board pictures of different career people, along with hearts for each of them. After talking about the work they do, talk about working with a right heart, doing work heartily as unto the Lord.



### Following God

Talk with the students about how much more of a deliverer Samson might have been if he had followed God with his whole heart. Ask the students what is necessary before a person can follow God with all his heart (salvation).



### Gifts for God’s Glory

Talk about the special gifts God gave Samson. Samson should have used these gifts to glorify God. Each of us has been given gifts that can be used to glorify God. Choose students to come forward and open the following wrapped presents, discussing how each can be used to glorify God: Bible (gift of reading, to know God and read to others); hymnal or song sheet (gift of voice and music, to praise and worship God); shoes (gift of ability to walk, to go visit others, spread gospel, and dance for joy); bag (gift of help/carrying/taking and strength/hard work/lifting); cooking pot (gift of helping, to bring meals to others and serve family). Also talk about how God can use us just the way we are, imperfect, and how that brings the glory to Him, not us.



### Save My Life

This craft is continued from the first and second weeks.

Materials: paper grocery bags, markers or crayons, scissors, glue sticks, yellow construction paper, aluminum foil or metallic paper

Directions:

Week 1: Cut each grocery bag into a vest. Write each child's name on the left front.

Week 2: On the back of the vest, write "God is my Rescuer" in large letters. (For younger children, this could be photocopied on a sheet of paper that can be glued to the back of the vest.) Cut strips of yellow construction paper and glue onto the bag as decorative stripes.

Week 3: Cut strips of foil or metallic paper and glue to the vests as reflectors.



### Samson Loses His Strength

Materials: toilet-paper tubes, fabric pieces, glue, markers, four-inch pieces of yarn, pencils, pipe cleaners, toothpicks, marshmallows

Directions: Give each student a toilet-paper tube to represent Samson, and let the students glue fabric around the bottom of their tubes (to represent Samson's clothing). Have them draw a simple smiling face on the side of the tube. Glue or tape pieces of yarn to the inside of the tube for hair. Punch holes in the sides with the point of a pencil, and push a pipe cleaner through it to form arms. Make a barbell from a toothpick with a marshmallow pushed onto each end. Fold the end of one arm around the barbell. Practice pushing Samson's hair inside the tube as if it has been cut short. Hide the barbell behind Samson or remove it from his arm when he loses his strength because of his disobedience in having his hair cut. The key verse could be glued to Samson's back.



### God Made Me

Materials: copies of the "God Made Me" craft pages, crayons, glue sticks

Directions: Give each student a copy of the "God Made Me" craft pages. Students can use the boy and girl marionettes to represent themselves. Direct the students to glue the body parts and heads (or drawings of their own faces) to the base sheet. Students can print or sign their name at the bottom of the page, in the blank space.



### "God Uses Samson to Deliver Israel"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



2  
3

### Journal Page: "God's Sovereign Results"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

### Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



### MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

<b>END</b>				<p>Israel disobeys, but God sends Samson to deliver them (Judg. 16:28).</p> <p>Move ahead two spaces.</p>	
------------	--	--	--	---	--

# God Delivers Israel with Judges

To play: The object is to be the first player to move a game piece from “start” to “end.” Flip a coin. Move one space if the coin lands on heads. Move two spaces if the coin lands on tails.

<b>START</b>				<p>Israel disobeys, but God sends Othniel to deliver them (Judg. 3:9).</p> <p>Move ahead two spaces.</p>	
				<p>Israel cries out to God.</p> <p>Move ahead one space.</p>	
				<p>Israel disobeys, but God sends Gideon to deliver them (Judg. 6:12).</p> <p>Move ahead two spaces.</p>	

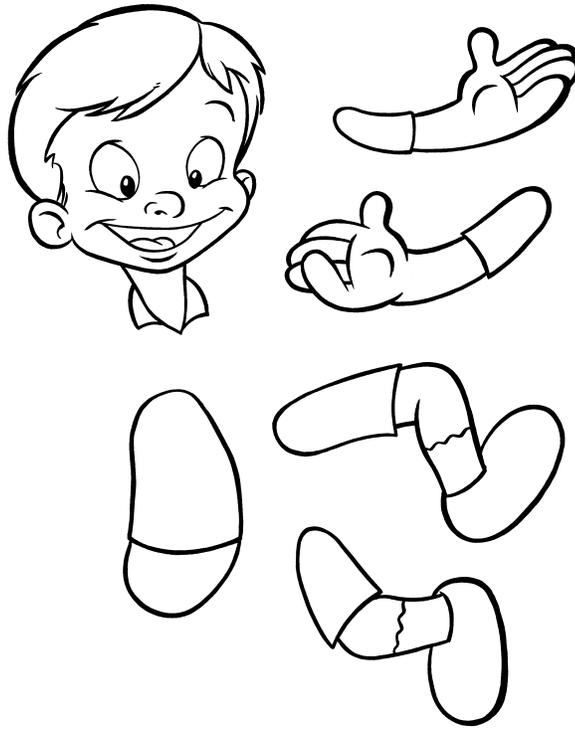


# God Made Me

Thank You, God for making me.  
Help me to use my strength to serve  
You and bring glory to You. Love,

---







# God

*Uses Samson*  
*to Deliver* **Israel**



**Judges 13–16**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Judges 13:1 tells us that Israel did \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of the Lord.
2. The angel of the Lord said Samson would \_\_\_\_\_ Israel from the hand of the Philistines (Judg. 13:5).
3. What attacked Samson?  
a tiger                      a bumblebee                      a lion                      a bear
4. How many Philistines did Samson kill with the donkey's jawbone?  
10                      100                      1,000                      10,000
5. Did Samson give God the glory in Judges 15:16?
6. How many time did Delilah ask Samson where he got his strength?  
one time                      four times                      three times                      never
7. Where did Samson get his strength? \_\_\_\_\_



# God's Sovereign Results

---

"Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, 'O LORD God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes'" (Judges 16:28).

Why did Samson want God to help him? Was it because Samson wanted to fulfill God's will to deliver Israel from the Philistines? No; he only wanted to get even with the Philistines for blinding him. Yet God is sovereign. This means that His will always is accomplished, regardless of our motives.

Our motives are important to God. Outwardly, Samson was strong, but inwardly, his desire to glorify God was weak. As you learned in your Sunday School lesson today, God had called Samson to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines, but Samson was motivated by vengeance, not by his love for God. Look at the chart below. In the first column, some of Samson's motives are listed, but in the second column, God's sovereign results are mentioned. Circle each "me" and "I" in the first column. What does this tell you about Samson's heart?

---

Notice in the second column that God accomplished His will in spite of Solomon's selfishness (sin). What does this tell you about God?

---

<b>SAMSON'S MOTIVES</b>	<b>GOD'S SOVEREIGN RESULTS</b>
-------------------------	--------------------------------

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) "Get her for me for she pleases me well."                                     | 1) 1,000 Philistines were killed by God's power.                   |
| 2) "I die of thirst."  | 2) God split the hollow places and gave Samson water and strength. |
| 3) "That I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes." | 3) Samson killed more Philistines in his death than in his life.   |

# God's Sovereign Results

---

"Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, 'O LORD God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes'" (Judges 16:28).

Why did Samson want God to help him? Was it because Samson wanted to fulfill God's will to deliver Israel from the Philistines? No; he only wanted to get even with the Philistines for blinding him. Yet God is sovereign. This means that His will always is accomplished, regardless of our motives.

Our motives are important to God. Outwardly, Samson was strong, but inwardly, his desire to glorify God was weak. As you learned in your Sunday School lesson today, God had called Samson to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines, but Samson was motivated by vengeance, not by his love for God. Look at the chart below. In the first column, some of Samson's motives are listed, but in the second column, God's sovereign results are mentioned. Circle each "me" and "I" in the first column. What does this tell you about Samson's heart?

---

Notice in the second column that God accomplished His will in spite of Solomon's selfishness (sin). What does this tell you about God?

---

<b>SAMSON'S MOTIVES</b>	<b>GOD'S SOVEREIGN RESULTS</b>
-------------------------	--------------------------------

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) "Get her for me for she pleases me well."                                     | 1) 1,000 Philistines were killed by God's power.                   |
| 2) "I die of thirst."  | 2) God split the hollow places and gave Samson water and strength. |
| 3) "That I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes." | 3) Samson killed more Philistines in his death than in his life.   |

Do you know that God's sovereign plan is being accomplished in your life regardless of your motives? He even says that you are working with Him! Christians are fellow workers with God! (1 Cor. 3:9-15). You can work with Him from a pure heart or you can work as Samson did, with a weak love for God's glory.

List some ways you can work for God with a pure heart.

---

---

---

List some ways you might work with a weak love for God's glory.

---

---

---

**PRAYER**

Do you know how to have a heart that pleases God? Ask Him to show you the motives in your heart that are not pleasing to Him. Then confess your sin and ask Him to forgive you. He will do it! Now ask Him to give you a heart that pleases Him. Praise Him for His sovereign control of every event in your life. He is a wonderful Savior!

Do you know that God's sovereign plan is being accomplished in your life regardless of your motives? He even says that you are working with Him! Christians are fellow workers with God! (1 Cor. 3:9-15). You can work with Him from a pure heart or you can work as Samson did, with a weak love for God's glory.

List some ways you can work for God with a pure heart.

---

---

---

List some ways you might work with a weak love for God's glory.

---

---

---

**PRAYER**

Do you know how to have a heart that pleases God? Ask Him to show you the motives in your heart that are not pleasing to Him. Then confess your sin and ask Him to forgive you. He will do it! Now ask Him to give you a heart that pleases Him. Praise Him for His sovereign control of every event in your life. He is a wonderful Savior!



**“[Samson] told her all his heart, and said to her, ‘No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man’” (Judges 16:17).**





**“Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, ‘O LORD God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes’” (Judges 16:28).**

