



God Helps Samson

The Story — Lesson 8

Scripture: Judges 13-16

Key Verse: [Samson] said, “Lord and King, show me that you still have concern for me. God, please make me strong just one more time.” —Judges 16:28, NIV

Bible Truth: When God calls us into his family, we are his forever.

Age 2—rising 2nd grade: Read *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 8: “A Strong Man”

Rising 3rd—6th grades: Read *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 8: “A Few Good Men...and Women”

STEP 1: Come Together

Gather the family and tell them you’re going to spend a few minutes studying God’s word together. Pray and thank God for giving you time together and for calling us to himself.

Play a game with your younger children. Say, **Try to do what I say. Turn to face me. Turn to face the door.**

Turn to...[name various items around the room]. Then ask, **What did you do when I asked you to “turn to” something?** (You faced it, you gave it your full attention.) **What do you think it means to “turn to” God?**

(When we turn to God we give him our attention, listen to what he says, turn away from other things.) Say,

Today’s story is about a man whom God called to help his people. Samson turned away from God for a time, but then he turned back to God, and God used him to save his people.

Ask your older children if any of them are feeling strong today. Challenge them to an arm wrestling contest, then ask, **What are some other ways to know if someone is strong? How do people become strong?** about some things that they help with around the house. Let them list some of their least favorite chores, as well as those they don’t mind. Which ones are the most difficult? Are any impossible to do alone? Which ones are easier when someone helps them? Say, **“We all have hard things to do. Sometimes we do them alone, but sometimes we need help. In today’s Bible story, God uses someone to help his people.”**

STEP 2: Hear the Story

Read today’s story from your copy of *The Story*, or read Judges 13:2-5, 24 and 16:4-30 together.

STEP 3: Explore More

Review these catechism questions and answers to follow up on today’s story. Read the questions and answers, then repeat each one, having your child repeat back the answer.

Question 23: What covenant did God make with Adam? (The covenant of life.)

Question 24: What is a covenant? (A relationship that God establishes with us and guarantees by his word.)

STEP 4: Dig Deeper

Read (or have your older children read) Hebrews 11:32-34 in your Bible. Samson was one of the heroes of the faith that the writer of Hebrews listed as an example for us. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus when we think of men of faith from of old. In the end, Samson gave up his own life to save Israel by destroying their enemies. That is what Jesus did for us—he gave up his life to destroy our enemies. Praise God for sending his Son to be our deliverer.

MONDAY

Read Judges 2:1-5

Ask What did the people do in verse four when God showed them their sin?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10

Pray and ask God to help you to be sorry for your sin and to turn to him for forgiveness.

TUESDAY

Read Judges 2:11-13

Ask What was Israel's sin against God?

Read Exodus 20:3

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to always put God first.

WEDNESDAY

Read Judges 2:16

Ask Who did God raise up to save Israel?

Read John 5:30 (Jesus speaking to the Jews)

Pray and thank God that his judgment is just!

THURSDAY

Read Judges 16:28

Ask Who did Samson call out to for strength?

Read Psalm 46:1

Pray and ask God to help you remember to call on him in times of trouble, and not rely on your own strength.

FRIDAY

Read Judges 16:29-30

Ask What did Samson do in order to destroy his enemies?

Read Romans 5:8

Pray and thank God for giving up his own life and dying on the cross to rescue us when we were his enemies!