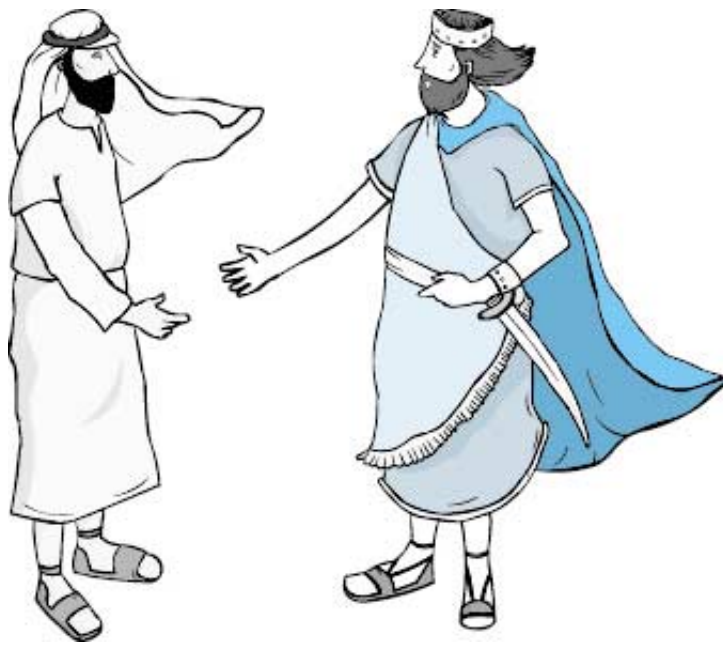


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Judge Samson

Judges 13-16



During the time when God was punishing the Israelites for their sins by giving them into the hand of the Philistines was a name named Manoah, who lived in the city of Zorah. One day, the angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said,

"You will soon have a son, who will be a Nazirite. He will save Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

So the angel taught her how she was to raise him, and after some time, Samson the Nazirite was born. Samson was a special man with an immense amount of strength. He fought with young lions as if they were baby goats. He caught three hundred foxes like it was nothing special. He slew one thousand of the Philistines with nothing more than a donkey's jawbone by himself. Samson was able to do this kind of stuff because he had the power of strength given by the Almighty God.

One day, Samson fell in love with Philistine woman named Delilah. Delilah, however, being a Philistine, was paid by her fellow people to find out the secret behind Samson's incredible strength. So she would keep on asking him day after day, saying,

"How can you say you love me if you can't even tell me this?"

until he got so annoyed he couldn't stand it any longer.

"Samson, what is it that makes you so strong?"

So Samson told her everything in his heart, who he was and his secrets.

Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.
(Isaiah 40 :31)



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"I am a Nazirite of God, and my hair has never been cut. If I get shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will be like any other man."

At last, Delilah had his secret. She told it to the Philistines, who took an opportunity to shave Samson's hair off while he was sleeping. They captured him and gouged out his eyes, then made him grind grain in prison.

Then the Philistines assembled for a religious sacrifice to their god Dagon for delivering Samson into their hands. While they were rejoicing and were in high spirits, the Philistines called Samson over between the pillars of the house so that he could entertain them. But Samson felt that now was the time for him to do what was right for God. Samson prayed to God with all his heart.

*"O Lord GOD, please remember me
and please give me strength just
this one time, that I may be avenged
of the Philistines."*

Then Samson grabbed the pillars and pulled them toward him with all his strength until the pillars broke apart and the whole house came to a fall. The building collapsed on top of everyone who was in the house, including the high officials and Samson himself. And thus, the number of people who died through Samson's death was more than the number of people he killed while he was alive.



Today's Study

Samson the Nazirite

Samson was a Nazirite. A Nazirite is a man who must keep himself from sin and dedicate himself to God.

1. Read Numbers 6:3-6 and write down the missing promise a Nazirite is to keep.

- ① Must not drink wine, alcoholic drinks, or anything dealing with grapes.
- ② Must not go near a corpse.
- ③



“And _____ to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
(Romans 12:2)

Samson's Sin, Punishment, and Repentance

1. Why did God give Samson such strength?

“...for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”
(Judges 13:5)



2. Why did Samson lose his power and get captured by the Philistines?

3. What happened after Samson repented and prayed again to God?

When Samson lost his strength, he was captured by the Philistines and brought to live a miserable life under the authority of the Philistines. However, he repented for sinning against God, which allowed him to gain his strength again and kill many of the wicked Philistines.



Today's Lesson

What Must We Do?

Samson was supposed to grow his hair as a Nazirite, but he made a mistake by allowing it to be shaved off. As a result, he lost his strength and was captured by the Philistines. However, God listened to Samson's sincere, earnest prayer before his death when he asked for strength one last time.

Have you done anything wrong before God? Close your eyes and think about it deep inside your heart. If it's something you should confess, say it honestly to God and ask Him for forgiveness. Remember not to be deceiving to yourselves but be honest to God. If you feel that your prayer was good and you want to share about it, write down what you prayed below so you can remember it to share it with your classmates.



Also, if you have a sincere prayer like Samson's prayer for strength before he died, write it down below if you would like to share it with your classmates.





Did you know?

* Where Does My Strength Come From?

One day, a bunch of kids were playing outside when Tommy was beaten by Jason in the playground. Then Tommy saw his father suddenly approaching behind Jason. All of a sudden, Tommy became very courageous and gathered all this strength, and he was able to knock Jason down to the floor in one single punch. Jason, frightened of Tommy's sudden courageousness, ran away confused at where his strength came from.

Tommy was beaten by Jason just earlier, but where did Tommy's strength come from? Tommy became stronger after he saw his father.

If God is not our strength, we are nothing but weaklings. But if God is with us, we can gain strength. This strength comes from God.

Teacher

Parents