

Lesson 8: Samson the 13th Judge

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study the last Judge in the book of Judges – Samson
- 2) Understand what a Nazarene vow included
- 3) See why we should choose our “friends” carefully

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for idea

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Map of Oppressors and Later Judges – one for class to share
- Judges Charts and Answer Key– (from previous class)
- Cross Outs Sheet – one per student
- What Do You Remember? Fill in the Blank Sheet – Let students choose either this or other activity sheet, those who chose other activity must listen as you read through this one.
- What’s Missing Lion Activity – one per student who chooses it
- Choosing Friends Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Samson at the Temple Path Sheet – one per student
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Your choice | enough for each child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Say to students:

Today we are going to finish studying the book of Judges and the last judge from this book – Samson!

What did we study last week? Let students raise their hands and answer. We studied Jephthah and Judges Ibzan, Elon and Abdon. We saw that Jephthah made a rash promise to God and we learned that we should not make promises but do what God wants and thank Him for what we receive – we don’t need to make promises!

Does anyone have any questions from last week?

2) Samson – with Judges Map

10 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

*Have map of Judges ready to show class as you read.

*You will read the account of Samson’s birth, killing a lion, Delilah and his capture and death. There won’t be time to read the entire account today.

Let’s all turn to Judges Chapter 13:1-5 and 24-25 and can I get a volunteer to read verses 1-5 and another volunteer to read verses 24 and 25? There is much to the story of Samson but we are only going to read some of the events for the sake of time. Feel free to read chapters 13-16 on your own this week at home!

Thank the volunteers for reading and then show them the map of Judges – point to Samson’s area and show that the Philistines lived very, very close to Dan and the area Samson lived in.

Say, **Verse 5 says that Samson is to be a Nazirite. Let’s turn to Numbers 6:1-8. Can I get a volunteer to read?**

Discussion Questions:

What three main things were part of being a Nazirite? No eating or drinking anything to do with grapes including wine, no cutting the hair and no going near a dead body.

What does it say about the Nazirite in verse 8? They did these things to be holy to the Lord.

Can we be a Nazirite today – think about the Lord’s Supper and what we drink? No, because when we become baptized we are commanded by Jesus to drink fruit of the vine in remembrance to Him. Nazirites were part of the Old Testament but now under the law of Christ, there are no Nazirites. (See **Matthew 26:26-29**)

Now let’s read Judges Chapter 14:5-6.

What did Samson do that was amazing? Tore a lion with his bare hands!

Samson was incredibly strong thanks to God!

3) Cross Outs Activity Sheet

10 minutes

Say, **“To help us remember about Samson – I want you to cross out all letters in the sheet I am going to hand out to you that has the same letter 4 times. Here is the sheet and some crayons. Let me know if you need help.”**



Answer: Read the answer aloud when students are done
His hair and beard

4) Samson Continued and Choosing Friends Handout

20 minutes

Have students turn to **Judges 16** and read to them verses 1-31. Show any visual aids while you read or get a volunteer to show the pictures if you have any.

Discussion Questions:

What kind of qualities should we look for in friends? Let students answer

What qualities did Delilah have? She was a trickster, liar, complainer, nagger, and was willing to cause harm to get what she wanted. She kept trying to see what his strength was, she used her beauty and his love for her to deceive him, she complained and nagged (see Judges 16:15-16)



Did she seem like a good friend to choose? Let students answer.

Let's go to the Bible and see what God says about friends.

Hand out one Choosing Friends Sheet to each child to read through as a class:

*For sake of time you may want to ask each student to look up a different verse so you can go through them quickly instead of everyone turning to every verse. Also, you may choose to read only one of the two verses provided in cases when more than one verse is given for a certain question. You can tell students to take the sheet home and look up the other verses you did not have time for on their own this week.

Ask yourself:

Is this a friend who keeps getting me into trouble or causes trouble?

Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 15:33 and read it aloud.

Is this a friend who makes jokes but usually their jokes hurt other people?

Let's turn to Proverbs 26:18-19 and Ephesians 5:4

Is this a friend who says bad things about others, especially when those other people aren't around? Like a gossip?

Let's turn to Proverbs 20:19 and 16:28

Is this a friend who cheats when playing games?

Read Leviticus 6:1-4 or Malachi 1:14 and Proverbs 3:28-30

Is this a friend who often hits or punches others?

Romans 13:9-10 and Proverbs 22:24

We want friends who help us keep our strength – the good qualities God wants us to have, not make us weak like Delilah made Samson. Friends like Delilah are not friends at all!

I am sure that every day Samson probably wished that he had not listened to Delilah. He knew that he should have done what the Lord said and chose better friends. Finally read Proverbs 18:24 and if time read 3 John 1:2 and 3 John 1:11

Hand out Judges Chart to each child – this is the last day they will be filling in this chart.

Samson – Judged 20 years (**Judges 16:31**) – was strong and chosen by God – Oppressors were the Philistines who oppressed for 40 years (**Judges 13:1**)

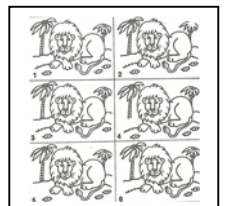
*If you would like to give “homework” ask the children to read Judges 13-16 on their own (or with parents) to hear the complete account of Samson.

5) What Do You Remember and Missing Lion Activities

10-15 minutes

Let students pick an activity from the two provided. Hand out Fill in the blank sheet with pencils and for missing lion sheet provide crayons. Read the instructions aloud.

When they are done, read through the fill in the blank aloud as a class so all can hear and to make sure they got everything filled in correctly.



Answers:

1. Angel / Son
2. Wine
3. Cut / Hair
4. Strong
5. Delilah
6. Shaved/leave/weak
7. Sleeping
8. Prison
9. Celebration
10. God/Strength/Revenge
11. Pillars/Temple
12. Might/Down

6) Optional: Samson Path to the Temple

5-10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student with pencils or crayons and read the directions aloud. Help any student as needed.



7) Optional – Snack: Your choice

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **Today we finished studying the 13 Judges in the Book of Judges. Who did we study today? Samson. What was sad about Samson?** He chose bad friends and because of his poor choices he was imprisoned.

Let's think about choosing good friends and talking about the qualities good friends should have while we eat our snack to help us make sure we are wise. Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember any of the names of the judges while snacking or see how many books of history they can name.

8) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example:

Judges – *to the tune of the Alphabet song or the ABC....song*

Name the Judges who went to war

Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar

Deborah, Gideon, and Abimelech

Tola, Jair and Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon and Abdon

The last Judge was Samson

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, Thank you for the book of Judges that showed us today that we need to be careful of the friends we choose and that thank you that You have given us direction for how to choose good friends in Your Word the Bible.

Thank you for taking care of us and allowing us to not worry about what people do to us but to know that you will take care of evil people on our behalf.

Thank you God for Your love, thank you for Your Son Jesus, thank you for caring for us and providing such a beautiful world for us to live in, and thank you for giving us Your Word – the Bible so we can know how to live and learn what pleases You. In Jesus precious name, Amen.