

Samson

Judges 13-15



The Story

The children of Israel again sinned against God by serving false gods. God let their enemies, the Philistines, rule over them for forty years. When His time was right, God decided to help His people by sending them a very special judge named Samson.

Before Samson was born, the Angel of the Lord came to a woman from the tribe of Dan. The woman had not been able to have any children. When the Angel appeared he said, "You are sterile

and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son." The Angel warned the woman to drink no wine and eat nothing that was unclean. He instructed the woman that her baby boy would be a Nazarite. His hair must not be cut. The baby would grow and deliver the Israelites from their enemies, the Philistines.

And so Samson was born and the Lord blessed him as he grew to adulthood.

When Samson was grown, he saw a



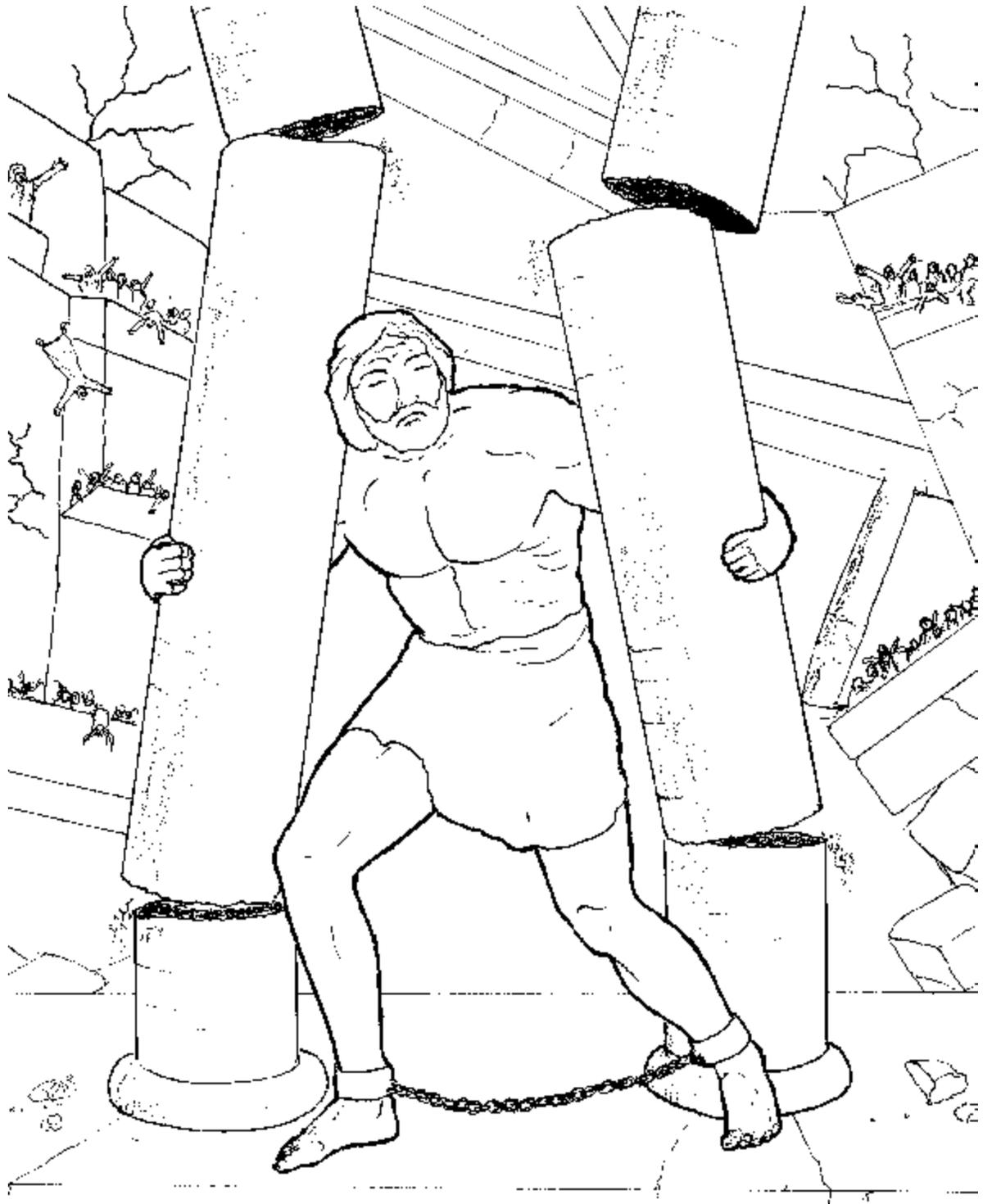
young Philistine woman and he wanted to marry her. His father and mother arranged the marriage. On their journey to the bride's home, a lion came roaring toward Samson and he killed the lion with his bare hands. On a later trip, he returned to the spot where the dead lion's carcass lay and there was a swarm of bees with honey in the animal. Samson ate of the honey and gave some of the sweet substance to his mother and father. At his wedding feast, Samson made up a riddle about the lion and the honey and posed it to his wedding guests. Because of the riddle, an argument arose and his bride was given to another man. Samson returned some time later to see the young bride and became angry that the woman had married another man. He caught 300 foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then tied a torch of fire to their tails and let them run in the wheat fields of the Philistines. The fires destroyed the crops of the people of Philistia and they were very angry with Samson.

Later, Samson fell in love one more time with another Philistine woman. Her name was Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines came to Delilah and asked her to betray Samson and find out the secret to his great strength. Delilah did as the rulers requested, and she went to Samson and asked him the secret to his strength. Three times Samson told her silly things to try that would take away his strength, and three times Delilah called the Philistines into her house to seize Samson, but Samson's strength was still with him. Finally Delilah pestered Samson so much that he could no longer take it. He told her, "My hair has

never been cut, because I have been a Nazirite to God from my birth. If my hair is cut, then my strength will leave me." That night after Delilah lulled Samson to sleep on her lap, a barber came and cut Samson's hair. When the Philistines came to capture Samson, he thought he could escape. But he could not, because the Lord had left him. The Philistines captured Samson, poked out his eyes, chained him up, and made him grind grain in their prison.

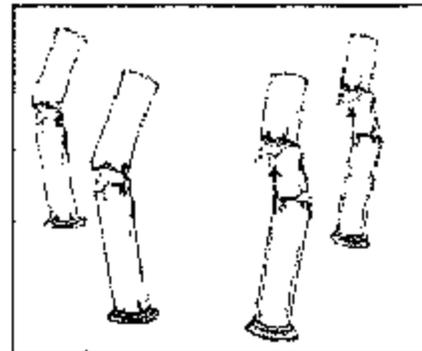
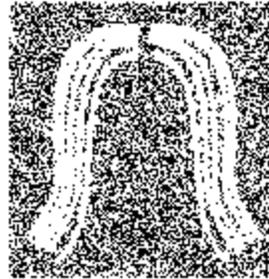
How sad the children of Israel were! How sad Samson was! But while Samson was in prison he began to realize that he should have trusted in the Lord and not in himself. In prison his hair began to grow back.

Later a group of over 3000 Philistines met at the temple that was dedicated to their god, Dagon. They were offering a sacrifice to Dagon and celebrating the capture of Samson. Samson was brought out of prison to be used as entertainment for the many people. Samson asked a little boy who brought him up from prison to lead him to a place between two pillars that supported the temple. Samson prayed, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" God heard Samson's prayer and gave him his strength back. Samson pushed and pushed on the two great pillars until they broke apart and the whole heathen temple fell to the ground. Samson died, but in his death Samson was given his greatest victory by God.



God used Samson to free Israel from their enemy.

Activity One - Circle the pictures that show something from the lesson of Samson. Tell what you remember from the story when you see those pictures.



Draw any other picture that will help you remember the story.

Passages

2 Corinthians 12:9 My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

God uses us to accomplish His plan for mankind.

Hymn TLH #409 v. 1

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Flee the world, which would deceive us
And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in His footsteps treading,
Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me;
Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Please give me special gifts like Samson so that I may use them to do Your work. May we ever use our gifts to glorify Your name. Thank you, above all, for the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Amen.