

Samson

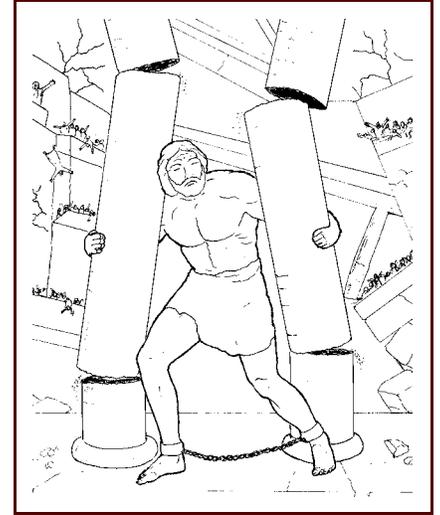
Judges 13-16

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

Prayer

I walk in danger all the way. The tho't shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, is plotting to deceive me.
This Foe with hidden snares may seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray.
I walk in danger all the way.

I walk with Jesus all the way, His guidance never fails me;
Within His wounds I find a stay when Satan's power assails me;
And by His footsteps led, my path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may,
I walk with Jesus all the way. Amen.



The Story

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 Nazirite. His hair must not be cut. When the child became a man he would deliver the Israelites from their enemies, the Philistines.

The woman went to her husband, Manoah, and told him of all that was said

and done. Manoah prayed to the Lord to revisit him and his wife and teach them how to raise such a special boy. The angel returned to the household of Manoah and repeated the instructions of how to raise their baby. Manoah took a young goat and together with grain sacrificed the offering on a rock. As the flame blazed up toward heaven, the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame. Manoah then realized that it was the Angel of the Lord.

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 parents wanted their son to



marry a woman of his own faith. But Samson insisted and so 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. There was a swarm of bees and their honey in the carcass. Samson ate of the honey and gave some of the sweet substance to his mother and father.

At the wedding feast Samson presented a riddle to the male guests. The wager or bet was thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. The riddle went like this: Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet. After three days the exasperated wedding guests went to the new bride and threatened her with death if she wouldn't get the answer from her new husband. Samson gave in to his new wife and told her the answer to the riddle and she gave the answer to the Philistines. The men came to Samson on the seventh day of the feast and told him the answer to the riddle. "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" Samson left the feast and went to another town and killed 30 Philistines and took their clothing and gave it to the men at the feast. Samson left the area for awhile and his bride was given to another man.

Samson returned some time later to see the young woman and became angry that the woman had been given to 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. They followed Samson to his hiding place and asked the men of Judah to capture Samson for them. 3000 men of Judah went to Samson and he gave himself to them to be handed over to the

Philistine enemies. When the group came close to the enemy people, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson in power and the ropes that were holding him melted away. Samson found a jawbone of a donkey and with it killed 1000 men. Samson became thirsty and cried to the Lord for water. The Lord opened up a hollow place and out of it came water.

Samson led the children of Israel for 20 years.

Samson fell in love one more time with another Philistine woman. Her name was Delilah. The rulers of Philistia 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, 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 had 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, for 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 heathen 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 take 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.

Outer Aim - God used Samson to free Israel from their enemy.

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. The Nazirite was a special person dedicated to God for a particular task or period of time. What was Samson's particular task and what was Samson's period of time?
2. There were certain things that a Nazirite was not allowed to do. What were they?

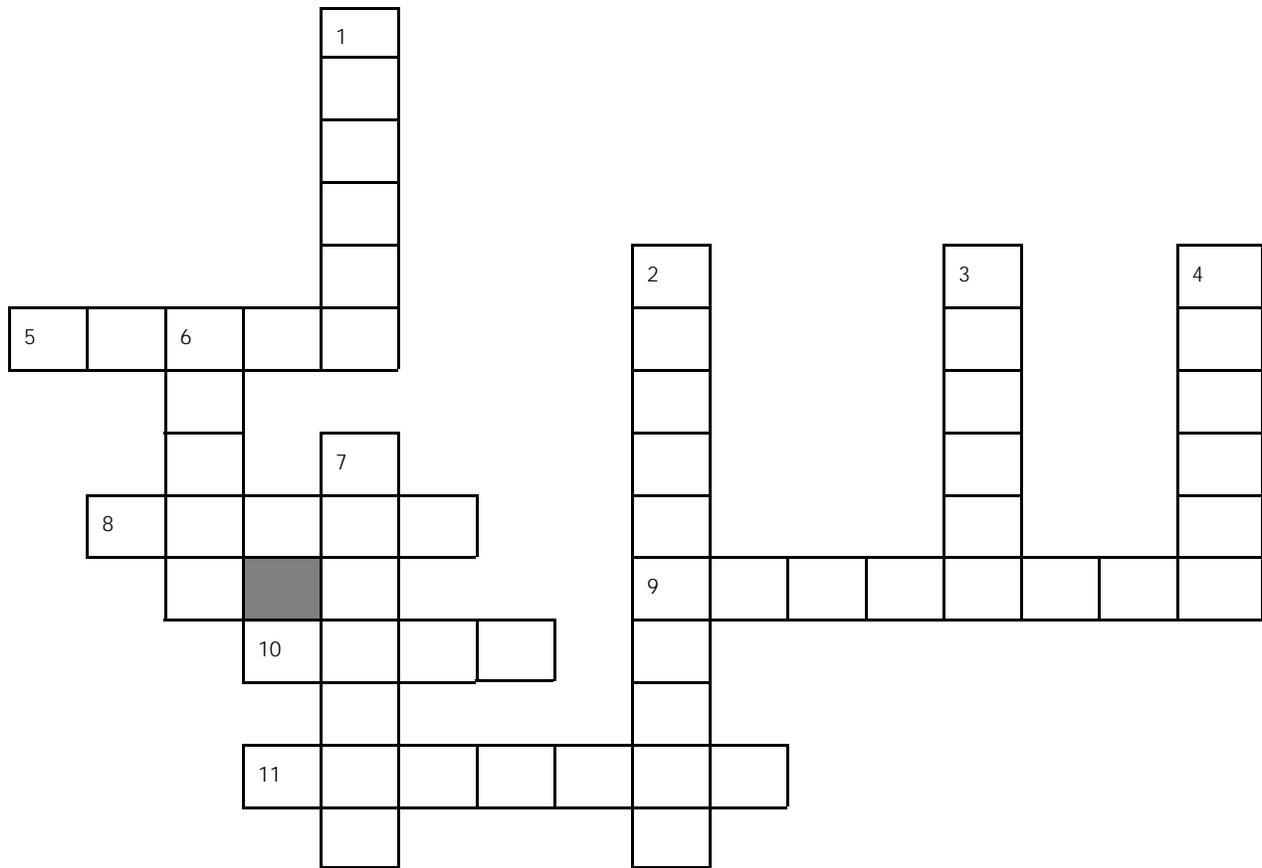
Numbers 6:3

Number 6:4

Numbers 6:5

Inner Aim - God uses us to accomplish His plan for mankind.

What the Story Tells Us - Complete the CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

5. Leader of people.
8. Animals used by Samson to burn fields.
9. Special gift given to Samson by God.
10. Animal that attacked Samson.
11. Weapon used by Samson

Down

1. Told to Philistine men.
2. Enemy of Israel.
3. Judge of Israel.
4. Father of Samson.
6. A false god of the Philistines.
7. A Philistine woman.

WORD BOX	
Philistine	Judge
lion	jawbone
riddle	strength
Delilah	Samson
foxes	Dagon
Manoah	

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.

Psalms 130:4 But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

Hymn - TLH #409 v. 1, 3, 4

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.

Let us also die with Jesus,
His death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction, frees us,
Quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living,
Flesh and blood and die to sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to Thee
There to live eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus;
Since He's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us,
Jesus, Thou art now our Head,
We are truly Thine own members;
Where Thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly,
Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to Thee,
Also there eternally.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Just as You gave the special gift of strength for Samson to use in Your service, so You have given each of us special abilities that can be used in Your work. Help us to develop these gifts according to Your will and may we ever use them to glorify Your name. Thank You, above all, for the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Amen.