

**STORY**

Samson - Judges 13-16

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Dear Heavenly Father, it is both a great privilege and responsibility to lead these precious lambs into the pastures of Your Word. Equip me with a full measure of Your Spirit that I may understand and apply the truths of Your sacred Word, first to myself, and then also to the hearts and lives of these children. Bless my feeble efforts, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*Philistines* - A nation of people who lived in the Gaza Strip area of Israel. God used this nation, as He did other nations, to chasten His people during their apostasy.

*Dagon* - The god of the Philistines that is believed to have been in the form of a fish (having the head and hands of a man).

*Nazarite* - Special laws governing a Nazarite can be found in Numbers 6. Usually a person became a Nazarite for a limited period of time (connected with a vow). He was not to eat or drink any fruit of the vine, including raisins! No razor was to touch his head.

**OUTER AIM**

Samson, a man blessed by God with tremendous strength, is used by God as a judge to free Israel from their enemy the Philistines.

**INNER AIM**

Just as God used even the prideful Samson to accomplish His plan for Israel, so He uses each of us, even in our weakness, to accomplish His plan for mankind.

**BACKGROUND**

The account of Samson is a good reminder of how honest the Bible is. Rather than painting him as a flawless character, we find in Samson the same sinful flesh that infects all people. Of special note to anyone teaching this story is the obvious fact of Samson's immorality. More amazing than the feats of strength which he performed with the Lord's power is the fact that the Lord chose to use Samson as His instrument. Though the children may ask, one cannot justify the sinful actions that are so evident in Samson's life; one can merely use the opportunity to teach about God's grace and mercy.

**Points of Interest.**

The similarities between the life of Samson and the life of Jesus are actually quite amazing. When he appeared on the scene, for example, Samson came as a savior of his nation. His birth, like the birth of Jesus, was announced by an angel. His name meant "little sun," because in the darkened days in which he lived and worked, his efforts would shine like the sun. Jesus is called, "The Sun of Righteousness" who came with healing in his wings.

With the Spirit of God upon him, He had extraordinary strength and did mighty things. Jesus is the almighty Son of God who has power over all. This man worked alone to bring deliverance from the Philistines who troubled Israel. Jesus had to tread the winepress alone in saving sinners. One day, this man met a lion and killed it with his bare hands. Jesus met the devil, the roaring lion who seeks to devour us, and Jesus

overpowered him. When this man slaughtered scores of Philistines they came after him with their army. They could do nothing against him until one of his own countrymen delivered him into their hands. Jesus allowed His enemies, fellow Jews, to capture Him. He died, and rose victoriously.

This man had been bound with two new ropes by his own brethren and was delivered to the Philistines. At the mere sight of him his enemies broke forth in celebration. But when he arrived in their camp, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and the ropes became like threads. Picking up the jawbone of an ass, he killed 1,000 of their mightiest men. When he finished, he was fatigued and overcome by thirst. He cried to God for help and God caused water to flow out of a hollow place. Jesus, emerged from the three hours of darkness when Satan and all the powers of hell assailed Him. When God cursed Him with the sins of mankind. Exhausted from the conflict, He cried out "I thirst."

This man was betrayed for 1100 pieces of silver; Jesus was betrayed for 30. This man was tortured and ridiculed, his eyes were poked out, but in his death he destroyed thousands of people who had come to mock his God. Jesus died in His saving work, but thereby accomplished our salvation. (comparisons adapted from an unknown source)

### Chapter 13

The roller coaster ride of the Israelites' unfaithfulness hits another low. For a period of 40 years they are enslaved to the tiny country of Philistia. When the time is right, the Angel of the LORD appears to Manoah's wife. Though barren, she will give birth to a special child who is to be a Nazarite all his days. The promise is reaffirmed to both Manoah and his wife. During the sacrifice that follows, they realize that they have spoken with none other than the LORD Himself.

### Chapter 14

Unfortunately, Samson seeks a wife from outside of his own people. He also rejects the good counsel of his parents and wants to marry a woman from Timnah. Verse 4 explains that God would even use this sinful decision of Samson to accomplish His own good purposes (do not suppose that God was responsible for Samson's sinful choice).

Our first acquaintance with his unusual gift of strength comes as the family is going toward Timnah. A lion springs upon Samson and he single-handedly tears it apart as though it were a young goat. He mentions nothing of the incident to his parents, who, perhaps, were lagging behind.

The carcass of this lion plays a role in the story which follows. The honey he finds in it becomes the basis for a riddle which he uses to challenge the friends of his Philistine bride. When unable to solve the riddle by themselves, they use his bride-to-be to solicit the answer for them. Despite his physical strength, Samson reveals himself as a man of great weakness. Losing his bet, he kills 30 Philistines for the clothes they are wearing.

### Chapter 15

When Samson's first bride-to-be is given to his best man, he retaliates by setting fire to the Philistine grainfields. When the Philistines retaliate against Samson's would-be father-in-law and his ex-bride, he turns his wrath against them with a great slaughter.

Rather than viewing him as a savior of their nation, his own countrymen come to arrest him and to turn him over to the Philistines. Bound by two new ropes, he is delivered into their hands. Suddenly, the Spirit of the Lord is upon him; with the jawbone of a donkey, he kills 1,000 Philistines.

Almost incidentally, the Bible indicates that Samson judged Israel for a period of 20 years.

### Chapter 16

Rather than praising God for the special blessings he has received, Samson squanders his gift with a life of sin. After recording Samson's incident with a prostitute in Gaza, the Bible directs us to the situation that will cost him his strength and his life: his relationship with Delilah.

It seems odd to us that Samson didn't catch on to Delilah's continued questioning over the source of his strength. Evidently, he felt invincible, as our flesh often does. Finally, he crossed the line. His strength left him. The source of his strength wasn't simply his long hair - but rather, the blessing of the Lord. Once deprived of this, he was subject to mistreatment by his enemies.

Samson's life ends as a testimony to his faith and God's grace (cf. Hebrews 11). The Lord heard his prayer and granted his final request. In his death Samson destroyed more Philistines than during his lifetime.

### **STUDENT 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.

### **PRESENTATION**

Most children are best acquainted with the story of Samson and Delilah. Nevertheless, teachers should read the entire account in Scripture for their own information and should share (with discretion) parts of the entire story with their students.

### **APPLICATIONS**

1. Samson's story is a good reminder that we shouldn't take chances spiritually.  
The most dangerous time in a Christian's life is when he thinks he is strong enough to overcome temptation on his own.
2. Bad company corrupts good morals. How important is it to choose friends (and especially one's mate) wisely? The story of Samson provides a timely lesson.
3. For the older students especially, this lesson provides an opportunity to talk about using the right criteria for choosing a husband or wife.
4. Samson disregarded his parents' advice - to his own harm. Parents have the God-given responsibility to guide and instruct their young, teaching them how to make crucially important choices.

5. It is never too late, in this life, to turn back to God. God is always waiting for His wayward children to repent and is ready to forgive. Cf. The Prodigal Son
6. Do you sometimes feel you can not do anything for God? Samson was powerful, yet he was spiritually weak. God used Samson to accomplish good for Israel. God will use each of us as His tools to accomplish His will. Don't fight against God in this matter, but look for opportunities to serve Him.

## **PASSAGES**

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

### Lower

2 Cor. 12:9 My strength is made perfect in weakness.

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

### Middle any of the above and...

Genesis 8:21 The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.

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

1 Cor. 10:13 God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

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

### Upper any of the above and...

1 Cor. 10:12-13 Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Matthew 15:19 Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnesses, blasphemies.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## **HYMN CHOICES**

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" TLH #409

"I Walk in Danger All the Way" TLH #413

# 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



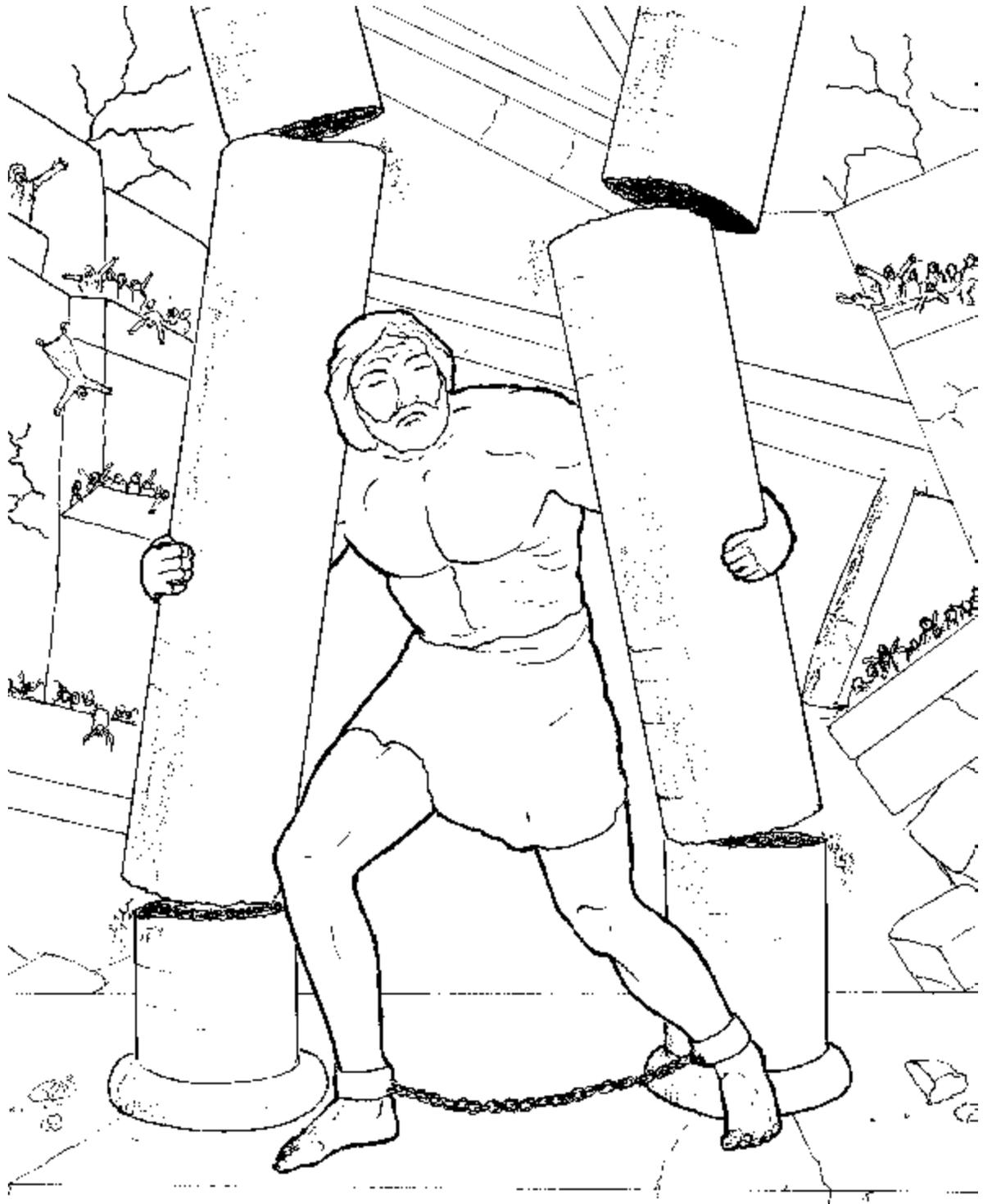
young Philistine woman and he wanted to marry her. His father and mother arranged the marriage. On their journey to the bride's home, a lion came roaring toward Samson and he killed the lion with his bare hands. On a later trip, he returned to the spot where the dead lion's carcass lay and there was 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.

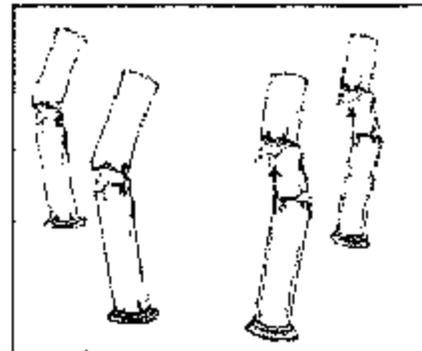
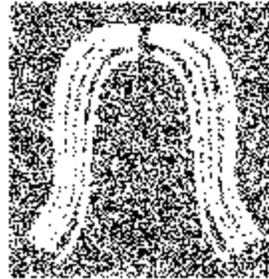
How sad the children of Israel were! How sad Samson was! But while Samson was in prison he began to realize that he should have trusted in the Lord and not in himself. In prison his hair began to grow back.

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.

# Samson

## Judges 13-16



## 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 Nazirite. His hair must not be cut. The baby would grow and deliver the Israelites from their enemies, the Philistines.

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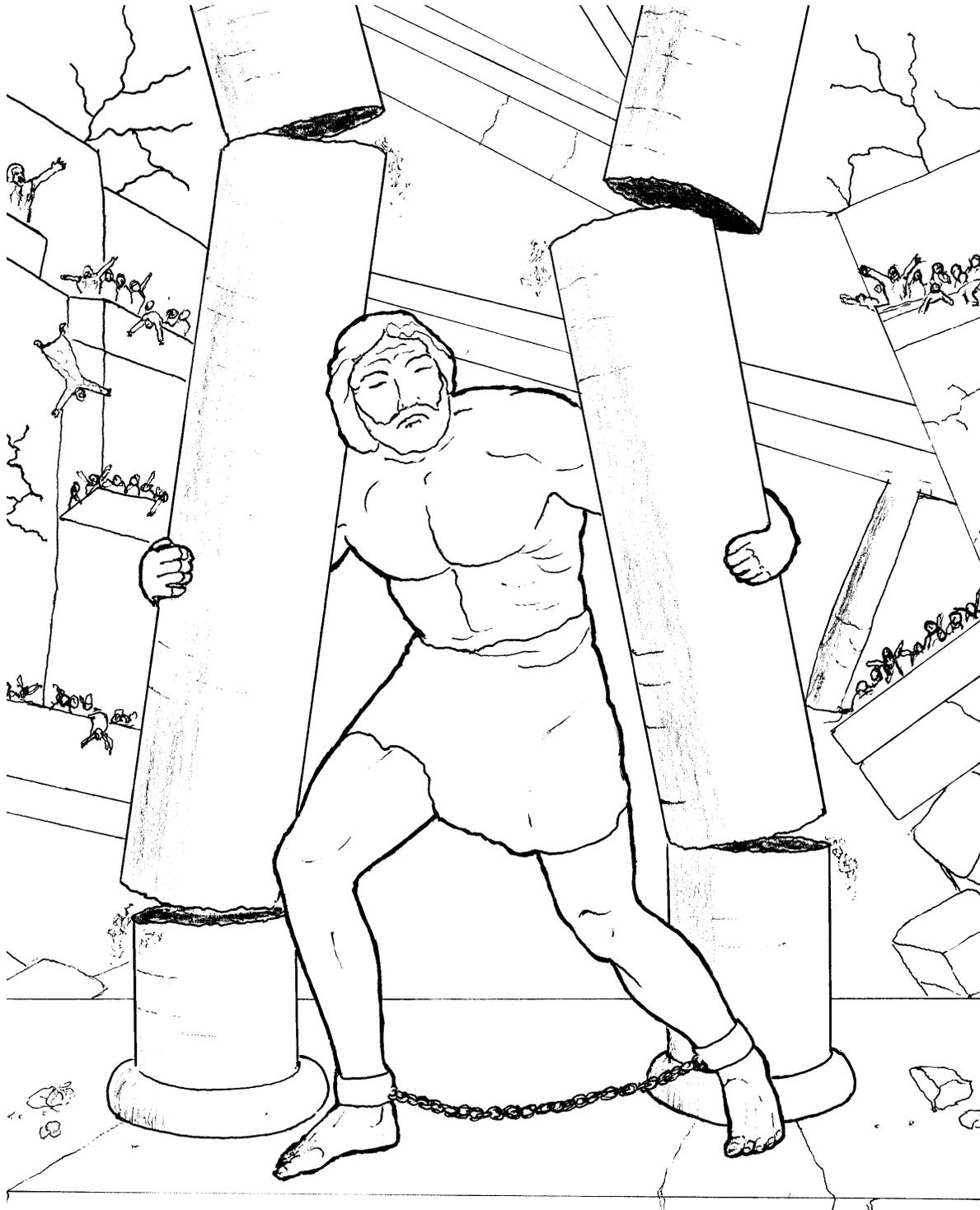
When Samson was grown, he saw a young Philistine woman and he wanted to marry her. His father and mother arranged the marriage. On their journey to the bride's home, a lion came roaring toward Samson and he killed the lion with his bare hands. On a later trip, he returned to the spot where the dead lion's 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 spoke it to his wedding guests for them to answer. Because of the riddle, an argument arose and his bride-to-be was given to another man. Samson returned some time later to see his fiancée and became angry that she 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 of 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 the 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 knocked down the two great pillars that held up the temple 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 -Number the sentences in the correct order.

- \_\_\_ The Philistines captured Samson and poked out his eyes.
- \_\_\_ Samson fell in love with Delilah.
- \_\_\_ The Lord let the heathen nation of the Philistines rule over the children of Israel for 40 years.
- \_\_\_ God gave Samson his strength again to destroy the temple of Baal.
- \_\_\_ Samson was born.
- \_\_\_ Delilah tried to learn the secret of Samson's great strength.
- \_\_\_ A lion attacked Samson and he killed it with his bare hands.
- \_\_\_ Samson finally told Delilah that his hair had never been cut.
- \_\_\_ Samson caught 300 foxes, tied their tails together, and lit them with fire to destroy all the Philistine fields.

## Activity Two -Place a (T) for True or (F) for False.

- \_\_\_ Samson's great strength was a gift from God.
- \_\_\_ Samson never did anything wrong.
- \_\_\_ God makes our mistakes turn out for good.
- \_\_\_ Using God's gifts for wrong things is sinful.
- \_\_\_ Believers never sin.
- \_\_\_ When we trust in ourselves more than in God, we get into trouble.
- \_\_\_ When a believer dies, his soul goes to heaven.

## 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.

*God uses us to accomplish His plan for mankind.*

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

# Samson

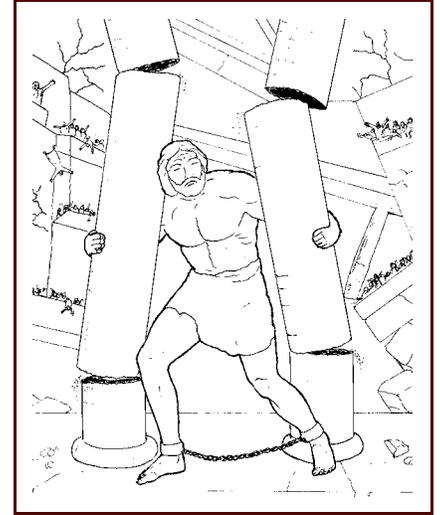
## Judges 13-16

*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.

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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.

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

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#### **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

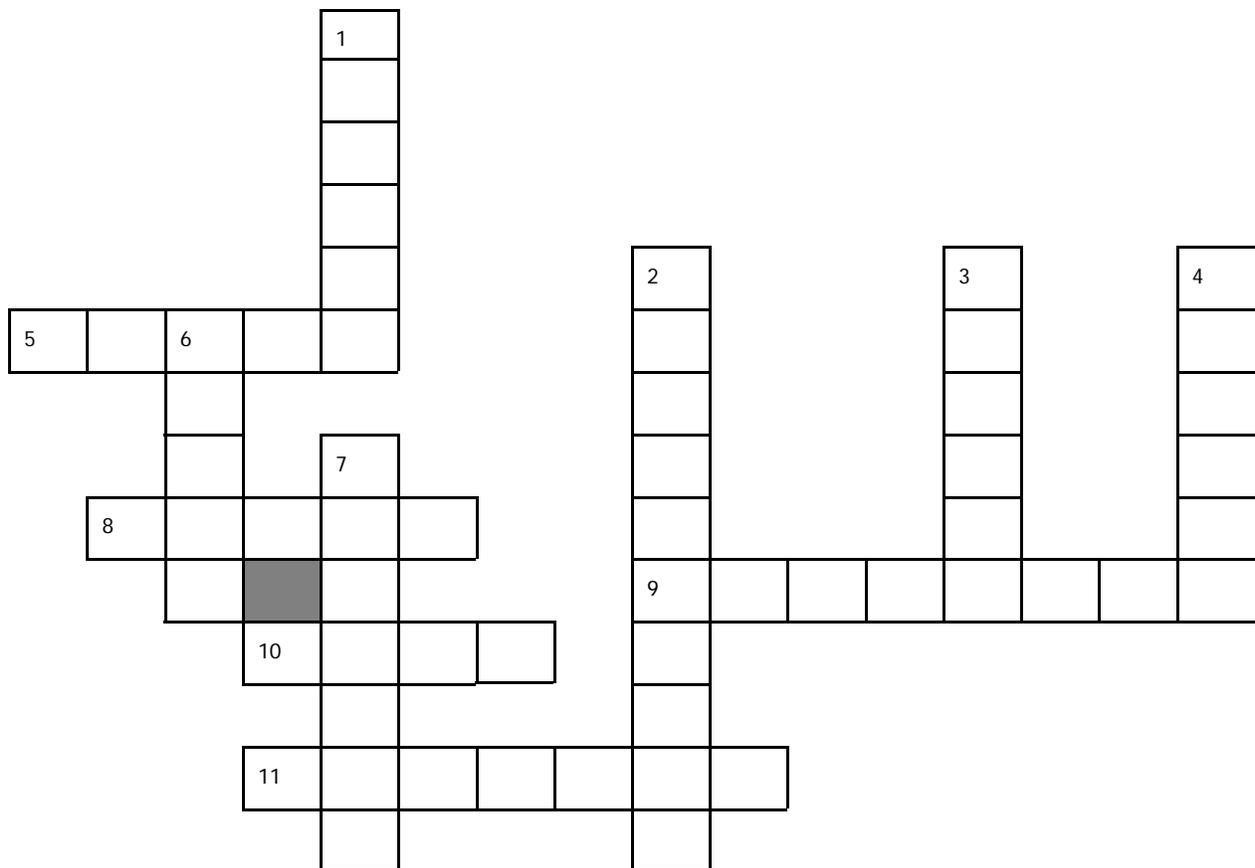
Numbers 6:5

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

# Samson

## Judges 13-15

*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 Nazarite. His hair must not be cut. The baby would grow and 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 dwelling 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 7th day of the feast and repeated 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 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. 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 Nazarite 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 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.

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

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Circle the letter of the correct answer or answers for each question.

1. The Angel told Manoah's wife that her son would be a \_\_\_\_.  
a. Levite    b. Judge    c. Nazirite
2. As a Nazirite Samson was not supposed to \_\_\_\_.  
a. drink wine    b. cut his hair    c. get married
3. Samson killed \_\_\_\_ men to pay a debt.    a. 30    b. 300    c. 3000
4. Samson told a riddle about a \_\_\_\_\_.    a. donkey    b. lion    c. barley cake.
5. Samson burned the fields of the Philistines by using \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. burning oil    b. torches    c. 300 foxes
6. Samson killed 1000 Philistines using \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a spear    b. the jawbone of a donkey    c. a slingshot
7. The Lord gave Samson a drink of water by \_\_\_\_  
a. leading him to an oasis    b. creating a stream in an old river bed  
c. allowed a stream of water to flow from a hollow place
8. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman named \_\_\_\_  
a. Manoah    b. Ruth    c. Delilah
9. Delilah was commanded by the rulers of the Philistines to find out Samson's \_\_\_\_  
a. home    b. secret to his strength    c. next attack against the Philistines
10. Samson suggested that his strength might be in \_\_\_\_  
a. seven fresh thongs that could be tied about him    b. new ropes that could hold him down as a prisoner  
c. weaving his 7 braids of hair into a loom
11. Samson became weak as any other man when \_\_\_\_  
a. his eyes were gouged out    b. his hair was shaved off    c. he was put into prison
12. The Philistines wanted Samson to entertain them at the feast of \_\_\_\_  
a. the harvest    b. their god Baal    c. their god Dagon

13. Samson's last victory against the heathen nation of the Philistines was  
 a. with his own death                      b. was given to him by God            c. he killed 3000  
 Philistines in their own temple

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

1. The Nazarite 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 Nazarite was not allowed to do. What were they?

Numbers 6:3

Number 6:4

Numbers 6:5

3. How was the history of Samson similar to the history of Israel during the period of the Judges?

4. How is Samson a type or picture of Christ?

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

**Your Turn** - Connect the number in the first column with a line to the correct phrase in the middle column and continue the line to the correct ending statement in the third column.

7	pieces of silver	who mocked Samson and his God
1100	changes of clothing	of Samson as Judge over Israel
20	worshippers of Dagon	paid to Delilah if she found the source of Samson's strength
40	years	shaved from Samson's head
1000	Philistine men	killed by Samson as he swung the jawbone of a donkey
30	braids of hair	caught by Samson, set on fire, and turned loose into harvest fields
3000	years	to the man that could unravel Samson's riddle
300	foxes	the Children of Israel suffered by their Philistine oppressors

## 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.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## Hymn - TLH #409

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 suffer here with Jesus,  
To His image e'er conform;  
Heaven's glory soon will please us,  
Sunshine follow on the storm.  
Tho' we sow in tears of sorrow,  
We shall reap in heav'nly joy;  
And the fears that now annoy  
Shall be laughter on the morrow.  
Christ, I suffer here with Thee;  
There, oh, share Thy joy with me!

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.