

Grown Up Children Stories – Samson Week 2

Main Point: **Doing what is right in the Lord’s eyes, not your own, will lead you to faithfully following God.**

Main Passage: Judges 13:5; 16:28 (Judges 13-16)

The Beginner’s Bible Page: pg 146 Samson

Jesus Connection:

- Birth Story, similar to Jesus. Angel shows up to say coming child. Similar to Jesus’ story, show up to Mary
- Betrayed for silver & taken away bonded
- Blinded/ Blindfolded

Message Start:

Gather around children for another story time. We are continuing in our series Grown Up Children Stories and today we will investigate a Superhero with mighty strength. Story time is fun! Make sure you can see the pictures... Gather around.

[AUTHOR NOTE – I set up an oversized recliner on stage, and I sat in it while giving the intro. I also gave the first part of the intro with the tone of a kindergarten teacher. When I got to the next part of the intro, I stood up and resumed my normal speaking tone to emphasize the transition from “kid stuff” to a more grown up approach.]

Today we are going to chat about who Samson was and draw a connection to Jesus. The story of Samson is told in the Old Testament book of Judges. So, just a quick background on the book: it tells how the Israelites went through a cycle which was repeated over and over.

1. They followed the Lord
2. They did evil in the sight of the Lord
3. They faced the consequences of their disobedience
4. They cried out to the Lord
5. The Lord sent a judge to save/rule over them
6. They lived in peace

Today’s story is about a guy named Samson, basically a marvel superhero that could rival Thor.

Let’s read together.

Story Time

[AUTHOR NOTE –Give as much energy as you can to reading the story like you would to a group of children. Tell the story as if your group was hearing it for the first time.]

[Read from The Beginner’s Bible (accessible from the Nursery/ Young Children’s in KidCity)

[Read story on page 146 – Samson\]](#)

READ CHILDREN BIBLE STORY OF SAMSON

This is a great story. We learn about Samson and who he was. But let me tell you, when you step out of the children’s bible, there is more to the story, more going on with Samson than a children’s bible will tell us.

Samson shows up in Judges 13-16.

[\[Samson's backstory – go through quick, give a snapshot overview of his story\]](#)

Samson was born a Nazarite. This means he couldn't cut his hair or beard, could not touch anything deemed "unclean," and could not partake in wine or any form of the fruit of the vine. Here's a few notes on what happened in Samson's life:

1. Dedicated to God from birth
2. He wanted to marry a Philistine girl (an enemy of Israel)
3. He killed a lion, and later ate honey out of its carcass
4. He made a bet with 30 guys to solve a riddle
5. He told his wife the answer to the riddle, who then told the guys
6. He killed 30 other guys and took their clothes to pay off the bet
7. When he returned from his killing spree, his father-in-law had given his new wife to his best man!
8. Shared his secret of his strength with wife & she back stabbed him
9. Arrested, eyes gouged out, and mocked by Philistines
10. Samson Cried out to God for strength one last time – on the pillars he knocked down pillars, crashing the temple, & killing 3,000 philistines

The takeaway from Samson's story is that we want to be faithful to follow God, we have to make sure that we are not doing what is right in our eyes but doing what is right in the Lord's eyes.

Main point: Doing what is right in the Lord's eyes, not your own, will lead you to faithfully following God.

The children's bible gives a brief overview of Samson's story. Let's go back to a few points and dig in and see what we can learn. All parts of the bible are good for us to learn, understand, and see how it connects with Jesus.

1. **Sight:** Right in Own Eyes.
 - a. Judges 17:6 – ⁶ In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.
 - b. Without a King, God's people did their own thing. Not focused on God, but focused on their self
 - c. Samson in own eyes/ own pride
 - d. Judges 14:3b (ESV) - ... But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."
 - e. Judges 14:7 (ESV) - ⁷ Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she was right in Samson's eyes.
 - f. Samson was lead by his own desires and passions. Often times it generated by what he saw with his eyes that caused him to lose focus on where God was leading him.
 - g. Enemy removed Samson's eyes – No Sight – Judges 16:21 - ²¹ Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes...
 - h. It's interesting that his enemy took out Samson's eyes as punishment. For Samson, this could have helped him to focus on God, not his own desires.
2. **Strength** – He was strong since his birth, with a charge to not cut his hair
 - a. Filled with Spirit of the Lord
 - b. Judges 14:6 - ⁶ The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands
 - c. Judges 14:19 – ¹⁹ Then the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of everything

and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he returned to his father's home.

- d. Judges 15:14-15 - ¹⁴ As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. ¹⁵ Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.
 - e. No question, Samson had incredible strength. There were times he did NOT use his strength to honor God but to benefit himself. This was his disobedience.
3. **Sin** – Samson threw away his gift
- a. His sin becomes his downfall (most of us can relate to this)
 - b. Judges 16:19-21 – ¹⁹ After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. ²⁰ Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. ²¹ Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.
 - c. Samson has given both Strength and Eyes to people, rather than to God
 - d. Samson wasted his gift
4. **Sovereignty** of God
- a. Define Sovereignty of God – "God's sovereignty is his right and power to do all that he decides to do."
 - b. God is showing up... look at this - Judges 16:22 - ²² But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.
 - c. Samson's story looks doom and gloom, in prison, mocked, with no eyes, haircut resulting in no strength. Thankfully, it doesn't end at this place
 - d. Judges 16:28 - ²⁸ Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."
 - e. Samson Calls on God even in this low moment, we see God show up.

This story of Samson Points to Jesus –

- Gospel Connection 1 – Similar Birth Story
 - **The Angel** of the Lord **announces** to Manoah's wife (Samson's mother) **that she will conceive and bear a son** who will begin to **save** (Heb *yasha'*) Israel from the Philistines (Judg 13:3-5).
 - **The Angel** Gabriel **announces** to Mary, Joseph's wife, **that she will conceive and bear a Son**; his name will be called Jesus (Heb *yeshu'*), for **he will save** his people from their sins (Luke 1:26-27, 31; Matt 1:20-21).
- Gospel Connection 2 – Betrayed for silver & taken away in bonds
 - Samson is shorn of his hair, **betrayed, and delivered to his enemies for silver** (Judg 16:18). **He is taken away in bonds** (Judg 16:21).
 - Jesus is **betrayed and delivered to his enemies for silver** (Matt 26:14-16). **He is taken away in bonds** (John 18:12).
- Gospel Connection 3 –
 - Samson **is blinded** (Judg 16:21).
 - Jesus **is blindfolded** before the chief priests and the Council, who seek to kill him (Mark 14:65).

This connection to Jesus is amazing to see. It helps to inspire us to keep digging into the bible and seeing where Jesus shows up. We will be celebrating Christmas in a few weeks, it is interesting to see Samson's birth story similar to Jesus' by seeing an angel show up on the scene and announcing a baby is coming, who will save the people.

We are thankful that Jesus was born, so we will celebrate in great ways this Christmas season. Samson was born to save God's people of Israel. Jesus was born to be the savior of the world.

In the last moments of Samson's life, he cries out to God. You are NEVER too late to cry out to God and allow Him to use you.

Judges 16:28-30 - ²⁸ Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." ²⁹ Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, ³⁰ Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

God CAN use you!
He WILL use you.
Focus your eyes on Him and less on yourself.
Watch what God WILL do in your life.

Main point: Doing what is right in the Lord's eyes, not your own, will lead you to faithfully following God.

Let's pray and then head to small groups.

Pray