

## Samson

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Judges 13–16

**MAIN POINT:** God made Samson strong.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 33:22

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

### SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

PAGE 134



### LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

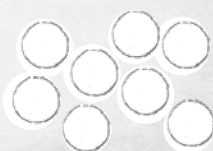
PAGE 136



### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

PAGE 138



4

## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Samson was the last of the major judges of Israel. He was born to parents who dedicated him to the Lord as a Nazirite after the Angel of the Lord announced that Samson would be born to save the Israelites from the power of the Philistines. Samson grew up, and God blessed him with great strength. But when Samson requested to marry a Philistine woman, his parents were confused. Samson was supposed to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. Why would he want to marry one of them? But God had a plan in all of this. (See Judg. 14:4.)

As Samson prepared for the wedding, he gave a riddle to the men with him about an event that occurred on his way

to Timnah. (See Judg. 14:9-14.) Days passed, and the men convinced Samson's wife to tell them the answer to the riddle. This action sparked a series of events that would eventually lead to the death of Samson.

When the men solved his riddle, Samson was so angry that he torched the fields of the Philistines. He used the jawbone of a donkey to kill 1,000 men, and he left his wife. The Philistine leaders determined to kill Samson. When Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, the leaders bribed her into telling them where Samson's strength came from.

A man came and shaved the braids from Samson's head. He lost his strength and became helpless. The Philistines gouged out his eyes and took him prisoner. They had him stand between the pillars of a pagan temple. In a final plea to God, Samson asked for his strength back. God gave him strength, and Samson knocked over the pillars, collapsing the temple. In his death, Samson killed more Philistines than he had killed in his life. (Judg. 16:30)

Though Samson disobeyed God, God used him to accomplish His purpose of delivering the Israelites from the Philistines. Jesus would come as the last Deliverer, saving through His life and His death those who would trust in Him.

4



**MINISTRY GRID**  
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

# The BIBLE STORY

## Samson

*Judges 13–16*

**God's people** kept getting into trouble. Time and time again, they **disobeyed God**. Each time, **God let their enemies have power over them**. Now **God's people were being controlled by** their enemies, **the Philistines**.

**One day, the Angel of the Lord appeared to two of God's people**. The Angel told the couple that they were going to have a son. God had special instructions for the baby: He should never cut his hair. **God said, "Your son is going to save the Israelites from the Philistines."**

**When the woman had a baby, she named him Samson. God made Samson very strong.**

When **Samson** grew up, he **met a woman named Delilah, and he fell in love**. Some **Philistine men, who did not like Samson, talked to Delilah**. "**Find out why Samson is so strong,**" they said.

So **Delilah asked Samson, "Why are you so strong?"** Samson told Delilah, "If you tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings, I will be weak." But that was not true. Delilah tied up Samson with seven fresh bowstrings. When she said, "Samson! The Philistines are here to kill you!" Samson broke free.

Again, Delilah asked Samson, "Why are you so strong?" Samson told Delilah, "If you tie me up with new rope, I will be weak." But that was not true. Delilah tied up Samson with new rope. When she said, "Samson! The Philistines are here to kill you!" Samson broke free.

Again, Delilah asked Samson, "Why are you so strong?" Samson told Delilah, "If you weave my hair into a loom, I will be weak." But that was not true. Delilah wove Samson's

hair into a loom. When she said, “Samson! The Philistines are here to kill you!” Samson broke free.

**Delilah begged Samson to tell her the truth, so Samson did. “If you cut my hair, I will not have my strength.”**

**When Samson was sleeping, the Philistines cut his hair. Delilah woke him up. “Samson! The Philistines are here to kill you!” But Samson was not strong anymore. The Philistines grabbed him and took him away in chains.**

**Samson’s hair began to grow back. One day, the Philistines made Samson stand between two columns in their temple. Samson cried out to God, and God made Samson strong. Samson pushed on the columns, and the temple fell down. Samson and everyone in it died.**

*Christ Connection: Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson’s death to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God’s people from sin and give them eternal life.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that, like the Israelites, when Samson was blinded and mocked by enemies, he cried out to God, “Lord God, please remember me” (Judg. 16:28). Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** Samson

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Judges 13–16

**MAIN POINT:** God made Samson strong.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 33:22

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

---

## Welcome time

- “Help, Help, Help” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page


- “Which Is Stronger?” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Guide preschoolers to circle the strongest of each pair.

**SAY** • Good job deciding which is the strongest! Today’s Bible story is about a man named Samson. God made Samson very strong. Let’s find out how strong Samson was.

## Perform feats of strength

Invite preschoolers to show you how strong they are by putting them through a “workout.” Invite them to touch their toes, reach high to the sky, jump up and down, and run in place. Challenge them with jumping jacks, sit-ups, push-ups, and holding their body in a plank. If preschoolers struggle with an exercise, offer an alternative. For the final action, invite preschoolers to flex their muscles.



LOW PREP

Note: Be sensitive to children with motor challenges. Make sure all children are successful and can show “strength!”

**SAY** • Wow! God gave you muscles! Today's Bible story is about a man who was very strong. The man's name was Samson, and Samson was strong because God made him strong. Let's find out how God used Samson's strength.

## Practice scissor skills

Provide various items for preschoolers to practice their cutting skills. Ideas include yarn, plastic straws, paper, ribbon, or play dough. Consider saving the cut items for future art projects.

**SAY** • You all are learning to cut things. In today's Bible story, the Angel of the Lord told two of God's people that they would have a son. God had special instructions for the baby: He should never cut his hair. One day, someone cut Samson's hair and something sad happened. Let's find out what that was.

- blunt-tipped scissors
- yarn
- plastic straws
- paper
- ribbon
- play dough

## Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to show you how strong they are by crawling like a bear or walking like a crab to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

# Large Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** Samson

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Judges 13–16

**MAIN POINT:** God made Samson strong.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 33:22

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

---

## Introduce the Bible story

**SAY** • When was the last time you got a haircut? In today’s Bible story, God gave some parents very strange instructions about their child’s hair—God told them never to cut it.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Judges 13.

**SAY** • God’s words are in the Bible, and God’s words are true. The Bible tells us everything we need to know.

Today’s Bible story comes from the Book of Judges.

Show the Bible story video “Samson” or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

## Talk about the Bible story

**SAY** • Because God’s people continued to disobey Him, God let the Philistines have power over them. **God made Samson strong** so Samson could rescue Israel from their enemies. Samson sinned and died, but God used his death to help His people.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big

- Bible
- “Samson” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. What did God tell Samson's parents he would do?  
(*save the Israelites from the Philistines*)
2. What special instructions did God have for Samson's parents?  
(*never cut his hair*)
3. Who was the woman Samson loved?  
(*Delilah*)
4. What happened when the Philistines cut Samson's hair?  
(*God took away Samson's strength.*)
5. How did Samson push down the two columns in the Philistine's temple?  
(*God gave Samson his strength back.*)

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • *Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.* Samson sinned, but God still used Samson to rescue His people from the Philistines. God can use anyone to accomplish His plan including sinners like you and me.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Isaiah 33:22. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song "He Will Save Us."

• Key Passage Poster  
• "He Will Save Us" song

**SAY** • Our key passage tells us that God is the One who saves His people. Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson's death to save His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to save God's people from sin and give them eternal life.

## Transition to small groups



# Small Group ACTIVITIES

**SESSION TITLE:** Samson

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Judges 13–16

**MAIN POINT:** God made Samson strong.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 33:22

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

---



- baby dolls
- blankets

## Play out caring for babies

Invite preschoolers to play out caring for babies.

**SAY** • The Angel of the Lord told Samson’s parents that they would have a baby boy. God said, “Your son is going to save the Israelites from the Philistines.”

**God made Samson strong.** Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson’s death to save the Israelites from the Philistines. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died and rose again to rescue God’s people from sin and give them eternal life.

## Experiment with weight

Display an assortment of items weighing different amounts.

Invite preschoolers to hold one item in each hand and decide which item weighs the most. Sort items according to weight. Consider including items that preschoolers cannot lift, but be careful preschoolers do not strain or hurt themselves trying to lift heavy objects.

**SAY** • A person has to be very strong to lift heavy objects.

**God made Samson strong.** Samson was so strong he pushed down columns that were holding the

weight of the Philistine temple. Samson died when he knocked the columns down, but God used Samson's death to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and give them eternal life.

## Knock down pillars

Provide two lightweight foam exercise rollers to serve as pillars and stand them up a couple feet apart. Lay a piece of foam board on top of the rollers to serve as a roof. Invite preschoolers to line up and, one at a time, knock over the pillars and watch the roof fall down.

**SAY** • After Samson lost his strength he cried out to God, and **God made Samson strong** again. Samson pushed on the columns and the Philistine temple fell down. Samson and everyone in it died. Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson's death to help His people. Samson reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and give them eternal life.

- foam exercise rollers, 2
- foam board

## Use lacing cards

Provide pre-made lacing cards or frames and shoelaces for preschoolers to use. If lacing cards or frames are unavailable, simply punch holes in a piece of cardboard and invite preschoolers to weave shoelaces through the holes.

**SAY** • You weaved the shoelaces through the cards. Samson lied to Delilah and told her if she weaved his hair into a loom, he would be weak. **God made Samson strong.** Samson died because of his sin, but God used Samson's death to help His people. Samson

- pre-made lacing cards or frames
- shoelaces
- cardboard (optional)
- hole punch (optional)

reminds us of Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He died for our sin. Jesus died and rose again to rescue God's people from sin and give them eternal life.

## Make string art

- construction paper
- yarn, thin rope, or twine
- clothespins
- paint
- foam plate
- smocks
- wipes

Provide a piece of construction paper, folded in half for each child. Open the construction paper and invite a preschooler to select a piece of yarn, rope, or twine. Place a clothespin on the end of the string. Guide her to submerge the string in paint and lay it on one side of the folded paper. She may lay the string in any type of pattern, but keep out a clean end of the string so she can hold on to it. Remove the clothespin and repeat the process with a six more strings. Then fold the paper back together. While a leader lays a hand on top of the paper to secure it, the preschooler should pull the strings, moving them around the edges of the paper. Open the paper to reveal the artwork.

**SAY** • Samson told Delilah he would be weak if he were tied up with seven bowstrings. That was not true. Then Samson said he would be weak if he was tied up with new rope. That was not true either. **God made Samson strong.** God used Samson's strength to save His people from the Philistines. God sent Jesus to save His people from sin and give them eternal life.

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve graham crackers and frosting for snack. Lead preschoolers to form an archway with their crackers and frosting. Then invite them to knock down the sides. Remind preschoolers that God gave Samson his strength back so he could push down the columns and defeat the Philistines. God used Samson's death to help His people. God used Jesus' death to rescue His people from sin.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of something they are good at. Remind preschoolers that **God made Samson strong**. God used Samson's strength to help His people. God makes us good at things so we can help others, too. Pray for the children.

**SAY** • God, even though Samson died because of his sin, You used his death to help people. Jesus never sinned, but You used His death to help us. Thank You for raising Jesus from the dead to rescue us from sin and give us eternal life. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

# Journal Page

## God Judges His People

**Key Passage:** Isaiah 33:22

**Big Picture Question:** Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

**Session 1:** The First Judges  
*Judges 3:7-31*  
The Israelites forgot about the one true God.

**Session 2:** Deborah and Barak  
*Judges 4-5*  
God sent judges to help His people.

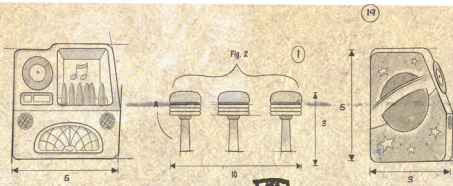
**Session 3:** Gideon  
*Judges 6-8*  
God gave Gideon victory over his enemies.

**Session 4:** Samson  
*Judges 13-16*  
God made Samson strong.

**Session 5:** Ruth and Boaz  
*Ruth 1-4*  
God gave Ruth a family.

**Session 6:** Eli and Boy Samuel  
*1 Samuel 1-3*  
God spoke to Samuel.

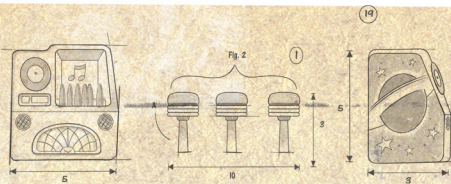




The LORD is our  
judge, the LORD is  
our lawgiver,  
the LORD is our  
king; it is he who  
will save us.

Isaiah 33:22

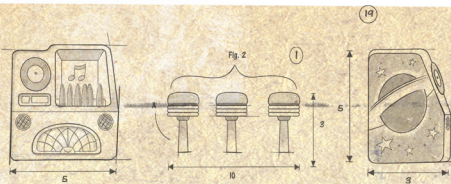




**The LORD is our  
judge, the LORD is  
our lawgiver, the  
LORD is our king;  
he will save us.**

Isaiah 33:22



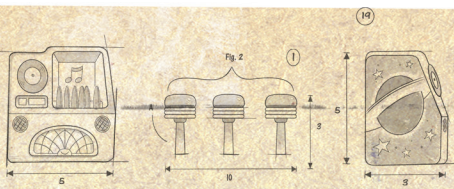


For the LORD is our  
Judge, the LORD is  
our lawgiver, the  
LORD is our king.  
He will save us.

Isaiah 33:22





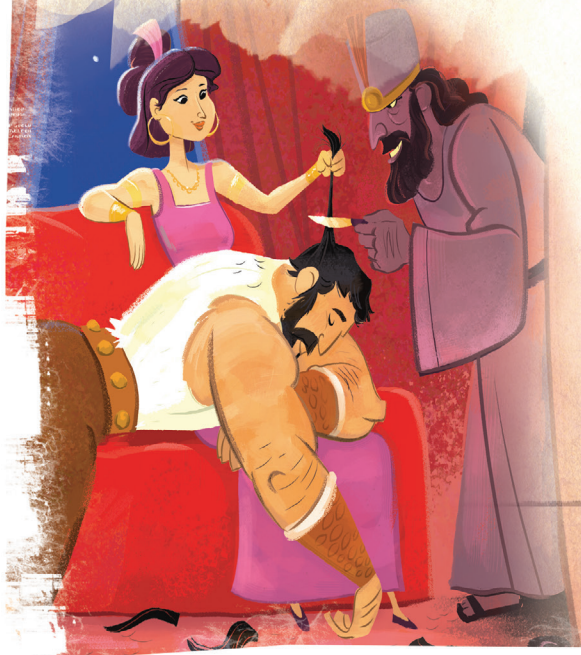


The LORD is our  
judge; the LORD  
is our lawgiver;  
the LORD is our  
king; he will  
save us.

Isaiah 33:22



# God made Samson strong.

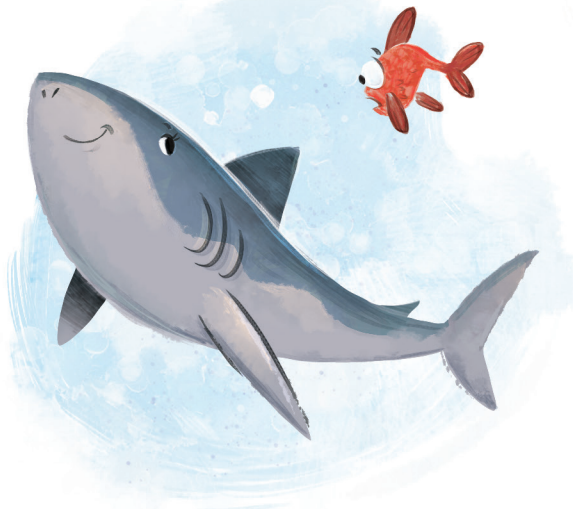




# Which Is Stronger?

DOWNLOAD THE  
TGP FAMILY APP

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Look at each pair. Circle the strongest of each pair.



**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 33:22

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**SAMSON**

- God chose Samson to deliver Israel from the Philistines.
- God made Samson strong as long as he did not cut his hair.
- Delilah told the Philistines the secret to Samson's strength.
- Samson pushed on the pillars of the Philistine temple and it collapsed.

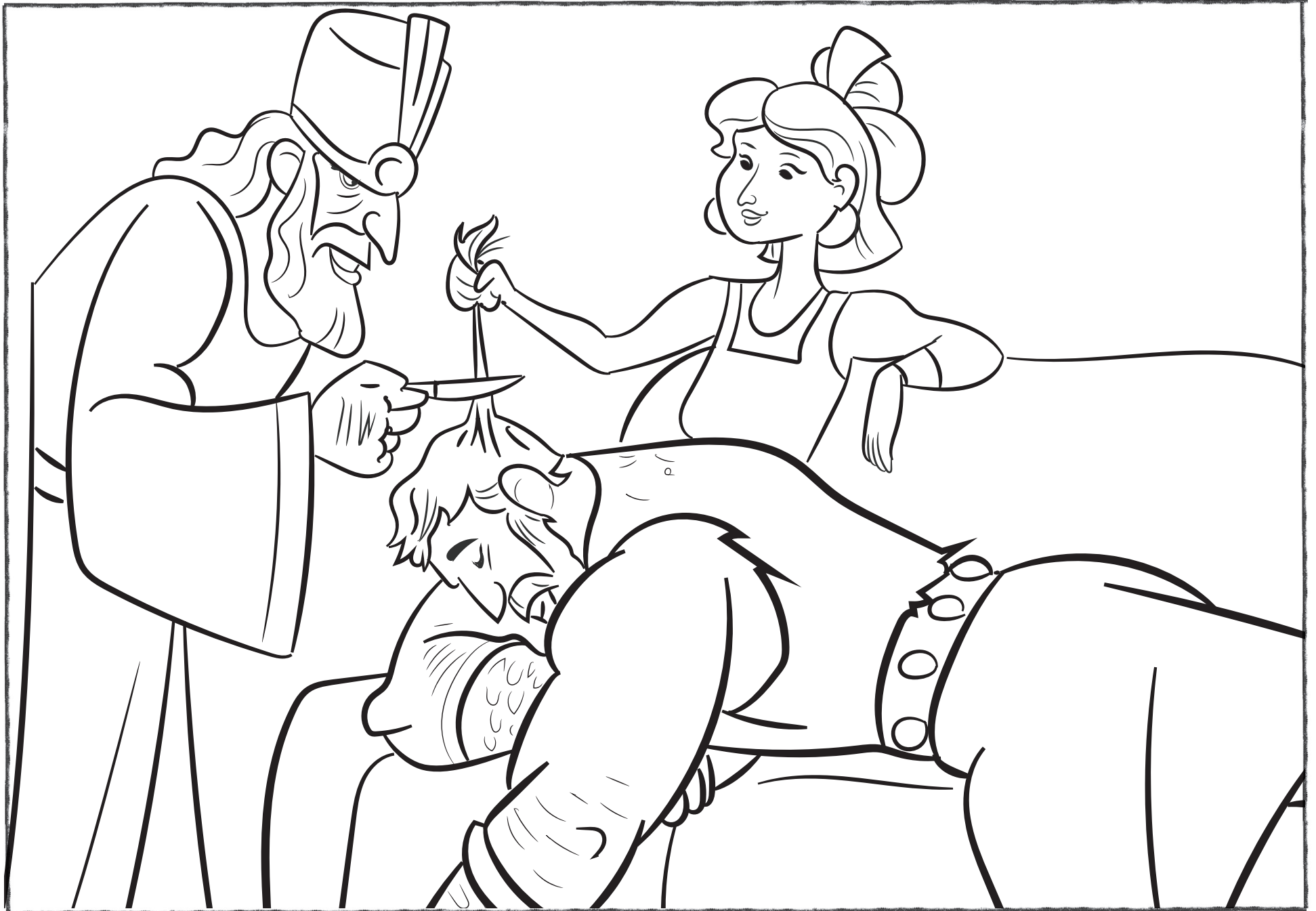
**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

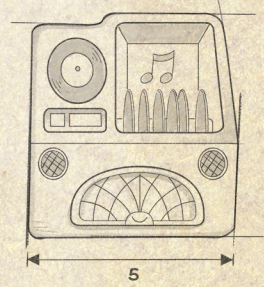
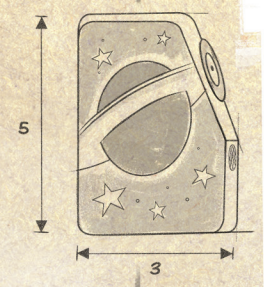
- Do you think Samson loved God like he should have? How do we fail to love God at times?
- What are you good at? How can you use that talent to give glory to God?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

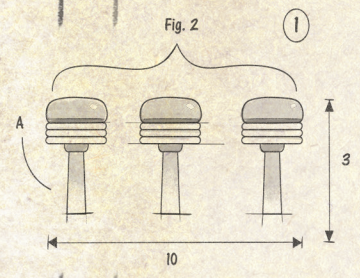
- Conduct a family olympics or feats of strength competition.
- Go further: Take bottled water or sports drinks to a local park where people run/exercise and give them away for free.

*Preschool Activity Pages*  
Unit 9, Session 4

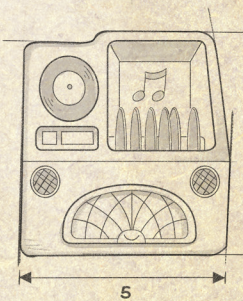
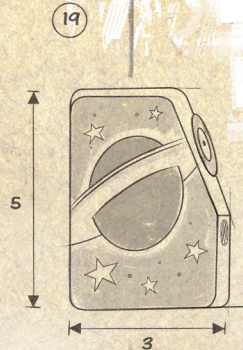
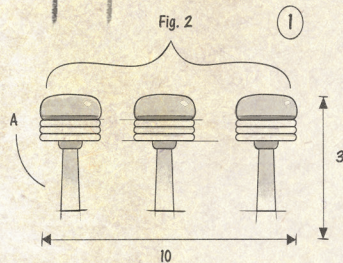




# Whom does God use in His plan?



# Whom does God use in His plan?



God uses people  
in His plan.





God's people forgot about God.



God let Israel's enemies defeat them.





**God's people cried out to Him for help.**



**God sent a judge to help His people.**



**God gave His people peace.**