

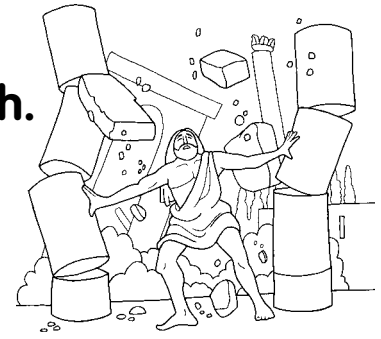
Samson trusted God to give him strength.

Judges 13–16



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Judges 13–16



☆Let's Talk and Wonder

SAY God gave Samson great strength so he could serve God by helping deliver Israel from the enemy Philistines. One time, Samson killed a lion with his bare hands. Another time, Samson killed 1,000 Philistines with a donkey's jawbone. Some time later when the Philistines tried to capture Samson, he lifted up the locked city gates and carried them off. Samson's great strength came from God.

ASK *Did Samson always remember to serve God?*

SAY Samson did not always serve God. He disobeyed God's law over and over. Eventually the Philistines captured Samson. They blinded him, threw him into prison, and made him work hard grinding grain.

SAY I wonder how Samson felt when that happened . . .

SAY After a while, the Philistines held a great festival in honor of their false god. They led Samson into the crowded enemy temple and made fun of him. Samson prayed to God, asking for strength one more time. He then pushed hard against the pillars, and the temple crashed down, killing everyone, even Samson. In the end, Samson remembered that his strength came from God, and he trusted God to deliver Israel from their enemies, the Philistines.

God sent Jesus to deliver us from our enemy—our sin and the devil. Jesus never sinned. Because he is God, he defeated the devil when he died on the cross for our sin.

☆Let's Draw

Hand out **paper** and **crayons or markers**. Have the children draw some things mentioned in this story (for example, a lion, a donkey, city gates, the temple, Samson). Have children tell about Samson as they show their pictures.



☆Let's Pray

Lead the children in saying sentence prayers asking God to help them trust and obey him.