



Lesson Two

Samson Prays for Strength



Nourishing Your Heart

Scripture

Judges 13–16

Bible Truth

Even though Samson was sinful and weak, God used him to accomplish his purposes.

Lesson Aim

To know that God gives us the ability and desire to serve him, not ourselves.

God gave Samson many gifts and abilities, yet Samson lived a life of flagrant sin. He did not live in the grip of God’s Spirit, choosing most often to follow his selfish desires wherever they led him.

Samson had loving parents who raised Samson as a Nazirite, dedicated to the service of the Lord. The Spirit of God was clearly active in Samson and was the source of his amazing physical strength. This physical prowess enabled Samson to do great feats, including battling the fierce and overpowering Philistines—the enemy of Israel—with his bare hands.

Yet in spite of God’s call upon his life, Samson often chose not to follow God’s leading or the spiritual guidance of his parents. Time and time again Samson broke God’s law and violated all the conditions of his Nazirite vow. This led to grave consequences for Samson, as he ended up drained of his power, sightless, and enslaved to the enemy.

Even though Samson’s story is primarily one of disappointments and failures, God was still at work in his life. In his final moments, Samson asked God for the strength to destroy the Philistines around him. God gave Samson a burst of power, and God delivered Israel from the enemy as the Philistines, along with Samson, were crushed when Samson destroyed the temple.

God accomplishes his purposes even when we are not obedient.

Pray that as your children learn about Samson, the Holy Spirit will help them understand that our abilities and gifts come from the Lord. Pray that they will see that God wants us to serve him, not ourselves, and that God accomplishes his purposes even when we are not obedient and faithful.

Bible Background

Samson was set apart for the work of God from birth, but Samson did not live a life of holiness. He was named as one of Israel’s judges and ruled from 1095 to 1075 B.C. Samson, whose name means “distinguished,” was not known for his wisdom, sound moral judgment, or personal integrity but for his great physical strength. Yet in spite of Samson’s many failures, God used him to begin the deliverance of Israel from Philistine influence and control.

Memory Verse

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

PHILIPPIANS 2:13