

Parents Connect

Bible Story: God Gave Strength to Samson (Judges 13-14)
Bible Phrase: "God gives strength to His people" (Psalm 68:35).

Bible Truth: God helps me to be strong to do His work.



God's Unfolding Story



1. God created everything.



2. People disobeyed God.



3. God chose a special people.



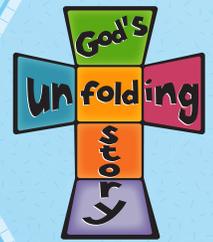
4. God sent Jesus to help us.



5. Jesus began the Church.



6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.



Unfolding God's Story for Parents

As we continue our study of the Old Testament we discover how well God provides for His people. While Samson has long been remembered for his failure, he did lead the nation of Israel for 20 years. Several times it is mentioned that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. We can all learn from that!



As Samson grew older, he did not always use his strength the way God intended. One day a Philistine woman talked Samson into telling her about his hair; and that night while Samson slept, she had it cut off! When he awoke he was no stronger than anyone else! Samson was taken to prison and blinded so he could not see, but while he was in prison, his hair grew back and his strength returned! One day the

Ask, "What does it take to be STRONG?" (Listen to answers.)

Say, "This is a story about a man who was very strong, but it was by the power of God"

Tell the story.

Bible Story God Gave Strength to Samson (Judges 13-14)

The Israelites had disobeyed God and were being mistreated by the Philistines. It was a hard and difficult time for God's people. During this time, an Israelite couple was also living with a disappointment of their own. They wanted children but were not able to have any.

One day God sent an angel to speak to the wife. He told her, "You are going to have a son." Through the angel, God told the woman her son would be very special and would help save the Israelites from the Philistines' harsh rule. The angel also told the woman, "The boy is to serve God from birth as a Nazirite. Do not cut his hair." Nazirites were not to cut their hair.

After several months, a baby boy was born, and his mother named him Samson. The couple obeyed God and never cut Samson's hair. As Samson grew up, his hair got longer and longer, and every day he grew stronger! One day when Samson was in a field, a lion came roaring at him, but he was so strong he was able to kill it using only his hands!

Philistines brought Samson outside, near the temple where they worshiped their false god. There they make fun of him. Samson asked a guard to lead him to some of the temple's tall columns. He asked God to give him special strength and began to push on the columns with all his might. He was so strong the columns began to break, and the temple came crashing down. Many Philistines died, but Samson died too. Still, God had used him to fight the Philistines.

Ask, "How did God use Samson's strength?" (to kill a lion, to fight the Philistines)

Ask, "What was the symbol of Samson's dedication to God?" (his uncut hair.)

When did Samson lose his strength? (when his hair was cut.)

Comment that all of us can do things that we did not think that we could when we trust in God for our strength.

Activity Suggestion

Grow Samson's Hair

Guide your preschooler to draw Samson's face on a paper cup. Add soil and plant some grass seeds. Keep watered, but not soaked. Over the next week you can watch "Samson's hair" grow.