



## BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 21

### SAMSON (JUDGES 13-16)

**Scripture:** Judges 16:4-22

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Balloons, yarn, 6 strings, rope, picture of a loom or a hand loom, hot glue or superglue (glues will require supervision)

#### Ask:

- Who can tell me about Gideon?
- What did he ask for? (Signs)
- Was he very brave, or often afraid? (Afraid)
- Does anyone remember how many men he defeated the Midianites with? (300)

#### Explain:

Today we're going to talk about another judge. His name is Samson. Does anyone know what Samson was known for? (Strength)

#### Summarize:

Samson had amazing strength from God, and he had it because he was dedicated to God at birth. He took the vow of a Nazrite, which means he couldn't drink from the vine (grapes, meaning he didn't drink any wine), he couldn't go near a dead body, and he couldn't cut his hair.

Unfortunately, Samson breaks all those vows.

He was the judge who rose up against the Philistines. He was quite a warrior, defeating an army with the jawbone of a donkey. He also used riddles to try to win things from the Philistines. Let's do some riddles now.

#### Riddles:

1. I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. What am I? **Answer:** A candle.
2. What has a head and a tail but no body? **Answer:** A coin
3. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I? **Answer:** Footsteps
4. What is full of holes but still holds water? **Answer:** A sponge
5. What can travel around the world while staying in a corner? **Answer:** A stamp

**Read:** Judges 16:4-22

**Activity:**

Create a balloon head Samson.

Give each child a balloon and a lot of yarn. Have them make seven braids. Glue or tape those braids to the balloon (hot glue worked well for me). Give Samson a face.

**Act it Out:**

Use your sample balloon Samson or a child in a wig to reenact the story.

Have a Delilah tie him with string and ropes. Then try to weave it through a hand loom or strips of paper set up like a loom. Each time, have the kids jump out and try to grab Samson, but have Samson win.

Finally, cut the hair of the wig or the balloon Samson and see Samson become weak.

**Explain:**

Samson broke his promises to God, and he didn't know when God left him. We are called to walk in fellowship with God, learning and obeying his commands. Thankfully, God forgives Samson, and his hair begins to grow. At the end of his life, Samson destroyed many of the enemy after he prayed for strength one last time.

**Apply:**

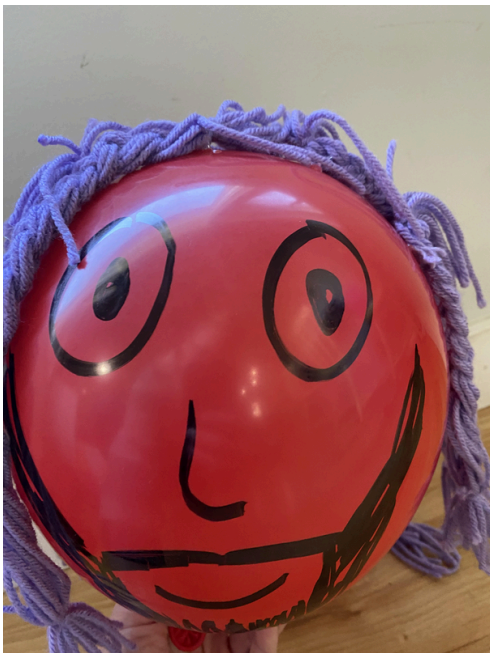
We will make mistakes. And those will have consequences. Thankfully, we can run back to God and ask forgiveness. It doesn't mean we still won't face the consequences of our actions, but we can rest knowing that we are forgiven before him. This week, I want you to remember Samson. He was called to live a life different from others with his vow. We as Jesus followers are called to be different. And when we're different, our strength doesn't come from our hair, but from the power of God's Spirit inside us. By His strength, we can live differently for Jesus, no matter what comes.

### Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids draw the story of Samson. Save it to add to their Comic Book Bibles.

**Memorize:** Judges 13:5

**Close in Prayer**



Our Samson was a bit obnoxious with his purple hair, but we had a blast with him. In the future, I would make the balloon smaller, so the hair was even more extreme.