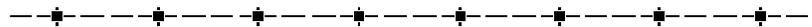


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Foolish Son

Samson

Judges 13-16

A Foolish Son
Judges 14:1-10

Memory Verse:

You need to be faithful. Then
you will do what God wants.
(Hebrews 10:36 NIRV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Learn that Samson was a Nazirite.
2. Learn that Samson made bad choices.
3. Recognize that God used Samson.
4. Understand that God wants us to make good choices.

Last week we learned about Samuel. His mother gave Samuel to the Lord. So when he was old enough, he went to live in the temple. Samuel learned from Eli, the priest. Samuel served the Lord. The people knew he was a prophet of the Lord.

Read the Bible

READ: Judges 14:1-10 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin With Prayer

This week we will learn about Samson. The Bible says that Samson's mother did not have any children. But the Lord sent an angel to tell her that she would have a son. Samson's father prayed that the angel would come back. Samson's father wanted the angel to tell them how they should raise their son. God answered his prayer. The angel came back. He told Samson's parents that they should dedicate the child to God. (Judges 13:1-25) He would be a Nazirite. They should not cut Samson's hair. He should not drink wine or other strong drink. He was not to go near dead bodies or any buildings that had dead bodies. A Nazirite was someone set aside for the Lord. (Numbers 6:1-21) Samson was a very strong man.

When Samson grew up he decided he wanted to marry a Philistine woman. God had told the Israelites not to intermarry when they entered the promised land. (Deuteronomy 7:3) But Samson insisted so his parents arranged for the marriage. On one trip to visit the girl he was going to marry, Samson had killed a lion. On another trip, Samson found that bees had made a hive in the carcass of the lion (dead body). As a Nazirite, Samson was not supposed to go near dead bodies. He not only went near, he took some of the honey, ate it, and gave it to his parents. But Samson did not tell his parents where he got the honey. (Judges 14: 1-9) Do you remember Eve ate the fruit and gave it to Adam? God had told them not to do that. (Genesis 3:6)

When Samson's parents were making marriage arrangements, Samson gave the Philistines a riddle. "Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet." (Judges 14:14 NIRV) But the Philistines told his wife they would kill her and her family if she did not get the answer and give it to them. So she begged and cried until Samson gave her the answer. Samson had promised to give the Philistines 30 linen shirts if they could answer his riddle. When they were able to answer it, he became so angry that he went to another town and killed

Samson—Bible Facts

1. Samson was a Nazirite.
2. Samson did not drink strong drink nor cut his hair.
3. Samson wanted to marry a Philistine.
4. Samson gave the Philistines a riddle.
5. Samson defeated the Philistines.

30 Philistines and took the clothes and gave it to the men who answered his riddle. (Judges 14:14-19) Samson made another foolish decision. He fell in love with another Philistine woman. Her name was Delilah. Delilah was asked by the Philistines to find out why Samson was so strong. Several times he lied to her. Each time she called the Philistines and Samson would win the fight. Delilah nagged Samson until he told her the truth. (Judges 16:1-16) "So he told her everything. 'I've never used a razor on my head,' he said. 'I've never cut my hair. That's because I've been a Nazirite since the day I was born. A Nazirite is set apart to God. If you shave my head, I won't be strong anymore. I'll become as weak as any other man.' (Judges 16:17 NIV) Because Samson gave away the secret of his strength, he became weak when they cut his hair. Delilah called the Philistines and they took his eyes out and took Samson to prison. [Teachers: This information may be too graphic for some children.] While he was there, his hair grew back. He became strong. One day, the Philistines wanted to make fun of Samson so they called for him to be brought to the temple. They were having a celebration for their god. Samson asked to be put by the columns that held up the temple. He told the guard he wanted to lean on the columns. Samson prayed and asked God to help defeat his enemies. Samson was able to destroy the temple and the people in it. Even though Samson made foolish choices, God used him to destroy the enemies of Israel. God wants us to make good choices. "You need to be faithful. Then you will do what God wants." (Hebrews 10:36 NIV) He sent Jesus to help us to know what God wants us to do and to help us to do what God wants us to do.

Review questions

1. Who was Samson? (Samson was a Nazirite.)
2. What was special about Samson? (Samson did not drink wine or strong drink nor cut his hair .)
3. What did Samson ask his parents to do? (Samson asked his parents to arrange a marriage with a Philistine woman.)
4. What did Samson tell the Philistines? (Samson gave the Philistines a riddle.)
5. What did Samson do? (Samson defeated the Philistines.)

Do you know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus can help us know what God wants us to do. When we ask Jesus for forgiveness, He forgives us. (I John 1:9) If we will invite Him to come be a part of our

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God's will.
3. Ask God to help you know what He wants.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to make good choices.

Application

Samson was a Nazirite. As a Nazirite he did not drink any alcohol nor cut his hair. He was set aside for God. When he grew up, Samson made bad choices. God used Samson even though he made bad choices. God wants us to make good choices. "You need to be faithful. Then you will do what God wants." (Hebrews 10:36 NIV) God used Samson even though he made bad choices.

Planning for the next week:

Eli (A Father Fails to Discipline) — I Samuel 2

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Judges 14:1-10 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Decorate your room with bees and beehives.)

The Bible says that Samson's mother did not have any children. But the Lord sent an angel to tell her that she would have a son. Samson's father prayed that the angel would come back and tell them how they should raise their son. God answered his prayer. The angel came back. He told Samson's parents that they should dedicate the child to God. (Judges 13:1-25) He would be a Nazirite. They should not cut Samson's hair. He should not drink. He was not to go near dead bodies or any buildings that had dead bodies. A Nazirite was set aside for the Lord. (Numbers 6:1-21)

One day Samson took a trip and killed a lion. On another trip Samson found that bees had made a hive in the lion's dead body. As a Nazirite Samson was not supposed to go near dead bodies. He not only went near the dead lion, he took some of the honey, ate it, and gave it to his parents. But Samson did not tell his parents where he got the honey. (Judges 14: 1-9) Do you remember Eve ate the fruit and gave it to Adam? God had told them not to do that. (Genesis 3:6)

Samson was a Nazirite. As a Nazirite he did not drink any alcohol nor cut his hair. He was set aside for God. When he grew up, Samson made bad choices. God used Samson even though he made bad choices. God wants us to make good choices. "You need to be faithful. Then you will do what God wants." (Hebrews 10:36 NIV)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God's will.
3. Ask God to help know what He wants.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to make good choices.

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn to make good choices.

Consider this: Create questions for the children. Have them practice good behavior.

1. If someone is not nice, should you: a. treat them the same; b. be nice; c. get even
2. If someone takes the toy you are playing with should you: a. take it back; b. share; c. take something they have?

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Bring coloring pages of Samson between the two columns. Print the Bible verse at the bottom. Practice the memory verse.
- **Test your memory** — Write the numbers 1-30 on index cards. If you need help, read Judges 14. Ask the children to give you names, facts, and lessons about Samson. Tell the children you are going to ask them for 30 things related to the lesson.
- **Taste activity** — Bring honey or a snack made with honey. Do not give honey to a child under one year of age, though.

Make cookies in the shape of lions.

- **Think about it** — Samson's parents allowed their son to make bad choices because he grown. Talk about making good and bad choices.

Samson disobeyed God's rules even though he knew it was wrong. As a Nazarite, he was supposed to be set apart for God. Talk about the consequences of the bad choices that Samson made.

Samson made bad choices but God used Samson to defeat the enemies of Israel. Talk about how God is merciful and uses us even when we are disobedient.

- **Touch activity** — Ask the children to create bees and beehives. Decorate your room.

Make lions out of paper plates.

Make bees out of construction paper.

- **Run and play** — Separate the children into two groups. One group will be bees. The bees will try to touch those in the other group. Once they are touched by a bee, have the children sit down wherever they were when they were touched.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to make good choices.
- **Sing** — Sing "Obedience Is," or other songs based on Scripture.

Memory Verse

You need
to be
faithful.
Then you
will do
what
God wants.
Hebrews 10:36
NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Samson

was

used

by God.

Word Puzzle

E S E I M E N E H J S S
H N M J R L T L I H A E
S C E H E E L K E M O N
E T D I T G F A S L N I
E I N U E N G O E I E T
T F F E F A N A E M G S
I I N V R W E T E E P I
R C I O I A B L B K C L
I E Z F A E P N D E L I
Z E E M A S I N Y D D H
A R N P D O F A O H I P
N E G A I R R A M R Y R

SAMSON

PARENTS

WIFE

PHILISTINES

ENEMIES

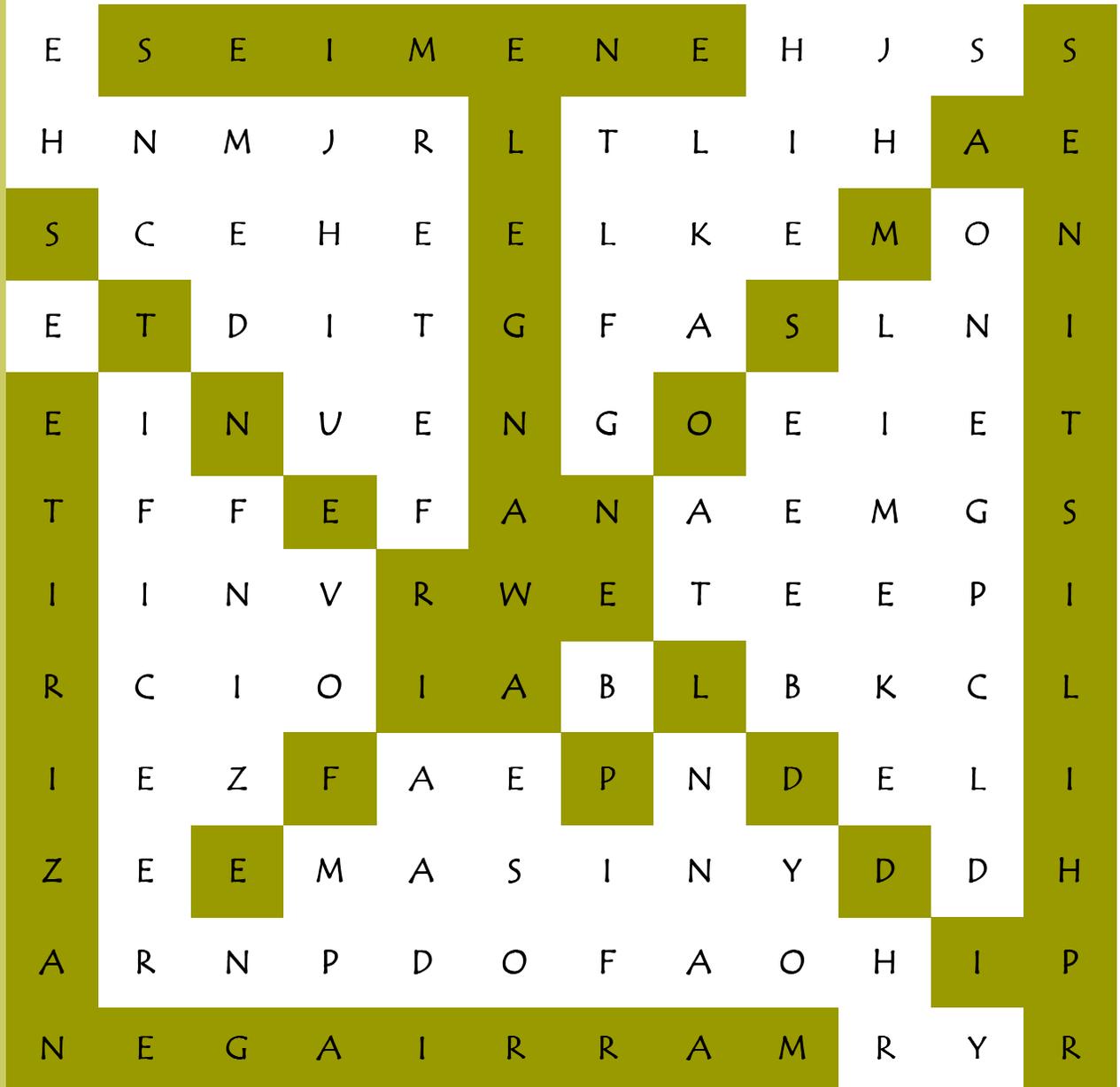
MARRIAGE

NAZIRITE

ANGEL

RIDDLE

Word Puzzle



SAMSON

PARENTS

WIFE

PHILISTINES

ENEMIES

MARRIAGE

NAZIRITE

ANGEL

RIDDLE

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

W I F E G T S P M V W L
P D B M A R R I A G E R
W C X V Y F K Z P J B T
R F G E N E M I E S C H
M N J B C F H W V B R K
B R P A R E N T S U K L
S A M S O N P R I E S T
R F G A N G E L C W V Q

SAMSON

PARENTS

ENEMIES

ANGEL

WIFE

MARRIAGE

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

W I F E G T S P M V W L

P D B M A R R I A G E R

W C X V Y F K Z P J B T

R F G E N E M I E S C H

M N J B C F H W V B R K

B R P A R E N T S U K L

S A M S O N P R I E S T

R F G A N G E L C W V Q

SAMSON

PARENTS

ENEMIES

ANGEL

WIFE

MARRIAGE

Anagram

1. RMETOH-

2. LGAEN-

3. DRAAEEPP-

4. TRFEAH-

5. DPEAYR-

6. EIRSA-

7. TAARP-

8. SICCHEO-

Anagram

1. RMETOH– MOTHER
2. LGAEN– ANGEL
3. DRAAEEPP– APPEARED
4. TRFEAH– FATHER
5. DPEAYR– PRAYED
6. EIRSA– RAISE
7. TAARP– APART
8. SICCHEO– CHOICES