

Old Testament

Mission Arlington ◦ Mission Metroplex Curriculum ◦ 2011

One Year Plan



GOD'S WORD

Created for use with young, unchurched learners Adaptable for all ages.

SAMSON



Memory Verse:
Don't ever get tired
of doing
the right thing.
II Thessalonians 3:13 NIV

JUDGES 13-16

Lesson Goals

1. Understand that Samson was chosen by God to save Israel from the Philistines.
2. Learn that God gave Samson great physical strength.
3. Understand that Samson made some bad choices that caused him to lose his strength.
4. Recognize that God was faithful to deliver Israel.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us from sin.
3. Ask God to help you follow Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to be delivered from sin.

GOD'S WORD

Read Judges 13:1-25. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus, God's Son, came to earth and lived a perfect life, then He died on a cross to save us from our sins! But He didn't stay dead. Three days later, He rose from the dead to show that He has power over sin and death. Have you invited Him to come into your life and save you? He will give you the gift of eternal life and will stay with you forever!

Application

From the time he was born, Samson had been set apart to serve God. He was a Nazarite. But Samson chose to do wrong and he suffered the consequences for his sin. However, God was faithful to deliver Israel. God wants us to choose to do what is right.

Begin With Prayer

God had used people like Deborah and Gideon to bring His people back to Him. He had done amazing things to help the Israelites be freed from their enemies. But the Bible says, "Once again the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord handed them over to the Philistines for 40 years." (Judges 13:1)

The angel of the Lord visited a man (Manoah) and woman from the tribe of Dan. He told them that they would have a son who would be special to God. Their son would save Israel from their enemies, the Philistines. He would be a Nazarite. A Nazarite was someone who was set apart for God. He was to follow special rules and obey God. One rule was that he would not cut his hair. He was also not supposed to drink wine. Sure enough, this couple had a son, and they named him Samson.

Samson grew up and decided to marry a Philistine woman. God had instructed the Israelites not to marry people who were not Israelites. The woman Samson wanted to marry did not believe in God. She was from the race of the enemies of Israel. Samson's parents explained the importance of finding someone who loved God, but Samson wouldn't listen. He chose someone who did not have faith in God. So Samson's parents arranged for them to be married. But later, Samson found out that his fiancé was given to his best friend instead of him! This made Samson very angry.

Later, Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah (Da-lie-la). She lived in another city and she didn't believe in God. Some of the Philistines found out that Samson liked her. Secretly, they came to her and offered her lots of silver if she would find out how Samson could lose his strength. She agreed. Delilah asked Samson what would make him helpless. He told her that if someone tied him up with seven new strings, he would be weak. That night, she tied him up while he was asleep. The Philistines were in the other room ready to capture him if it worked. But when Samson woke up, he broke the string. Delilah was upset because she wouldn't get the money. A second time, Delilah asked him how he would lose his strength, and he said if he were tied up with new ropes he would lose his strength. Again, it did not work, and Samson broke free from the ropes.

A third time, Delilah asked Samson how he would lose his strength. Samson told her to weave seven braids of his hair into a loom. That night after Samson was sound asleep, she did this. But it didn't work! Samson had not told her the truth again. Now she was embarrassed again. Day after day, Delilah kept nagging Samson to know the truth. Finally, Samson got tired of hearing her cry. He told her the truth this time. He told her that he had made a special promise to God not to cut his hair. He explained that if he cut his hair, the Spirit of God would not be with him and he would be weak. Delilah knew that this was the truth. She told the Philistines to be there that night. Sure enough, when Delilah cut off his hair, he was helpless. When Samson woke up, he did not know that his strength was gone. Delilah's people grabbed Samson. They blinded him and made him a slave.

Once Samson had been their slave for a while, his hair started to grow back. One day, the Philistines decided to have a large feast to honor their gods. The kings wanted to show off their slave, Samson. They paraded him around and placed him in between two large columns. Samson prayed to God and asked Him for strength one more time. Suddenly He shouted, "Let me die with these people!" Then he pushed the columns apart. The whole place caved in. Everyone was killed, including Samson. God was faithful to deliver Israel from their enemies.

Jesus Christ gives us strength. He helps us face *our* enemies. Jesus will help us deal with bad things. God wants us to do right. "Don't ever get tired of doing the right thing." (II Thessalonians 3:13 NIV)

Review

1. **What did Israel do?** (The Israelites did evil before God.)
2. **What did God do?** (God handed them over to the Philistines.)
3. **What happened next?** (God sent Samson to deliver Israel.)
4. **What did Samson do?** (Samson chose to do wrong.)
5. **What did God do?** (God was faithful to deliver Israel.)

Planning for next week:

Ruth – Ruth 1-4

Memory Verse

Don't ever
get tired of
doing the
right thing.

II Thessalonians

3:13

Preschool Lesson

Read Judges 16:16-31 (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Teacher: Make a puppet of Samson out of a paper sack to tell the story. Show the children his big muscles.

Begin With Prayer

Hi! My name is Samson. I want to tell you a story that happened to me. It is in the Bible.

When I was growing up, I did not always listen to my parents. I should have listened, but I didn't. Because I did things my way, I got into a lot of trouble. My parents loved God, and God had told them that I was someone very special to Him, just like you are special to God.

Believe it or not, God told them not to cut my hair. So I had very long hair. I loved God, but sometimes I forgot how I should act. Sometimes I would get really angry. So many people would get hurt because of my mistakes. Usually, I had to learn a lesson the hard way. Let me tell you about the hardest thing that ever happened to me.

When I grew up, I had a girlfriend who didn't believe in God. She was not always honest either. Her name was Delilah (De-lie-la). But Delilah loved money more than me. Some of the enemies of my people came to Delilah. They offered her a lot of money if she would find out how I could lose my strength. I knew that God had made me the strongest man in the world and I knew that my hair was part of the reason I was so strong.

Delilah began asking me how I could lose my strength. I told her if I were tied up with new strings, I would be made weak. While I was sleeping, she tied me up with new strings, but it didn't work! I was still strong. She tried again, and again I told her something I knew wasn't true. She got very upset with me when I was still strong. She cried and cried because I lied to her. She kept asking me how I got my strength. Day after day, she would ask me. I got so tired of hearing her ask me this question. This time I told her the truth. I told her that if she cut my hair, I would lose all my strength.

That night she tiptoed into my house, cut my hair off and tied me up. This time my strength was gone. I was weak. She tricked me! Once again I knew that doing the wrong thing had gotten me into trouble. Not only did I not listen or obey my parents, but I also started to lie to people.

God was so good to me, even when I had done wrong. I told Him I was sorry for doing wrong and not following Him. He forgave me and helped me. He loved me so much. He loves you, too!

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you choose to do what is right.

Preschool Memory Verse



Don't ever
get tired of
doing the
right thing.

II Thessalonians

3:13

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Print the words of the Bible verse on index cards, one word on each card. Cut the cards in half like a puzzle piece. Hide the pieces and let the kids find them and put the verse in order.

•**Test your memory** — Make a Samson puppet out of a paper bag to tell the story. Use yarn for Samson's hair. Make big muscles on his arms to show how strong he was.

•**Taste activity** — Make sugar cookies in the shape of lions and foxes.

Use round crackers and shredded or squeeze cheese. Add raisins for the eyes to make a lion.

•**Think about it** — Samson made bad choices about his companions. Talk about the importance of seeking God about a friend and obeying Him.

Samson chose to do wrong. He suffered the consequences. Talk about the consequences of sin.

Make up scenarios of things the children face. (friends that use bad language, friends that use drugs, etc.) Talk about how to choose to do right.

Even though Samson chose to do wrong, God was faithful to deliver Israel. Talk about God's faithfulness.

•**Touch activity** — Bring a wig with long hair. Use yarn and teach the children how to braid.

Use construction paper to make a headband.

Make balloons and use them to look like muscles.

Make a lion out of construction paper.

•**Run and play** — Build columns out of cardboard boxes. Then let the kids push the columns apart. Make sure everyone has a turn.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to choose to do right.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the index cards with the memory verse for them. Pray with those who were absent about making good choices.

Rooted and Grounded



Pray

Thank God for loving us and giving us second chances.
Praise God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins.
Pray for those who need to know that God loves them.

Read the Bible Daily

This week, read Judges 13-16.

Think About It

Samson could have avoided a lot of problems in his life if he had made better choices. Think of choices you have to make. How can you follow God in these choices?

Do It

You may know people or even live with people who are not making good choices. They are not following God. You can choose to be like them, or you can choose to be different and follow God. God will give you strength to follow Him and He will show you a better way to live. Trust Him!

Tell About It

Share the Bible story with a friend. Read or say the memory verse, II Thessalonians 3:13. Talk about doing the right thing and what that means.

Change it

If there are areas of your life that you know you need to change, ask God to help you. Confess your sin to Him and He will forgive you and help you to do better next time.

Study it

Attend Bible study this week. Read a chapter out of Psalms and Proverbs each day.

Word Art

Trace the letters.

God

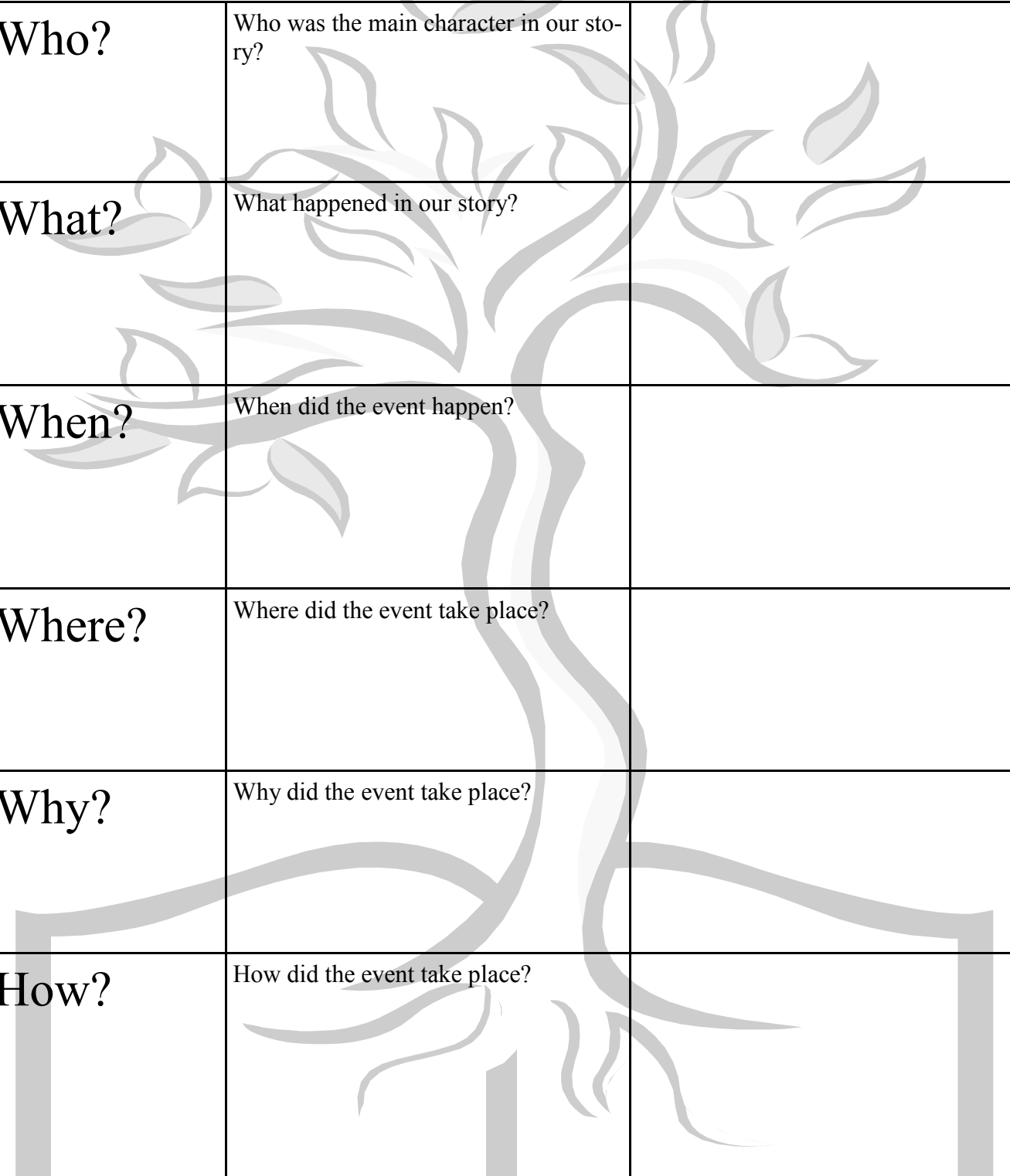
made

Samson

strong

GOD'S WORD

Learning the Facts



Who?	Who was the main character in our story?	
What?	What happened in our story?	
When?	When did the event happen?	
Where?	Where did the event take place?	
Why?	Why did the event take place?	
How?	How did the event take place?	

Word Search

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

SAMSON

PHILISTINES

RIDDLE

FOXES

TAILS

TORCHES

DELILAH

HAIR

COLUMNS

Word Search Solution

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

SAMSON

PHILISTINES

RIDDLE

FOXES

TAILS

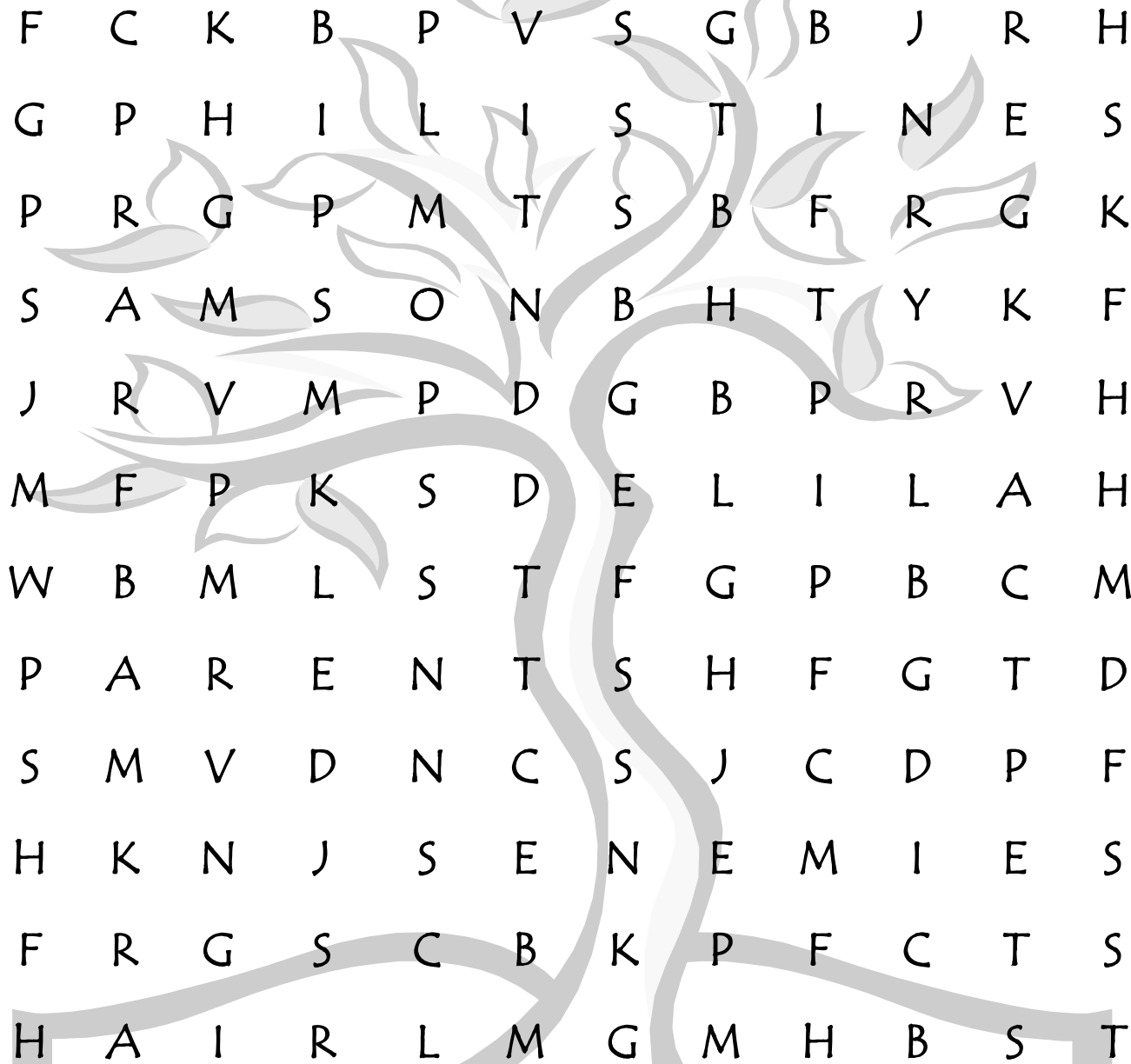
TORCHES

DELILAH

HAIR

COLUMNS

Preschool Word Search



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

PARENTS

SAMSON

DELILAH

PHILISTINE

ENEMIES

HAIR

Preschool Word Search Solution

F C K B P V S G B J R H

G P H I L I S T I N E S

P R G P M T S B F R G K

S A M S O N B H T Y K F

J R V M P D G B P R V H

M F P K S D E L I L A H

W B M L S T F G P B C M

P A R E N T S H F G T D

S M V D N C S J C D P F

H K N J S E N E M I E S

F R G S C B K P F C T S

H A I R L M G M H B S T

PARENTS

SAMSON

DELILAH

PHILISTINE

ENEMIES

HAIR

Anagram

AAONHM

LNGAE

TRNZAAIE

IRAH

EST TRAAP

RSAPETN

SHEOC

ONRGW

EEEOUNNCCSSQ

GOD'S WORD

Anagram Solution

MANOAH

ANGEL

NAZARITE

HAIR

SET APART

PARENTS

CHOSE

WRONG

CONSEQUENCES

GOD'S WORD