

Lesson C1.8 - Never Give Up!



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Judges 16:4-31

- Bible Characters: Samson, Delilah, Philistines

When Samson was born, his parents dedicated him to God, promising he would be a Nazirite. This meant he could never cut his hair, among other things. After falling in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah, Samson's hair was cut and he was captured by his enemies. But God remained faithful to Samson and heard his final prayer.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Judges

Before there was one king, God's people were led by many different minor leaders called Judges, such as Gideon, Deborah, and Samson. Most were military leaders who led God's forces in battle. Samson is remembered to this day for his great strength.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good.

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "This Old Man." No accompaniment is needed. Clap along in rhythm as you sing.

*Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!
Glad to see you all again!*

*Now it's time to learn and pray together, too:
Thank you, Lord, for all you do!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Raise your hand if you have ever faced something really difficult, where you wanted to quit but had to keep going. Many of us have been in that situation! In tough times, when there is important work to be done and we feel weak or tired, we can look to God for help. Then, trusting God to give us the strength we need, we **never give up!** Say that with me: "**Never give up!**"

- Who can tell us about a time you asked God for help and didn't give up? [*Call on volunteers.*]

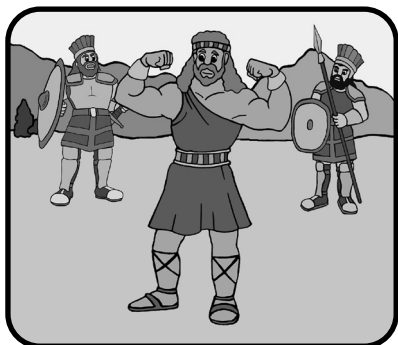
Today's story is about a man named Samson who was very strong. When Samson ran into trouble, he thought God had given up on him. But God will **never give up** on his people! And we should **never give up** either.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

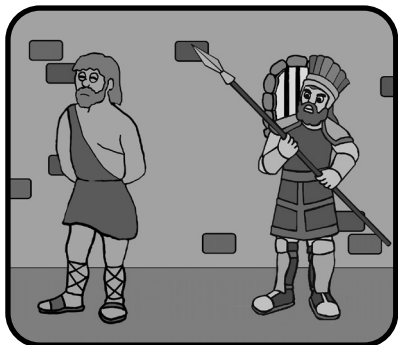


Picture 1

Tell the children: Samson's parents dedicated him to God before he was even born. They promised God that they would never cut his hair. And they never did.

Read the caption: Samson was a very strong man, a hero for God's people. His enemies, the Philistines, wanted to get rid of him.

- *Look at the picture. Which person is Samson? Who are the others? [Samson is the strong man in the middle. The others are his enemies, the Philistines.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me if Samson's hair looks long or short in this picture. [It's pretty long. It looks like it might be hanging down his back.]*

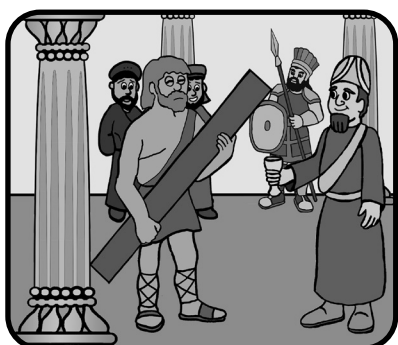


Picture 2

Tell the children: When Samson grew up, he fell in love with a beautiful Philistine woman named Delilah. He didn't know she was working with his enemies.

Read the caption: The Philistines tricked Samson into giving up the secret of his strength. They cut his hair, tied him up, and took him to prison.

- *Look at Samson now. What is different? [His hair is shorter. He doesn't look as strong as he did before. He is in prison.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me how you think Samson is feeling. [Sad, depressed, upset, angry, etc.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: The Philistines treated Samson like a slave. He had to do hard work all day long. He was no longer as strong and he was no longer free.

Read the caption: One day, the Philistines wanted to throw a big party. They decided to bring Samson out of prison to make fun of him.

- *What is happening in this picture? [The Philistines are eating and drinking while Samson is working for them. They are laughing at him.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me what Samson might be thinking. [He's probably angry. He may feel sad because there seems to be nothing he can do.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: The Philistines started bragging that their god, Dagon, had given Samson to them. Samson was angry. They weren't just being mean to him, they were also putting down the one, true God. There seemed to be nothing he could do.

Read the caption: But Samson prayed for God to give him strength again. He pushed against two pillars and knocked the whole house down.

- *Look at Samson in this picture. Is his hair really long again? [Not yet.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me if it was Samson's hair or something else that made him strong. [God gave Samson his strength. His hair was just a sign of faith.]*

Remember today's message: **Never give up!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*When Samson was a baby boy,
his parents thanked the Lord with joy,
and promised something rather rare —
that no one would cut Samson's hair!*

*Well, Samson grew to be quite strong,
until Delilah led him wrong:
She tricked him, and he lost his might,
because she cut his hair one night!*

*Then, feeling weak, he soon was caught,
by enemies he once had fought.
And yet, despite his hair's short length,
God gave him one last show of strength.*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class craft activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (*Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.*)

Textured Pictures

Materials Needed: Card stock, glue, adhesive squares, markers, textured items like feathers, buttons, pennies, foam stickers, paper clips, pieces of yarn, toothpicks, etc.



Instructions: When Samson lost his eyesight, he had to rely on other senses like hearing or touch. That's how he was able to knock down the pillars of the Philistines.

Give each person a piece of card stock (any color), along with glue, mounting squares and textured items. Use the glue for flat and porous things (feathers, paper) and the mounting squares for things glue won't work well on (shells, anything metal). Explain that textured pictures are sometimes used with people who cannot see as a way of helping them learn to recognize things. Encourage kids to decorate the card stock in a way that would not only feel interesting to touch, but also look good to the eye. That way, it can function as an interesting picture for both the seeing and the blind. These pictures, because of the weight of the items on them, are meant to lay flat on a table or desk, not be hung on a wall.

h. Song (optional)

This classic children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other children's music sites. Use the suggested ones or make up motions of your own!

Sing this refrain twice.

What a Mighty God We Serve

What a mighty God we serve. (*Hold arms out like showing strength*)

What a mighty God we serve. (*Hold arms out like showing strength*)

Angels bow before him. (*Bow*)

Heaven and earth adore him. (*Hold hands up*)

What a mighty God we serve! (*Hold arms out like showing strength*)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Samson's parents dedicated their baby to God. They even promised never to cut his hair. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for the world you made

For rain and plants and sun and shade

For those we love who love us too

We are so blessed because of YOU! Amen.