

SAMSON RECEIVES STRENGTH

JUDGES 13:1-5, 14:5-6, 15:14-15, 16:19-22, 16:28-30

LEARN THE WORD

Psalm 34:17-18

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

- Samson was set apart from birth to judge Israel and save them from the Philistines.
- Samson lost God's blessing and his strength because of sin, but he repented and was used by God one last time to bring down a building full of Philistines.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose you heard a friend say he wished God would give him a superpower like he gave Samson.

What could you say?

God's gifts to Samson were awesome! God sent His Spirit to empower Samson at specific times to save his life and give him victories over the Philistines, who were enemies of the Israelites. God gives different gifts to us, but they aren't given for selfish reasons like fun or fame. Samson was set apart by God from birth. He was chosen to fight the Philistines, but Samson lost God's blessing because of sin. God has a purpose for you and me, too, and gives us what we need to accomplish it. We may not have super strength, but we are strong in the Lord when we obey Him.

Activity: God gave Samson great strength to fight the Phillistines. Find the words from today's lesson in the puzzle.

DELILAH
GOD
HAIR
LION
NAZIRITE
PHILISTINES
PRISON
SAMSON
STRENGTH



HOMESWORD FOR PARENTS

The evil of idolatry caused the Lord to deliver the Israelites into the hands of the Philistines for 40 years (Judges 13:1). But God appeared to the barren wife of Manoah and promised a son who would deliver the people. God also specified that the boy would be set apart by following the laws of a Nazirite, which included drinking no wine, eating no unclean thing, and not shaving his head (Judges 13:4-5). The son born to Manoah and his wife was Samson, who received God's blessing and supernatural strength. God used even Samson's mistakes to accomplish His will against the Philistines. Samson's failed marriage to a Philistine woman eventually led to a battle in which Samson defeated 1,000 Philistines using just the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:14-15).

Despite his victories and feats of strength, Samson had a weakness for ungodly women. His love for Delilah led to him revealing his special relationship to God as a Nazirite. Delilah betrayed him to the Philistines, and God removed his blessing. Samson was captured, blinded, and forced to grind at the mill in a Philistine prison (Judges 16:15-22). Yet, because of God's mercy, Samson's account does not end there. God listened to Samson's prayer for strength to destroy about 3,000 Philistines who gathered to worship their false god, Dagon, and to mock Samson and the true God. Blind Samson, positioned between two pillars, was given the strength to collapse the whole building filled with Philistines (Judges 16:23-30). Samson had his failings, but he is listed among the faithful in Hebrews 11:32-34.