

Adventures with GOD!

SAMSON, THE HERO GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE (C.3.FALL.10)

Biblical Reference	Judges 16:4-31
Key Verse	Psalm 89:13
Key Concept	God is a God of second chances.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the secret physical strength of Samson 2. Explain who Samson showed that he was a true hero of faith 3. Write a letter to God thanking God for the second chances we are given.

Life application:

The Spirit of God was manifest in Samson's life through his physical strength. His hair was a sign that his faith was in God. The strength did not come from his hair, but from his faith in God. Without faith in God and the power of the Holy Spirit, there would have been nothing extraordinary about Samson. Even though he made mistakes, God gave him another chance. God does the same with us. God can transform our mistakes if we repent and allow the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives.

Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity		10 minutes
Review	Bible, illustrations	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Activity	Activity sheets, pencils or markers	10 minutes
Olympic game or project	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Joshua 16:4-22) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Activity: Together play a guessing game. One option would be to play a game of 20 questions. Have the names of certain objects written on slips of paper (for example: apple, computer, etc) and have a couple volunteers pick an object, which then the rest of the group has to guess. They can only ask yes or no questions. For example, "Is it blue?" "Do we use it to write with?" Or you can play the color game, where a volunteer chooses some object in the room and tells the rest of the children, "I'm thinking of something yellow...." Then the rest of the children take turns trying to guess what it is. In the story of Samson today we will see how Samson has a secret, which Delilah tries to figure out.

Review: Spend a little time reviewing the life of Samson (what took place before the story found in Judges 16) and the problems he caused the Philistines. If possible find some illustrations, or write out the particular events in Samson's life and have the children put them in chronological order to create a timeline of Samson's life. The story of Samson can be found in Judges 13-15. You don't need to go into a lot of detail, but it's good to give some background.

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Bible exploration: In the story today we will see that once again Samson fell in love. And the Philistines tricked the woman, Delilah into telling them how Samson got his strength in exchange for money. Three times Delilah begged Samson to tell her his secret. Samson gave her three false answers. What were they? (Write them on the board or on a poster board.) See Judges 16:6-14.

What did Delilah do each time she thought she had the secret? Finally, she got Samson to tell her where he got his strength. What was the real answer Samson gave her? What happened as a result? Samson was captured and they took him to jail and made him work. But, slowly Samson's hair began to grow back. Read what happened next in the story. Have the children take turns reading it verse by verse (Judges 16:23-31). What was Samson's request? And what was God's response?

God gave Samson a second chance. Samson had made a bad decision in telling Delilah about where his strength came from, but God accepted his repentance and once again Samson experienced his strength, which came from God. In the end Samson found his faith in God and God used him in a mighty way.

Work in partners to memorize the Bible memory verse: Psalm 89:13.

Activity: Give each child a copy of the activity sheet, "Another opportunity." Give them guidance as they work. While they are working, it's important to remind them that God forgives us even when we mess up and that God can use us despite our imperfections and limitations.

Game or Project: In the following pages you will find a game based on the story of Samson. Or spend time working on the project. Also make invitations to give out to family members to invite them to the presentation on the last week of the trimester.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).



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W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.



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ACTIVITY SHEET

ANOTHER ACTIVITY

Many times we make mistakes or don't obey God like we should. When this happens, we need to recognize our sin and then ask God to forgive us. God is a God of second chances.

Note: One of the wrong ideas that many times we have as Christians is that a Christian shouldn't suffer. But, if we look at the story of Samson we see that he did suffer the consequences of his bad decisions. Granted he did recognize that he needed God and asked God to return to him his strength. Samson's story did not have a happy ending like in many of the movies. But, we do know that God is faithful to forgive and that there is salvation for those who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

In the columns below, write down two areas of your life where you need God to give you another chance to follow God's ways. Write a prayer, asking God to forgive you and help you to do what is right in God's eyes. Don't forget how much God loves you. God's love is unconditional and God is always ready to forgive and give us another opportunity.

Situacion 1

Prayer

Situacion 2

JUDGES 16:22



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GAME

SAMSON'S HAIR

Materials: pattern, glue, scissors, yarn

Instructions:

1. Glue the illustration of Samson on card board.
2. Color the illustration.
3. With a scissors, make small holes in the area of Samson's head.
4. Cut pieces of yarn for the hair.
5. Make a knot on one end of the yarn. Pass the other end of the yarn through the hole and then make a knot in it.
6. Pull the yarn so that on the front side all you see are the little stubs of hair, making it look like Samson has short hair.

How to play:

1. Make cards with questions and put them in the center of the table.
2. Each child or team will have the opportunity to answer a question.
3. If they answer correctly they can pull a piece of Samson's hair.
4. The child or team that wins is the one that pulls the most pieces of hair.

Questions:

1. Who told Samson he needed to let his hair grow? **(God)**
2. Samson's hair was a symbol of what? **(That he was a Nazirite called by God)**
3. What special task did God give Samson? **(Destroy the Philistines)**
4. How did the Philistines feel about Samson? **(They hated him)**
5. Did Samson's enemies worship God? **(no)**
6. Name the event that showed Samson's strength. **(he killed a lion with his hands, he killed 3000 men with the jaw of a donkey)**
7. What was Samson's weakness? **(his attraction to women, especially Delilah)**
8. Who betrayed Samson giving away his secrets? **(Delilah)**
9. Why did Samson lose his strength when they cut his hair? **(God left him)**
10. What did the Philistines do? **(They took out his eyes and put him in chains and made him a prisoner)**
11. What did Samson do when he was free of his chains? **(Destroyed the temple of the Philistines, killing his enemies and dying himself)**
12. How many years was Samson judge of Israel? **(20 years)**
13. Name two characteristics of Samson **(he loved God, his weakness was his relationship with Delilah, he was chosen by God)**



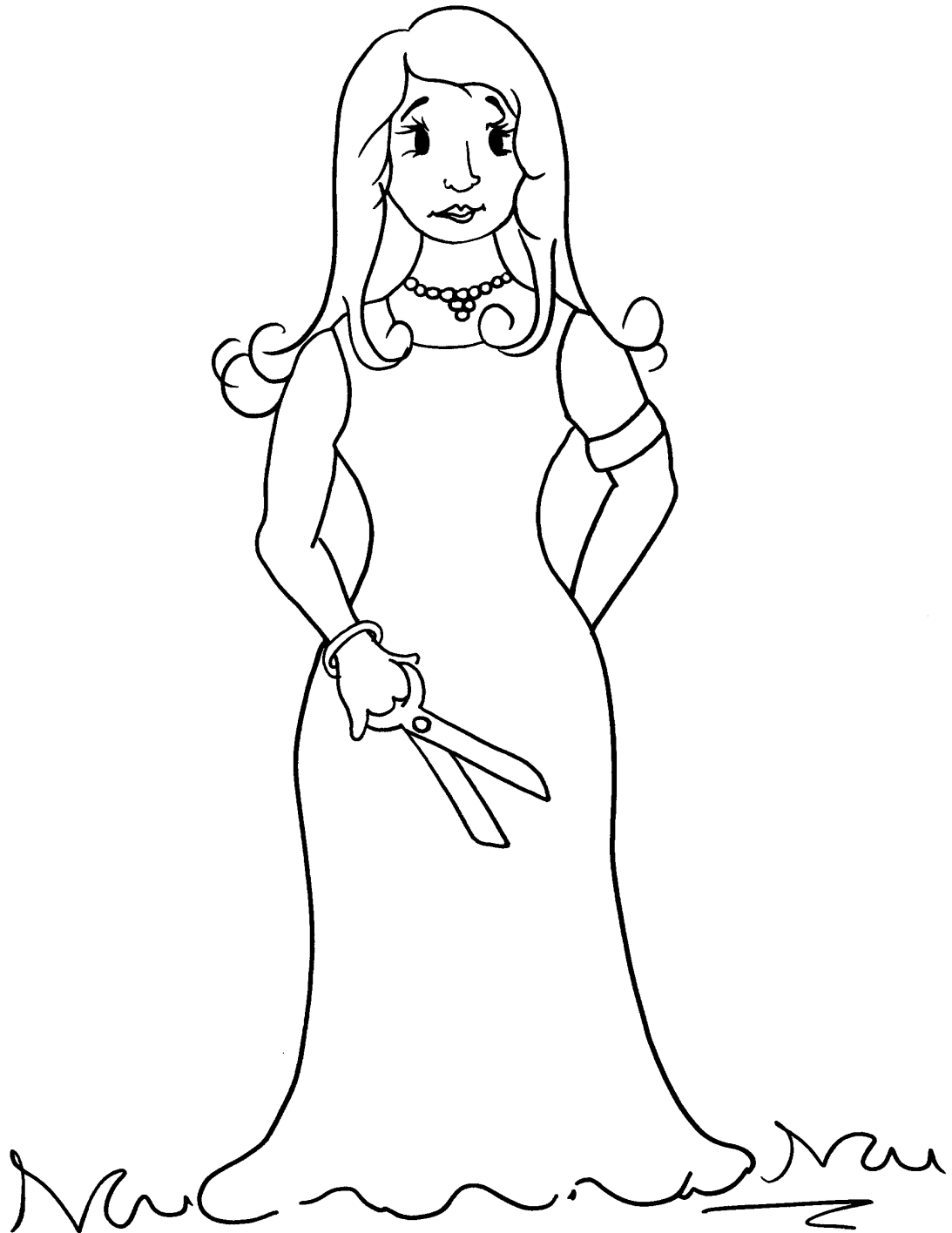
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PATTERN FOR THE GAME
SAMSON'S HAIR



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ILLUSTRATION
DELILAH



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ILLUSTRATION
SAMSON WITHOUT HAIR

