Aims
* To learn the key points of the story
* To learn that Samson made mistakes because he wanted his own way and he couldn’t control his anger

Materials
* Bible story: Judges 13-16
* Pictures of the story
* a model of Samson to make
* blindfolds, boxes, pillows, paper, glue,
* pictures to colour

Lesson Outline
1. Review the previous lesson
2. Story - Samson
3. Questions
4. Teaching Points
5. Activities - worksheets, test of strength, blindfold game, cut Samson’s hair, stumbling blocks, act out the story, retell the story, make a Samson model
6. Review the aims
7. Prayer

1) Review the previous lesson
In the last story, the people of Israel disobeyed God’s rules, so God let the Midianites attack their land and take their food. Then the people cried to God to save them. God chose Gideon and they defeated the Midianites. As time passed, the Israelites once again forget God and once again they were attacked by an enemy.

2) Story - Samson
Judges 13-16
The Israelites turned away from God again, so God let the cruel Philistines punish them. Again the people cried out to God for help and this time God sent Samson to save Israel. God made him very strong, but he did not always obey God. He wanted to marry a Philistine woman. He often got angry and killed many Philistines

He went to another Philistine woman called Delilah. She found out that the secret of Samson's great strength was his long hair. The Philistines cut his hair and he lost his strength. He was blinded and
put in prison. While there he hair grew back

Later the Philistines had a celebration at their temple and brought Samson out. He pushed against the pillars and the temple fell down, killing many people, including himself.

3) Questions about the story
1. Who were the Israelites’ enemy? - the Philistines
2. What did the angel tell Menoah? - “Your wife will have a son, who will free the Israelites. He must follow special rules and obey God. One rule is that he should not cut his hair.”
3. What was special about Samson? - He was very strong.
4. How did he kill a lion? - with his bare hands
5. Why was it wrong to marry a Philistine woman? - It was against his parents’ wishes. They wanted him to marry an Israelite.
6. What bad things did Samson do when he was angry? He killed many people. He tied foxes tails together, set them alight and destroyed crops.
7. Who was the second woman he wanted to marry? - Delilah
8. What was the secret of Samson’s strength? - his long hair
9. How did the Philistines capture Samson? - They cut hid hair and he lost his strength
10. What was the last thing Samson did? - He destroyed the temple by pushing the pillars apart

4) Teaching Points
* God chose Samson and gave him strength to help defeat the Philistines, but he made several mistakes.
* He became angry easily and killed many people.
* He wanted his own way, against his parents’ wishes and married a Philistine woman. Israelites should have married Israelites, to keep their faith strong.
* He lost God’s protection, because he told Delilah the secret of his strength.
* Because of his mistakes he never lived to see his people free.
* We can learn from the story that we should try not to be angry and we should listen to our parents

5) Activities
* Play test of strength. In pairs children do arm wrestling, to see who is strong like Samson

* Blindfold game - Build two pillars out of boxes. Children wear masks to cover their eyes, so they are blind like Samson. They feel their way to the pillars and push them down.

* Act out the story of Samson and Delilah- This can be done using paper wigs. Let each person cut strips of construction paper and glue into a paper “wig.” Next choose one person to be Samson and one to be Delilah. Pretend that Samson is asleep, with his “wig” on. Let Delilah come and cut his wig “hair” off. Take turns acting out the story.

* Stumbling Blocks - Samson had several stumbling blocks in his life.
  1. He didn’t listen to his parents.
  2. He wanted his way more than God’s way,
  3. He got angry easily and killed many people
  4. He gave into pressure from Delilah and told her the secret of his strength.
Set up an obstacle course using pillows as the blocks. Blindfold a person, then get volunteers to help make pillow stumbling blocks along the path. Have other people be helpers in case the blindfolded person stumbles. Share how Samson’s stumbling blocks affected him and many other people.

* **Worksheets**
- Colour a picture of Samson
- Draw a line between the dots to see the whole picture

* **Retell the story** in your own words using the pictures

* **Make a model of Samson**
1. Copy patterns of Samson and the temple
2. Glue them onto white card
3. Colour them
4. Fold picture along the sides indicated. On the outside of the folds, glue the two pillars to the sides of the folds (one on each side).
5. Glue Samson to one of the pillars.
6. Open the folds, so you can see the crushed structure.

**6) Review the lesson aims**

**7) End with a prayer**
* To learn the key points of the story
* To learn that Samson made mistakes because he wanted his own way and he couldn’t control his anger
Samson

Many years passed, but the Israelites forgot God again. As a punishment, God let the Philistines rule over His people for forty years. Because of their suffering they prayed to God for help. Finally God sent an angel to a man called Manoah. The angel said, “Your wife will have a son, who will free the Israelites from their enemies. He must follow special rules and obey God. One rule is that he should not cut his hair.” They called him Samson and his hair was very long. He grew up very strong and knew that God had given him a special strength to use against the Philistines.

When Samson grew up he decided to marry a Philistine woman. She did not believe in God. His parents explained the importance of finding someone who loved God, but Samson wouldn't listen.

On their journey to the bride’s home, a lion attacked Samson and he killed the lion with his bare hands.

At his wedding feast, an argument arose and his bride was given to another man. Samson became very angry. Because of his anger he caught 300 foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then tied a torch of fire to their tails and let them run in the wheat fields of the Philistines. The fires destroyed the crops. Another time he was so angry he killed 30 men.

To save Israel from further trouble, Samson agreed to be tied together with thick ropes by his fellow Israelites. The Philistines were delighted. At last, they had Samson, but not for long! With his strength, Samson heaved on the ropes that bound him and snapped them in two. Then, grabbing the jawbone of a donkey which was lying nearby, he killed the thousand Philistine men who had come to take him away.

After that, the Philistines were determined to have their revenge.

Their chance came when Samson fell in love with a beautiful Philistine girl, called Delilah. The five Philistine kings went to her. "We will each give you eleven hundred silver coins, if you can make Samson tell you the secret of his strength," they said. Delilah agreed.

But each time Delilah asked Samson to tell her the secret of his strength, he told a different story. "If you won't tell me, you don't really love me," Delilah nagged. Day after day she kept nagging Samson to know the truth. Finally, Samson got tired of hearing her cry. 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 leave him and he would be weak. Delilah knew that this was the truth. So, that night,
when Samson was fast asleep, Delilah called a man to cut off his hair. Sure enough, when she cut off his hair, he was helpless. The Philistines grabbed Samson. They blinded him, chained him up, and put him in prison.

In prison Samson's hair slowly grew back ...

One day, the Philistines decided to have a large feast. The kings wanted to show off their slave. The place was crowded with thousands of people, who jeered and laughed at Samson. He asked a boy who brought him up from prison to lead him to a place between two pillars that supported the temple.

Samson prayed, “O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!” God heard Samson’s prayer and gave him his strength back. He reached out and pushed with all his might, against the two pillars that supported the building. The temple collapsed and everyone was killed, including Samson.
Samson Model

Directions

1. Copy patterns of Samson and the temple
2. Glue them onto white card
3. Colour them
4. Fold picture along the sides indicated.
   On the outside of the folds, glue the two pillars to the sides of the folds (one on each side).
5. Glue Samson to one of the pillars.
6. Open the folds, so you can see the crushed structure.

Samson

Pillars
Samson Kills a Lion
Samson Kills a Lion
Samson Destroys the Temple
Samson's Strength

Draw a line between the dots to see the whole picture.