



God Is Our Strength – Samson & Delilah

Judges 13-16

God Statement: God Is Omnipresent (all-present)

KEY VERSE: “The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good.”
(Proverbs 15:3, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Omnipresent – God Is Our Strength

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is omnipresent!

SAY:

Raise your hand if you think you’re pretty strong. *Let kids respond.* Who thinks they can do 20 push-ups? 30? 40? *Have any kids who say they can do the most pushups compete against each other for a few moments, then gather them back together.* Wow, you are pretty strong. Well today, we are going to hear about someone in the Bible who was REALLY strong – his name was Samson. Have you heard of Samson?

The important thing to know about Samson is that his strength came from someone else. Who do you think his strength came from? *Let kids respond – God! God was Samson’s strength! Did you know that God is also our strength? When we have to do something really hard or scary, God will give us strength. Remember our last key verse? It said that God gives us strength for the battle, He makes our ways secure. Let’s think about that as we do our activity.*

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

New Testament Books of the Bible Card Race

Supplies: 2 bags of NEW Testament books of the Bible cards and mat

Say: *Do you remember when we learned about the books of the New Testament? Remember how we played a game with cards for our Old Testament books of the bible? Today we get to practice doing the same game, but with the New Testament books. Let’s see how strong our brains are and see how many we can get!*

Directions: Split the class into two teams. Have an LIT or helper sit in each group. Give each helper a bag with NEW Testament matching cards and a number mat. Have the helper flip over the cards face down and shuffle them around. Allow the children to flip over one card at a time and match them to the corresponding number on the chart. The LIT or helper can then read the cards in order. The first team to finish wins.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & CHLOE’S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE’S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe’s Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Chloe’s Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

“The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good.”

(Proverbs 15:3, NIRV)

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: MUSCLES

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Hmm... this is cool! What do you think we use **muscles** for? Lifting heavy things! Can you show me your muscles? I wonder why we have this in our wardrobe today. Let’s find out more. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Is Our Strength – Samson & Delilah

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through this time.

Supplies: scripture strips, wire/twine WR station, clothespins

Prepare Ahead: Pin up the scripture strips onto the WR station prior to the start of large group

Someone show me with your muscles how strong you think Sampson was. Okay, everyone show me your muscles on the count of three – one, two, three. Do you think that Sampson would have been that strong without God? No! God was the source of Sampson's strength. Even after Sampson's hair was cut, God still gave him crazy strength! It wasn't Sampson's hair that made him powerful. What was it that made him strong? *Let kids respond – God!*

SCRIPTURES OF STRENGTH ACTIVITY:

God is our strength too. Raise your hand if you have ever felt too weak for something. Raise your hand if you've ever felt scared to do something. Raise your hand if you have ever felt really sad about something. Well guess what? When we have those times where we feel weak, afraid, sad, lonely, anxious, or fearful, we can remember this truth: God is OUR Strength!

2 Timothy 1:7 says, ***“God gave us his Spirit...”*** Who is God's Spirit? The Holy Spirit! ***“And the Spirit doesn't make us weak or fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves.”***

Right in the Bible, God tells us that He is our strength. What did God give us as the source of this strength? Fancy hair? A cool cape? A fancy shield? No! God gave us the Holy Spirit! Just like Sampson, God gives us strength too, and He uses the Holy Spirit to do it.

We're going to sing the song, "Battle Belongs" together. As we sing it, think about what you need God's strength for. Then, throughout the song, take turns coming up to one of the stations around the room and take a slip of paper. On one side it says "God is my strength" and on the other side, it has a verse from God's Word to remind you where your strength comes from.

Turn on the worship song and encourage kids to think about the words of the song as they sing. When they are ready, they can go to a station and pick a paper. After the song is over, say:

You get to take this verse home as your reminder. When you feel weak, scared, worried, sad, or just need a reminder, read this verse (or have your parents read it to you). God is our strength, and He loves us!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Gift of Love

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: What holiday is coming up this December? Christmas, that's right! Raise your hand if you have something you're hoping to get for Christmas this year. *Let kids respond.* I bet you'll be really excited if you get that special thing. Imagine it's Christmas morning, and you run downstairs and you find nothing under the Christmas tree. That's the case for some kids right here in our city or even our schools or even at church with us. Their families don't have the ability to go buy that super special gift they wanted because they don't have enough money for it.

Say: But, that's where Gift of Love comes in. Gift of Love is a super special event that allows families in need to shop for Christmas gifts at a very low cost! And guess how you can be a part of it? Your family can help by donating new toys/clothes/activities/games/etc. for the families to shop for. Did you notice the big Christmas trees when you came in today? When you leave, talk to your family about picking an ornament off the tree and shopping for a specific age/gender – like a 12 year old girl or a 7 year old boy. Then, bring your UNWRAPPED item back in and put it under the tree next weekend!

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will participate in Gift of Love.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you be filled with the Spirit of power, love, and self-control that comes from God alone. God is your strength, and He loves you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Judges 16**
 - a. **Why was Delilah asking Samson to tell her about his strength?** (So she could get money from the philistines).
 - b. **When Samson told Delilah his secret, what happened to him?** (The philistines cut his hair. He lost his strength).
 - c. **God still had a plan. What happened to Samson after he was captured?** (His hair grew back and he crumbled the temple).
3. **God used Samson to free the Israelites from the Philistines. Even though the Israelites had messed up again, God still took care of them. Did you know that when we make mistakes, God still loves us and cares for us? He is our strength! He wants for us to make a better choice and to follow Him.**
4. **Can you think of a time where you made a mistake? Did you ask God to forgive you? Did you learn from that choice?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE: Samson Strength Puppet

Supplies: 1 face cut out with two muscle arms, 2 pieces of brown string, one popsicle stick, crayons/markers, glue

Directions: Pass out one popsicle stick, one face/arms set, and 2 pieces of string to each child. Have them glue the arms on the back of the stick and the face on the front. Have the children glue the string over the head for hair. Children can write (or you can help them write) "God is my strength" on the stick. Have the children color the face and arms of their Samson stick puppet.



Say: *Wow! Today we learned about Samson and how God is our strength! God makes us strong too. Let's make a fun puppet of Samson to remind us of today's lesson and to always remember that God is our strength too!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.