

Story 9: Samson

Main Bible verse
[Judges 16:20b]

He woke up from his sleep. He thought, "I'll go out just as I did before. I'll shake myself free." But he didn't know that the Lord had left him.

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of God, so God delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for a long time. Then one day, an angel appeared at the house of Manoah. Manoah was an Israelite who was childless. "You will bear a son, but you must never cut his hair. This child will grow up to save the Israelites." After a while, Manoah's wife gave birth to a son. They named the child "Samson." God was with Samson and He blessed Samson.

Samson's hair grew to be very long and his parents never cut it, just as the angel had commanded. Samson grew up to become a man of great strength. The Philistines were afraid of Samson and his strength. Samson was so strong that he could tear apart a young lion with his bare hands. But the Israelites, afraid that Samson's actions would bring them more troubles from the Philistines, caught him and bound him with two new ropes to hand him over to the Philistines. But the power of God came upon Samson and the ropes soon fell away. Samson fell in love with a beautiful Philistine woman named Delilah.

Delilah loved money.

One day, when Samson was asleep, the rulers of the Philistines came to Delilah.

"Delilah, find out for us the source of Samson's great strength. If you can find out and tell us how we can finally catch him, we will make you very wealthy."

"From that day on, Delilah did all she could to trick Samson into showing her the source of his great strength."

But Samson couldn't share his secret with a Philistine woman.

Sick of Delilah's constant nagging, Samson finally told her his secret.



"Delilah, I have been a Nazarite dedicated to God since birth. My strength comes from my hair. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me." When Samson fell asleep, Delilah had all of his hair shaved off. And so, Samson's strength left him. The Philistines seized Samson, bound him and threw him in prison. Samson tried to break free but was too weak.

God had already left Samson, leaving Samson with no power or strength.

The Philistines cut out Samson's eyes so that he could not see and made him grind grain in prison.

But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

The Philistines who had seized Samson threw a big party to celebrate.

The Philistines all gathered at the temple to watch and make fun of Samson.

Samson spoke to a young boy next to him. Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple!

Samson stood between the pillars that supported the temple. He placed each hand on each pillar and prayed to God.

"Please God, strengthen me once more so that I have revenge on the Philistines! Let me die with the Philistines!"

After praying, he pushed the pillars with all his might.

In an instant the temple was destroyed and all the Philistines in it died.

The number of people who died with Samson was much greater than the number of people he had killed when he had been alive. In this way, Samson died with the Philistines.

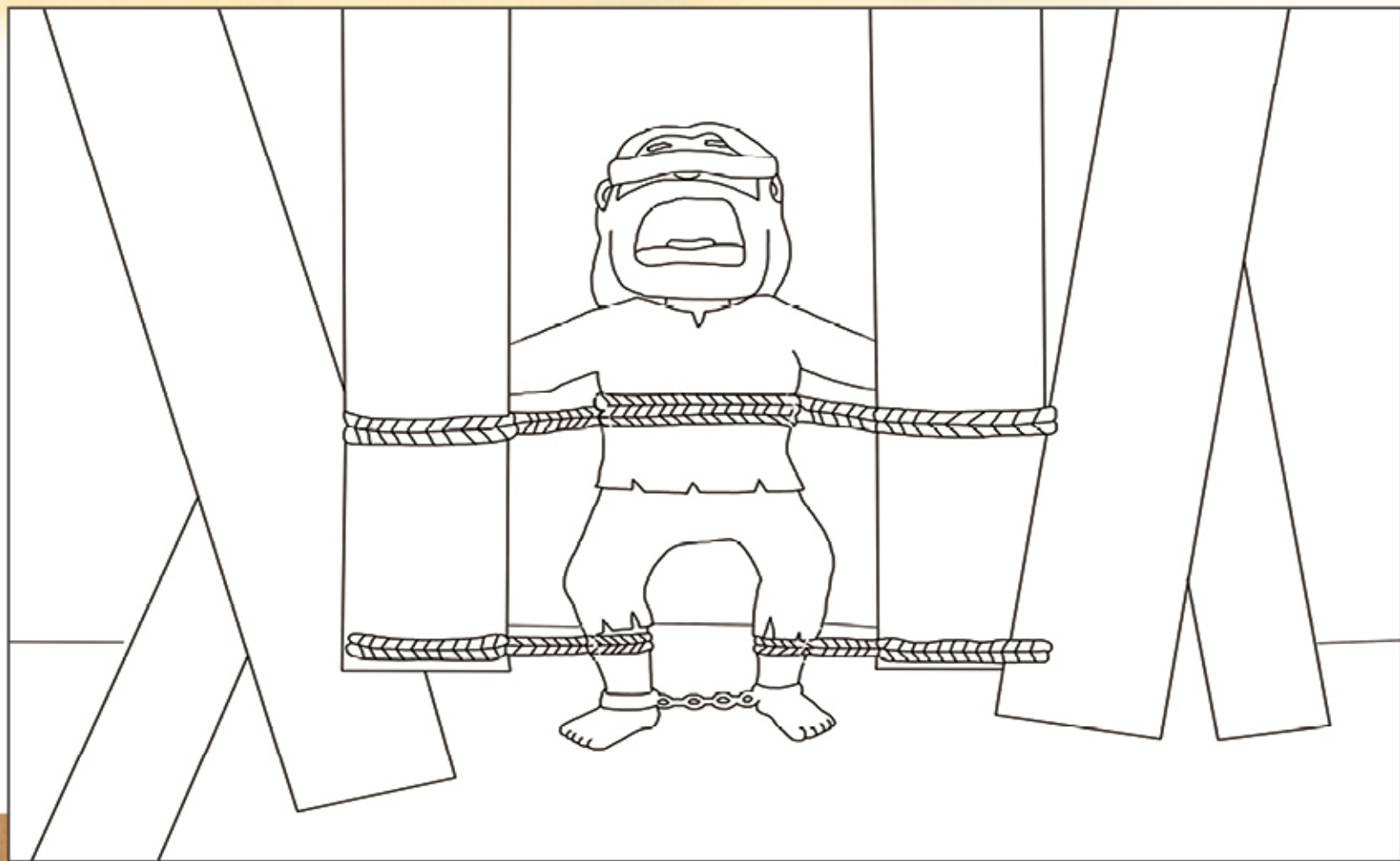
- Trace and memorize the Bible verse. (Judges 16:20b)

The Lord had left him.



Activity 1.

Think about what we learned today, and color the picture below.





Activity 2. Cut Samson's hair along the dotted lines.

