

# SAMSON

**Scripture:**  
**Judges 13-16**

**Memory Verse: Galatians 6:7**  
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

**Materials:**  
Picture cards of story  
Several of the same item  
Blindfold for MV/pack of seeds

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that Samson was set apart by God in order to drive out the Philistines, Samson lived mainly for his own self-indulgent desires and broke his Nazirite vow, and his life ended up bringing shame to himself and God among the Philistines.

To Realize: The believer is set apart to be holy to God and accomplish His purposes. No matter how it seems for awhile, living for their own self-indulgent desires will bring shame to them and God.

To Respond: by living according to God's holy purpose and not according to one's own self-indulgent desires.

## Setting Up the Story—

Bring in several of one item...example: twelve paper clips, or forks, or plastic cups, or toothpicks. (the item doesn't matter but they need to be all the same). Show the items to your students and tell them that ONE of them is Very Special. And ask them if they can tell which one it is. (of course, all the objects look identical) Then pick the one you have decided beforehand is the "special" one. Tell the students that even though all of the toothpicks (or whatever object you have chosen) look the same you have SET APART one of them for something special...and THAT is why it is different.

Note: you can do this with several objects so that they can see the pattern that it is NOT the object that has anything different about it that makes it "special" but because it has been "set apart" by you, the teacher for a "special purpose."

Have pieces of paper with the names of several nations on it. (You can use OT Bible nations if you would like.) Have "Israel" on one of the pieces. Select it out and say that God chose and set apart the nation of Israel out of all the nations to have a "special purpose."

When something or someone is set apart for God's special purpose, it is said to be Holy. It means it is different from all the other things that look just like it, because it is going to be used for God's service, and God is a holy God.

The nation of Israel was set apart to show the nations what God was like. They were supposed to live by God's good laws. But they had started worshipping the gods of the other nations again. They were acting like they were NOT set apart to be different. What would happen?

We've seen how God would let other nations cause problems for the special nation of Israel, and that is what happened again. The Philistines made life very hard for them! And once again they cried to God for help! And out of all the babies that are being born at that time, God is going to set one apart to be special for His purpose of delivering the Israelites from the Philistines. Let's find out about this "special" "set apart" baby!

### Telling the Story—

Scripture:  
Judges 13

#### I. Samson is Set Apart as a Nazirite to Begin to Drive Out the Philistines

- A. Angel of the Lord Appears to Manoah's wife
1. you will have a son
  2. don't drink
  3. don't eat anything unclean
  4. don't cut his hair
  5. Nazirite=will begin to deliver

#### B. Angel's Words are True

1. Manoah asks for a repeat
2. angel accepts offering
3. Samson is born
4. He is blessed as he grows
5. Spirit of the Lord moves Samson

#### II. Samson Is Used in Spite of His Self-Indulgence

Scripture:

#### A. Samson wants a Philistine wife

1. Sees her in Timnah
2. Parents object, but God uses it

#### B. Samson vs. a lion

1. on way to Timnah

### As you tell the story—

There were THREE things that a Nazirite was not to do

1. He was not to drink any alcohol.
2. He was not to touch a dead body.
3. He was not to cut his hair.

These were the signs that he was set apart to God's special work.

God was going to start delivering the Israelites from the Philistines, and He was going to use Samson!

Read v. 25

God's working

v.24 Samson is set apart BY God to be holy TO God and to accomplish His purpose for people.

Put hands up to eyes like looking through a pair of binoculars.

Ask: "What did Samson see?"

He saw a beautiful woman! But she did not know God or love him. She worshipped other gods. Should Samson marry her? No! But he wanted her!

Put hands up to eyes like looking through a pair of binoculars. What did

2. Spirit of Lord strengthens Samson to kill lion
  3. on way home, Samson eats honey from lion
- C. Samson vs. the wedding
1. Promises 30 linens for riddle answer
  2. Philistines threaten wife
  3. wife gets answer
  4. Spirit of Lord comes on Samson to kill 30 men in Ashkelon
- D. Samson Gets Revenge
1. Father gave wife away=burn crops with 300 foxes/torches
  2. Philistines burn wife and father-in-law=Samson kills many of them
  3. Philistines pressure Judah to hand him over= Spirit of Lord empowers him to kill 1,000 men.
  4. Samson prays for water
  5. God answers
- E. Samson and the Prostitute
1. in Gaza
  2. Philistines surround Samson
  3. Samson takes the gate away at midnight
- F. Samson and Delilah
1. Sorek Valley
  2. Philistines promise silver in exchange for secret
  3. Samson tells secret
    - a. bind w/ 7 undried cords
    - b. bind w/ new unused ropes
    - c. weave 7 locks of hair and fasten
    - d. after daily pressing= "I have

Samson see? Honey in the dead lion!  
Should Samson touch the dead body?  
No! But Samson wanted the honey.

Put hands up to eyes like looking through binoculars. Ask: "What did Samson see?"

Samson is not supposed to spend the night with a woman who is not his wife! God had told his people NOT to do that. But Samson wants this woman.

Does it LOOK LIKE anything bad happens to Samson? No.

Put hands up to eyes like looking through binoculars. Ask: "What did Samson see?"

Another beautiful woman and he falls in love with her! She is a Philistine who does not love God, but worships idols. Should Samson love her? No. But he wants her.

been a Nazirite to God; if I am shaved my strength will leave.”

Scripture:

III. Samson Brings Shame to Himself and God

- A. Philistines gouge out his eyes
- B. Make him grind the prison grain in Gaza

C. Philistines' Feast to Dagon

- 1. Praise Dagon for Samson
- 2. Call for Samson
- 3. Samson cries out to God for strength
- 4. Samson pulls down pillars and kills 3,000 men
- 5. Samson's brothers bury him.

Delilah doesn't care about Samson's special purpose or doing God's work. She wants Samson to be weak like everyone else.

Read v. 21.

Imagine that moment when they grabbed him and he couldn't get away. How do you think he felt?

Put hands up to eyes like looking through binoculars. Ask: "What did Samson see?" Nothing! Samson was blind. And now Samson wants to do what God had set him apart to do—he wants to start delivering Israel from the Philistines.

And then at the party when he came out and was stumbling around, and he hears laughter and he hears someone make a toast to Dagon. Maybe they poked at him. What word comes to your mind to describe how Samson might feel at that moment?  
(ashamed)

Pulls the house down and kills 3,000 men. Next day his brothers pull his dead body out of the rubble

**Concluding the story:**

There was nothing "different" about Samson except that he was set apart to do what God wanted--but instead of living for what God wanted, he lived his life doing what HE wanted...he was living like those without God.

For awhile it looked like he was getting away with it, but Samson was deceiving himself. He was getting further and further away from God. At the end, Samson was really ashamed of what he had done. Instead of the Philistines knowing more about God, they made fun of God because of what Samson had done.

When we trust in Jesus, we are set apart for His purposes. Is there anything that you are doing or saying that you know is not like Jesus? Is there sin that you are hiding and thinking, "Well, nothing has happened, so it's no big deal"? We do not want to be ashamed

## **SAMSON HELPS FOR THE TEACHER**

### **Personal Application Questions:**

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when you were 'doing' God's work, but you were still living for yourself?
2. Is there anything in your life currently that you allow yourself to indulge in that you feel is not totally pleasing to the Lord?
3. Have you personally know any believers who have brought shame to themselves, their families, or the Lord through their self-indulgent choices? What led to their shame? How was it exposed?
4. What steps will you take to ensure that you do not bring shame on God's name or on your own life?

### **Application Questions to think through for your Students:**

1. To what extent do you feel that your students are tempted by the desire to try to live for themselves while at the same time trying to follow God? (being double-minded or living like the world)
2. In your opinion, do your students see the danger of living a self-indulgent lifestyle?
3. To what degree are your students tempted with lust or sexual images/actions from their surroundings? What other ways do the temptations around them affect them?

### **Memory Verse:**

#### **Galatians 6:7**

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

Get a blindfold and each time reading through the verse pick a different student to put the blindfold on to say the phrase: "Do not be deceived." Explain that a person is deceived when they "can't see" the truth about a situation; it's when they are tricked. Samson was deceived about treating his calling casually and thinking all was still good. And he eventually "couldn't see" when he was blinded! God is not mocked: pretend laughter. People laugh at God's ways when they think they are getting away with wrong things.

Give a seed from the seed pack to a different student (for them to keep) each time through the verse: "whatever a man sows"

Point to the cover of the seed packet: "THIS he will also reap."

### **Post-Lesson Activity:**

Younger: Song "Be Careful Little Eyes What You See"

Older: *Samson's Weakness* (Bible Puzzles: Preteen, p. 56)