

Sunday

Again the Israelites forgot God and did evil things; so God let the Philistines harass them. Then one day an angel told Manoah and his wife that they would have a special baby named Samson, who would help to rescue the Israelites; the angel said he should be a Nazirite. This meant that he would never drink alcohol or eat forbidden food, and never cut his hair.



As Samson grew to adulthood, he also grew very strong, but at the same time it seems that he also grew very selfish. One day, he saw a beautiful Philistine woman and he demanded that his parents arrange for him to marry her. Of course his parents wanted him to marry one

of the Israelite women, but he insisted. So they travelled to Timnah to make arrangements. As Samson was walking along by himself, a lion attacked him and he ripped the lion apart with his bare hands.



When the time came for the wedding, he travelled the same

path and stopped to look at the lion's carcass, a swarm of bees had moved in, so he took some honey to eat as he walked, and shared some with his parents without telling them where it had come from.

Thirty young men were chosen to be his companions for the wedding and he gave them a riddle:

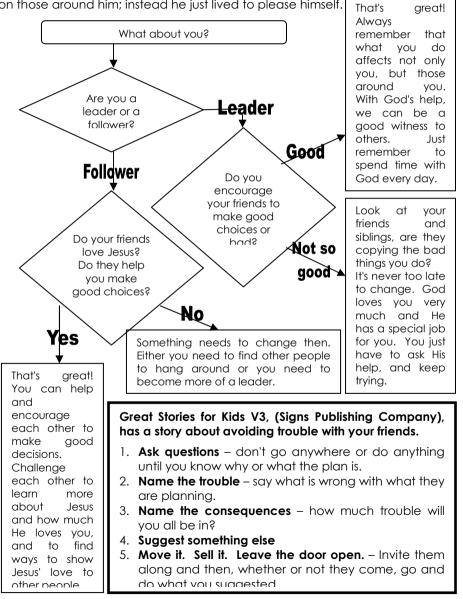
"Out of the one who eats came something to eat; Out of the strong came something sweet."

He said if they could find the answer, he would give them each a new set of clothes, but if they couldn't, they must each give him an outfit.

Three days later they approached Samson's new wife to get the answer and for four days, she nagged, cried and begged until he finally told her. When the men told Samson the answer he knew what had happened; he went to the Philistine town of Ashkelon and killed thirty men to get their clothes then returned to his parent's home without speaking to his wife.

<u>Friday</u>

Most people are either leaders or followers. Followers will do whatever their friends are doing, but leaders will make their own decisions, and can have a strong influence on their friends. Samson should have been a leader but he was not a very responsible one. He didn't think about the influence he had on those around him: instead he just lived to please himself. That's great



<u>Thursday</u>

Samson had a problem with self control, and it got him into trouble. You also need to learn to have self control. Here are some areas you need self control in. Find these words

What you eat and drink and how much you eat. The language you use.

How you treat people when you are tired or upset. How you act, what you do, when no-one is watching.

To do something that is hard; to keep trying. To make good choices even when your friends make bad ones.

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<u>Monday</u>

When Samson finally cooled down and decided to return to his Philistine wife he found she had married someone else! This time in anger he caught 300 foxes and tied a flaming torch between each pair of tails. In a panic, the animals ran back and forth, burning the fields of the Philistines. And so Samson finally started the war with the Philistines that he had been born to fight.

The Philistines threatened the men of Judah unless they would give Samson up to them so a delegation of 3000 men of Judah approached Samson and he agreed to be tied up and given to the Philistines. But as soon he saw the Philistines, he snapped the ropes as if they were nothing, grabbed a bone that was lying around and killed 1000 Philistines with it! They named the hill jawbone hill because it was the jawbone from a donkey that he had used.

One time Samson spent the night in the Philistine town of Gaza, they planned to kill him, but luckily he woke up at midnight; he picked up the town gates and carried them to the top of a hill!

Some time later he fell in love with another philistine woman named Delilah and moved in with her. Delilah said "If you love me, tell me the secret of your great strength." But Samson tricked her, saying "If you tie me up with new bowstrings I will become weak." So Delilah did that while he was asleep, but when he woke up he broke them. Again and again Delilah asked Samson the secret of his strength, and each time, he told her something different. But she nagged day after day until finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never been cut," he said, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite when I was

born." So Delilah sent for the Philistine rulers, and when Samson was asleep, she called in a man to shave off his hair; then she cried, "Samson! The Philistines are here!"

He woke and thought, "I will do like last time." But he had no strength left.



Tuesday

The Philistines captured Samson and gouged out his eyes; they put him in chains and forced him to grind grain in the prison.

One day the Philistines had a great feast; they said, "Our god Dagon has given us victory over our enemy Samson!"

They brought Samson out so they could look at him.

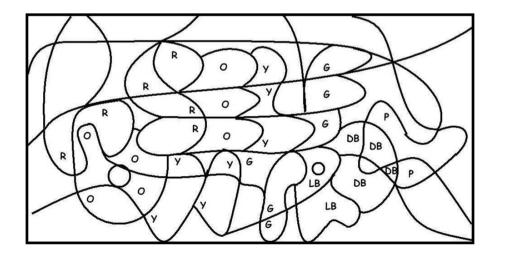
Then Samson prayed to God, "Lord, remember me again; please strengthen me just one more time."

Samson put his hands on the two centre pillars that held up the temple; he pushed against them and the temple crashed down on the Philistines and their rulers



Samson's story is so different from the other judges; it wasn't until the end of his life that the Israelites finally had deliverance from their enemies.

What was Samson's problem? R=Red O=Orange Y=Yellow G=Green LB=Light Blue DB=Dark Blue P=Purple



Wednesday

Read Judges 2:18_{NLT}, "Whenever the (2 down) raised up a $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $]_{(3\alpha)}$ over Israel, He was with that $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$ $[7\alpha)}$ and rescued the people from their (5d) throughout the judge's lifetime..."

But that didn't happen with Samson - why?

Exodus 34:15-16_{NLT} has a clue. God talking to Moses when He gave the 10 Commandments. "You must not make a (4a) of any kind with the people living in the (2a). They lust after their (1d), offering (9a) to them. They will invite you to join them in their sacrificial meals, and you will go with them. Then you will accept their daughters, who

they will seduce your sons to commit adultery against me by worshiping other ___ (10a).

Samson did exactly what God had warned the Israelites not to do!

