

Unit 1. Children of the Bible - OT

Lesson 1.6: Samson, the Boy with a Special Promise

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Bible Story: * Please note that this story focuses on Samson's early life as found in Judges 13-16.

Activities:

**Implement based on available time. Detailed instructions and materials list are provided in the lesson.*

Words of the Week:

զօրութիւն - zor-oo-tyoon - strength

մազ - maz - hair

արշիւծ - ar-yoodz - lion

Objective:

Children will understand that God has special plans for each person, and that when we follow God's ways, He uses us to do great things.

Moral Character Focus:

Knowledge: Children will learn that Samson was set apart for God from before he was born, and that God gave him special strength to help his people.

Understanding: Children will recognize that God makes each person unique and special, with gifts and purposes that are part of His loving plan.

Application: Children will identify practical ways to honor God with their bodies and choices—by taking care of themselves, obeying their parents, and using their gifts to help others.

Values: Children will develop a desire to follow God's special plan for their lives, to use their gifts wisely, and to trust that God made them just right for His purposes.

Memory Verse:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord.”

- Jeremiah 29:11a

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

Open with prayer:

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body: Samson, the Boy with a Special Promise

There was a time when Israel had no king. During those times, God’s people often forgot to follow Him. They turned away from His good ways and found themselves in trouble. But God never forgot His people. He was already preparing someone special to help them. This someone special was a baby boy who wasn’t even born yet.

There was a town called Zorah, where lived a man named Manoah and his wife. They loved God and prayed faithfully every day. But they had no children. One day, the angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah’s wife with wonderful news.

“You will have a son,” the angel said, his strong voice making Manoah’s wife tremble, yet he was gentle and told her not to be afraid. “This child will be very special. He will be strong, but he must never cut his hair, for he will be a Nazarite. He will be set apart for God from birth. He will save Israel from their enemies.”

The woman’s heart filled with joy and wonder. She ran to tell her husband, “A man of God came to me! He said we will have a son, and that he will be special to the Lord.”

Manoah and his wife thanked the Lord and prayed, “Please, Lord, send your messenger again to teach us how to raise this special child.” God heard their prayer, and the angel came once more. He told them to remember that their son must never drink wine, eat unclean food, or cut his hair. These were the signs that he belonged to God in a special way.

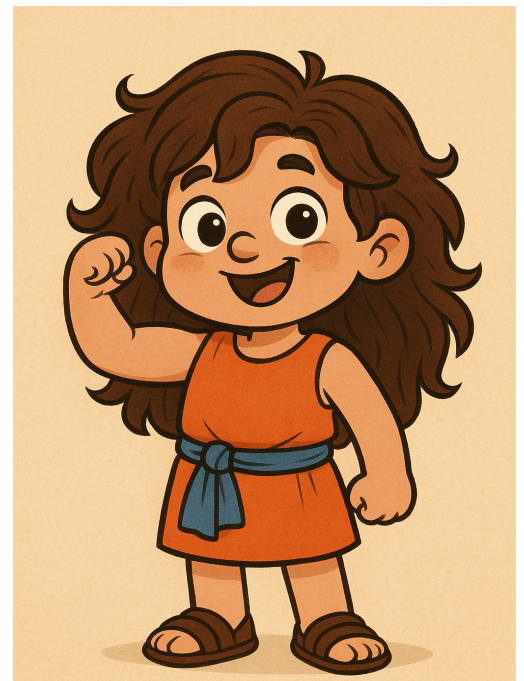
When the baby was born, they named him Samson, which means “like the sun.” From his very first breath, God loved Samson. As he grew, everyone could see that the Lord was with him. The Spirit of God moved in his life, giving him strength unlike any other person.

Young Samson ran through the hills with joy in his heart. His hair grew long, never touched by scissors, and he grew strong, a sign of his promise to God. When he helped his father carry heavy loads, everyone was amazed. “How can such a young boy be so strong?” they whispered. But Samson’s parents knew: it was God’s gift, meant for God’s purpose.

One day, when Samson was walking through the vineyards, a young lion roared and came at him. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson with great power. Though he had no weapon in his hands, God’s strength filled him, and he defeated the lion as easily as one might kill a fly. Samson knew it was not his own strength. It was the Lord’s power working through him.

As Samson grew from a boy into a young man, he remembered what his parents taught him: “You are special to God. God made you for His special purpose. Stay faithful to your promise.” And though Samson’s long hair reminded everyone that he was different, he knew the truth: his real strength came not from his hair, but from the Lord who loved him and had plans for his life.

Samson would face many adventures and challenges. Sometimes he would make good choices, and sometimes he would forget God’s ways. But through it all, God’s purpose remained: Samson was chosen to show that



Bible Verse Game to Remember

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 29:11a)

Practice 1

- “For I know” – point to head (thinking)
- “the plans” – draw a map shape in the air
- “I have for you” – point to others
- “declares the Lord” – point up to heaven

Practice 2

- Say it with your eyes closed, trusting God
- Say it while marching like Samson walking strong
- Whisper it like a special secret from God

Connection: *“God knew all about Samson before he was born, and God knows all about you too. He has good plans for your life!”*

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declares the Lord.”**

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Activity: “God Made Me Special” Self-Portrait

Materials needed:

- Cardstock (one per child)
- Crayons and markers
- Washable paint (if preferred)
- Mirrors (for children to see themselves)
- Yarn (for hair - optional)
- Glue sticks
- Stickers

Ask children to draw or paint themselves and add things that make them unique (their hair, favorite colors, special talents). Around the portrait, they add words or pictures showing how they can use their gifts to help others. This reinforces that God has special plans for each child. Ask older students for assistance if needed.

