Lesson: 12

Overcoming Obstacles

Samson

Samson's mom couldn't have any children, but an **angel** of the Lord came to her and said, "You can't have any children now, but God is going to give you a son. Make sure you don't drink any **wine** or eat any **animal** considered to be **unclean**. You will have a special son. He should **never cut his hair**, **eat grapes or raisins**, drink wine or **touch a dead body**, and most importantly his purpose will be to save the Israelites from the Philistines."



This special boy was **Samson**. As he grew up he realized that he had a special gift, he was incredibly **strong**. As Samson got older, he was able to kill a **lion** with his bare hands and defend himself against **1000** Philistines.

As Samson became a young man, he started to like girls. There was one girl he especially liked, her name was **Delilah**. The rulers of Philistine noticed that Samson was coming to see Delilah a lot more lately. So they decided to go to Delilah and make a deal with her.

One of the men asked her if she could find out what makes Samson so strong. They would give her **5,500** pieces of silver." This was about $5000 dollars, which was tons of money in those days. The amount of money Delilah got seemed as big as that!

So Delilah went home and started to think about how she could get the secret out of Samson. She thought maybe she could make his favourite dinner for him and just ask him. After all, he did love her, maybe this would be easier than she thought.

So Delilah got busy making a nice meal and waited for Samson to arrive. As they sat down to eat, Delilah asked how Samson's day was, and after a few minutes, she just decided to ask, "Samson, could you please tell me the secret of your great strength? I guess I'm just curious and want to know how your enemies can tie you up and how you can get out so easily."

Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me up with **seven brand new bowstrings** (from a bow and arrow) that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."

So later that night she met up with the rulers of Philistine and told them what Samson had said. They immediately went out and found seven bowstrings to give to Delilah and told her, "We want you to tie Samson up when he is asleep. Let us into your house when the coast is clear, and when you wake him up we want to be there to capture him."

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So Delilah did what the men asked her to do. When Samson was asleep and was snoring, she started to tie him up. When she was done the men came in and hid all around, and when they were ready Delilah shouted, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" But without any difficulty at all Samson snapped the strings like there was never anything around his hands.

Well, Delilah felt quite silly and was a little hurt that Samson wouldn't tell her the secret of his strength. So Delilah put on her sad face and looked up at Samson and said, "You made a fool out of me Samson, you lied to me. Seriously now, tell me how you can be tied."

Samson said to her, "If anyone ties me with **new ropes** that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man." So Delilah did what she had done before and tied him up with the new and improved ropes. Again, she shouted. "Samson, the Philistines are here!" But without any difficulty at all Samson once again snapped out of the ropes like there was never anything around his hands.

Delilah was getting angry, but she didn't want Samson to notice. She had to make Samson think she was sad that he lied to her. Delilah put on her saddest and said to him, "OH, Samson how could you lie to me again? Please tell me now how you can be tied."

Delilah finally said to Samson, "How can you tell me you love me when you don't trust me with your thoughts and secrets?" But Samson just decided to ignore her the best he could. Finally, Samson said, "Enough already! I will tell you everything, just leave me alone! My **hair has never been cut.** I had to take certain vows when I was born and have been given this gift by God. If my head was shaved, I would become as weak as any other man."

Delilah could tell this was the truth, so she asked the Philistines to give her one more chance. They came as they had all the other times, but this time, they brought Delilah's money along with them.

Samson fell asleep on Delilah's lap, so she got someone else to shave off his hair. As they were shaving it off Samson's body began to get weaker. When it was completed Delilah called out, "Samson, the Philistines are coming!"

As he woke, he wasn't aware that his **gift from God** had left him and the Philistines grabbed him. This time, Samson could do nothing to fight them off.

The Philistines had captured Samson, but his hair began to grow again. God still had plans for him. In the end, Samson regained his strength before they could kill him. They tied him up to two large pillars that held a large temple up and he was able to break free, but when he did the temple fell on him and a large number of Philistines.

Samson ended up breaking all of his vows. He didn't seem to take God's rules for him seriously. God still used Samson to defeat the Philistines, but he could've done so much more if he had obeyed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1a. Did Samson's mother knew that she could have children? Write yes or no.

1b. Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

2. What are TWO things Samson was not to do?

3. Why did Delilah want to know what made Samson so strong?

4. Quote the sentence in paragraph 9 that Delilah said to Samson.

5. Use the numbers 1 to 4 to put the events in the correct order.

_____ If my head was shaved, I would become weak.

_____ Tie me with new ropes.

_____ Tie me up with seven brand new bowstrings.

_____ Philistines had captured Samson.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6. How did Samson kill the Philistines?

7. Why did Delilah have Samson's head shaved?

8. Why do you think God gave Samson his strength back?

LIVEWORKSHEETS