



Date: _____
Series: God is Our Rescuer
Fall Year 2, Lesson 24

Your Strength Comes from the Lord

Take Home Point: *God arms me with strength.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Judges 13-16. The story of Samson

Key Verse: 2 Samuel 22:33a "God arms me with strength . . ."

We will help kids know:

- The events of Samson's life. Samson received strength from the Lord yet allowed it to be taken from him.
- We, too, receive spiritual strength from the Lord. Let's not be bound by listening to the lies of the enemy.

We will help kids feel:

- Amazed at Samson's strength, yet more amazed that he could so easily lose his strength.
- Confident that, through Jesus, God arms us with strength.

We will help kids do:

- Identify special strengths the Lord has given them and how they might use these strengths for God.
- Identify that which might keep them from using their gifts and, thereby, bind up their strength.
- Make an artistic reminder that God arms us with strength through what Jesus has done.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION | PAGE # | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY | SUPPLIES NEEDED |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Small Group Warm-Up  | 3 | Kids talk about their strengths or what they are uniquely good at. Then they are introduced to someone whom God's Spirit came upon and gave him supernatural strength. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thin thread • paper and pencils for each child |
| Large Group  | 4 8-9 9-11 12-13 | <p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Uses What He's Got" – Gordy uses his gift of rhyming to let Mr. King know he does <i>not</i> want to meet the strong man, Samson.</p> <p>Dramatic Monologue: "Interview With the Strong Man" –the details from Judges 13-16.</p> <p>Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Gordy Uses What He's Got" – Gordy learns how God gives us gifts to use for his glory. God gives us the strength to use those gifts when we remain in him.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy puppet • Samson costume |
| Small Group Application  | 4-7 | Kids take a look at the strengths God has given them. By doing a craft and applying the discussion, the kids learn, <i>*God arms me with strength.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Option 1:</u> extra sheet of questions cut into strips for each group (page 14) • eight balloons per group • permanent magic marker • <u>Option 2:</u> one sheet of light or white construction paper each • tempera paint • a 12" section of thread for each child • eye droppers or spoons • picture with quote: <i>God arms me with strength (p. 15)</i> • scissors and glue • flyer for next week's lesson (p.16) |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Begin the discussion with:

Kids, what do you do that is better than most other people? Think about a special gift or talent God has given you that not everyone else has. Maybe you are good at drawing pictures. Maybe you are smart in school or good at sports. Maybe you are good at singing or telling jokes.

Sometimes quiet children feel reluctant to share who they are by using words. The following simple activity can make them feel more comfortable and may draw them out more.

Pass out white copy paper or light-colored construction paper.

Draw what you are good at on this piece of paper. After just two or three minutes I'm going to show everyone the pictures, and we'll guess what your special gift is. Then you can tell us more about it.

Have kids share their picture and tell about their special gift.

What you are good at might also be called your strength. Today we will meet someone whom God's Spirit came upon and gave him supernatural strength.

Let me show you. I need a volunteer who will hold his hands together while I tie this thread around his wrist.

After you have wrapped one loop around the child's wrist invite him to snap it free. This should be easily done. Then loop the thread seven times around the child's wrist and challenge him to snap it. Be aware that the thin thread might dig into uncovered skin so advise the child not to struggle so much that he would hurt himself.

Today we will meet another judge who ruled over Israel. You've probably heard of him. He was known for his great strength. Who wants to guess his name? Yes, his name is Samson.

Though Samson was tied up with many thick ropes, when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him he could break them like a single thread. Samson's strength came from God, and he did miraculously strong things. But Samson let himself get tricked so he lost his strength. Even then, God helped him to be strong again. Maybe you will discover how God wants to work his strength in you today as well. We will learn today that **God arms me with strength.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Uses What He’s Got” – Gordy uses his gift of rhyming to let Mr. King know he does *not* want to meet the strong man, Samson.

Dramatic Monologue: “Interview With the Strong Man” – Mr. King interviews Samson covering the details from Judges 13-16.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy Uses What He’s Got” – Gordy learns how God gives us gifts to use for his glory. God gives us the strength to use those gifts when we remain in him.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Option 1: Game: “Balloon Bust”

Play the game “**Balloon Bust.**” Cut the observation and interpretation questions (see p. 14) into individual slips of paper. Have the children write the number of the question on the balloon with magic marker. Have them then roll up the paper strips and insert them each in the corresponding numbered balloon. Have kids blow up the balloons and tie them. *You may need to help with the tying.*

Have the children sit on the floor in a tight circle and tap balloon #1 in the air among each other. Do this as music is played. When the music stops or when the shepherd signals, everyone should put their hands in their lap and let the balloon fall. The person whom it lands closest to will become Samson and break the balloon with his bare hands. This person will read and answer the question. Repeat with the other balloons in order. If the balloon falls closest to the same person twice then have him hand it to someone who hasn't had a chance. Continue until all the questions have been answered. For the application questions, do not use balloon popping, but simply discuss.

If you choose this option, you will not have time for the craft activity.

Option 2: Ask the following questions without playing the game. Do the craft project while discussing the application questions.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Judges 13-16 in their Bibles.

A Nazirite was someone dedicated to God in a special way. How did Samson's parents raise Samson as a Nazirite? (*Judges 13:4-5. He had to follow strict rules like not drinking wine, not eating unclean food, and no haircuts.*)

What are some of the ways Samson showed his strength? (*Judges 14-16. He killed a lion with his bare hands, picked up the gate of the city and walked off with it, broke new and wet ropes, killed 1000 men with the jawbone of a donkey, tied the foxes' tails together, pulled down the pillars, etc.*)

Where did his strength come from? (*Judges 14:19. He was strong when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.*)

After Samson lost his strength, what happened to him? (*Judges 16:21. The Philistines poked out his eyes and put him in jail.*)

How did God still help him in prison? (*Judges 16:22. He started making his hair grow back.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Do you think Samson was foolish to trust Delilah? Why?

What do you think Samson would have done differently if he could have lived his life over?

Last week we talked about Satan and how he wants to control us. What should we do when he tempts us?
(*Resist temptation and Satan will flee.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Begin the craft project as you discuss the application questions. The supplies for the craft item include:

- *a sheet of light or white construction paper for each child*
- *tempera paint*
- *one 12" section of thread for each child (You might want to use twine for younger kids, as it is easier to control than a piece of thread.)*
- *eye droppers or spoons to drop paint on paper*
- *picture with quote: God arms me with strength (See appendix page 15)*
- *scissors*
- *glue*

Give the children each a sheet of paper and a piece of thread. Put a drop of paint in the center of a piece of paper and say:

God is the source of our strength and gifts. He is like this drop in the center of the paper.

Put a drop of paint on each child's paper. Then say:

Take your thread and run it through the paint drop and see what designs you can make as you drag your thread around the page.

Before we went to large group we shared different gifts or strengths God has given each one of us. What might hold you back from using your gift to God's glory? Let children give answers and then say:

Satan wants to keep us from using our gifts from God. God is the source of our gifts and strength just like the drop on the page. What happens as the string is moved along the page further and further from the drop?

How do we sometimes move further away from our source, God? (Like Samson, we may depend on our own strength. Let children discuss.)

Can you see how we need to always come back to God to restore our strength? That's just like coming back to the paint drop to get more paint. We come back to God by reading the Bible, praying to him, and doing what he wants. Did you also notice the farther you get away from the center drop the less of an impression you can make?

The same was true for Samson. The farther he got from God, like when he was after Delilah, the easier his strength could be taken away from him.

After the kids have adequately doodled with their thread and paint, hand out the picture with the main point. Have them cut this out and paste it in the middle of the page and over the paint dot. Ask again:

Where does your special gift or ability come from? *(God. It is through the merits of Jesus Christ and his life for us that we receive spiritual gifts to serve him.)*

The key verse today from 2 Samuel 22:33a says, “God arms me with strength . . .”

Can you think of a way you can use your gifts or strengths to share the good news of Jesus with others?

Tell kids to place the picture near something in their room that they do especially well. It can remind them to use that gift for the Lord.

Closing Prayer:

Have each child give thanks for his special gift or strength, and pray that they would be faithful to use it. As always, make sure there is thanksgiving for Jesus, who gave his life so we would have full access to God’s strength.

NOTE: Please reproduce and send the flyer at the back of this lesson home with the children today. Next week, there will be a carnival atmosphere to the lesson and small, junky, “nonsense” toys will be solicited for the games.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Gordy Uses What He's Got

Puppet Presentation

Mr. King: Hi, boys and girls. Welcome to Kingdom Quest today. We are going to meet one of the strongest men in the world...his name is Samson. Before we meet him, I wonder if Gordy would like to be a part of this. Shall we call Gordy?

Kids Chant: Gor-dy, Gor-dy, Gor-dy.

Gordy: *(In a sing-song rhyme)* Hi, kids. What's the biz?

Mr. King: Gordy, we are ready to meet Samson, a most very strong dude. He killed a lion with his bare hands. He did a bunch of other stuff, too.

Gordy: *(In a sing-song rhyme)* Well, I'm impressed, as you have guessed. But, I'm not hanging 'round; I'm going back down. *(Exits behind puppet stage.)*

Mr. King: Hmm... Boys and girls, that was strange. I wonder what is up with Gordy? Gordy, come out here a minute. Why don't you want to hang around?

Gordy: *(reappearing and continuing to rhyme)* Samson's strong, and it won't take long to see that I'm weak, and he'll call me a geek.

Mr. King: Oh, I get it. You are just embarrassed because he is so strong and you are a small guy. Today's lesson is about much more than just being strong.

Gordy: More than muscles? Who are you trying to hustle?

Mr. King: What I mean, Gordy, is that the Spirit of the Lord came on Samson and gave him strength. That made him special. The Spirit of the Lord can come upon each one of us and give us special gifts as well.

Gordy: I don't think I see what he could've given me.

Mr. King: Gordy, look at the way you are talking. You are making everything rhyme.

Gordy: Why sure, I can rhyme on a dime.

Mr. King: Yes, and you are good at making jokes.

Gordy: Mr. King, that's true 'cause I make fun of you.

Mr. King: Sometimes you even tell *funny* jokes, but anyway, God gave you a special gift and you can use it for him. It is the same way he gave a special gift to Samson. It is just that Samson let someone take his special gift away. We do not want to make that mistake.

Gordy: Well, let's show and go. Tell me what I gotta know.

Mr. King: Here it is, Gordy. You sit back and listen as we have a chance to interview Samson, himself.

Gordy: Okay. See you in a while, alligator, I mean crocodile.

Interview With the Strong Man

Dramatic Monologue

This interview between the large group presenter and Samson can be performed live or it can be videotaped beforehand. The Samson character must have a firm knowledge of the Bible event and be able to tell it with animation and details. **Caution!** Be brief!

There are six key questions the interviewer will ask. These questions will give an outline to the interview. Samson's possible responses to these questions are briefly given (see below). The main point to be delivered is: Samson's strength came from the Lord, but the farther he got away from the Lord the more vulnerable he was. Samson might have ultimately thought he was invincible, as he was foolish enough to tell Delilah about his hair.

Comparisons can be drawn that just as Samson's strength was robbed from him, Satan would want to rob us from the use of our gifts for God's work. Just as Samson's hair grew back and he became strong again, God will give us grace when we return to the Lord after failing. God supplies all the strength we need.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Mr. King: *(Like announcing a wrestling or boxing event...)* **Now, ladies and gentlemen, I give to you the strongest man in history, killing lions with his bare hands and 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey...the judge...Samson!**

Samson enters flexing like a body builder.

Samson, tell me how you got to be so strong.

Samson: *(Judges 13)* At this time, the people of Israel again did what the Lord considered evil, so for 40 years they were under the rule of the Philistines. Then an angel of the Lord, appeared to my mother who had not been able to have children and promised a rescuer...me. I was to be raised as a

Nazirite, set apart for God's service so I could drink no wine or have any haircuts. As I grew, the Lord's Spirit stirred in me. My strength was supernatural because God gave it to me...I wasn't just an ordinary strong man. (*Flexing muscles*)

Mr. King: **I also heard that you do riddles. Is that true?**

Samson: (*Judges 14*) Yes this is true. Let me tell the story of how I discovered this talent.

One day, I saw a Philistine woman that I wanted as my wife. Now this was against God's way and my parents did not want me to marry this woman, but God was looking for an opportunity to do something to the Philistines.

So as we were on our way to meet this girl, a roaring lion approached. Because the Lord's Spirit came over me, I was able to kill the lion with my bare hands. Sometime later, when I went back to marry this woman, I found the lion I had killed and saw a swarm of bees and some honey in the lion's dead body. I took the honey from the hive and ate it.

At my wedding party I made a bet with 30 Philistine young men, that if they solved my riddle I would give them each two fine robes, but if they couldn't solve it, they were to each give me two fine robes or 60 all together. The riddle went like this: "*From the eater came something to eat. From the strong one came something sweet.*" The answer of course is a lion.

Well, these men begged my wife to trick me into giving her the answer and she told them. I became angry and killed 30 Philistines, took their clothes and gave them to the men who solved the riddle. Then I went back home to my father's house.

Mr. King: **Wow. I bet the Philistines were very angry, right?**

Samson: (*Judges 15*) Yeah. Later, I returned to my wife, but because I had left her at the wedding, she married my best man. Now I was really mad! So I caught three hundred foxes, tied their tails together, and fastened burning torches to their tails. When these foxes raced through the country, they burned up the Philistines' grain fields.

Now it was the Philistines' turn to get angry. They came to Judah with an army to capture me. My people did not want trouble with the Philistines. I let them tie my hands with two new ropes. When I was turned over to the Philistine army, the Lord's Spirit again came over me and I snapped the ropes that bound me like thread. Then I picked up a jawbone of a donkey that had just died and killed one thousand men with it.

I then became the judge, or ruler, over Israel for 20 years.

Mr. King: It seemed that nothing could stop you. Is that true?

Samson: (*Judges 16*) That is not quite true. My strength came from the Lord. I was chosen especially for him... Remember no haircuts... but I was also somewhat strong minded. Even though the Philistines hated me, I dared to go in and out of their country. I fell in love with a woman named Delilah and went to see her often. She loved her people...and the silver they promised to give her...more than she loved me, so she agreed to trick me into telling her the secret of my strength.

Delilah asked me three times how I could be tied up. The first time, I told her that if someone tied me up with seven wet cords I would be like any other man. When she tied me with these wet cords....snap! I broke them like thread when she said the Philistines were attacking. The second time she asked me, I said that if I am tied up with new ropes, never used, I would be the same as any other man. But that didn't work either.

The next time, I visited her, Delilah again asked me the secret of my strength. I told her that if my braids were woven in a loom, I would be the same as any other man. But again when she did this very thing and called out that the Philistines were coming, I easily freed myself.

Finally, after she kept up her nagging, I grew weary and told her I was dedicated to God, and if my hair was shaved off my strength would leave. This time, while I slept a Philistine cut my hair and when they came into the room to capture me, I could not escape. My eyes were gouged out. I was put in prison and made to grind grain into flour.

Mr. King: You must have felt terrible. Did God forget you?

Samson: No, God never did... In prison, my hair again grew longer. The Philistines brought me into their temple to make fun of me. Because I was blind and in chains, the people thought I could no longer harm them. But I asked the boy who led me out to let me lean against the pillars that held up the roof and I prayed. I asked God to once again give me strength just one more time. I pushed hard against the pillars and asked the Lord to let me die with the Philistines. And the building fell on the rulers and everyone in it. That day, I killed more Philistines than when I was alive.

Mr. King: Any words for the kids today?

Samson: I was foolish and thought I could make it on his own. I let others trick me because I didn't listen to God or trust him. Just like my strength was robbed from me, Satan wants to rob you of using your gifts for God's work.

**God had armed me with strength for his purposes. *God arms you with strength, too. God gives you power through Jesus, who lived and died for us.*

Just as my hair grew back and I became strong again, God will give you grace when you return to the Lord after failing. God supplies all the strength you need.

Samson exits as kids applaud.

Gordy Uses What He's Got Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Mr. King: So Gordy, what did you think of Samson?

Gordy: *(rhyming)* Well, God made him strong, but he didn't stay that way long.

Mr. King: That's the truth. He lost his strength because he let himself be fooled.

Gordy: Yeah, he was dumb, and Delilah was a bum.

Mr. King: But what did you learn, Gordy?

Gordy: Don't trust girls. They'll cut your curls.

Mr. King: Now Gordy, enough with the silly rhymes. Today we learned **God arms me with strength*, and if I trust God, I can use whatever gifts he gives me to give glory to him.

Gordy: Even if I'm a rhymin', a jukin', and a jimin'?

Mr. King: Even that. Gordy, remember that God loved you so much he gave you Jesus, his own Son, and Jesus died on the cross to take away your sin so you will have strength from God. You will have the strength of his forgiveness.

Gordy: I'll need that in a bind—for a rhyme I can't find.

Mr. King: Yes, we all need the power of God's forgiveness through Jesus if we make a mistake. In this case, I don't think it would be a mistake if you couldn't find a rhyme. But Jesus does give you his power to use your special gift for him.

Gordy: You mean my rhyme makes him feel fine?

Mr. King: Sure, when you use it for him, but right now I'm getting sick of so much rhyming. Please... quit!

Gordy: Okay, which way?

Mr. King: Just close us with prayer, okay Gordy? But you don't need to rhyme.

Gordy: All right. Dear God, first of all, thank you for Jesus. Thank you that he gave his life for us. Because of him we are given strength. Help me to use my special gifts in a way that they bring glory to you. And please don't let me fall for stupid traps like Samson did. In Jesus name, Amen.

Mr. King: Thanks, Gordy. See you later.

Gordy: In a while, crocodile.

Observation and Interpretation Questions

1. A Nazirite was someone dedicated to God in a special way. How did Samson's parents raise Samson as a Nazirite?
2. What are some of the ways Samson showed his strength?
3. Where did his strength come from?
4. After Samson lost his strength, what happened to him?
5. How did God still help him in prison?
6. Do you think Samson was foolish to trust Delilah? Why?
7. What do you think Samson would have done differently if he could have lived his life over?
8. Last week we talked about Satan and how he wants to control us. What should we do when he tempts us?

(To save time you can also copy this image onto Avery #5163 labels.)



Hey, Kids,



**Next week, we'll have a
carnival at Sunday
school. Please bring little
used toys that can be
given for prizes!**

Thank You!