

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 66: SAMSON PULLS DOWN A TEMPLE
JUDGES 16:22-31

After the Philistines captured Samson they put him to work grinding in the mill. But they didn't cut his hair any more, so it started growing back. The Philistine rulers threw a big party and sacrificed a lot of animals to their god Dagon. The rulers said: Samson was our enemy, but our god Dagon helped us capture him! Everyone there was having a good time, and they shouted, "Bring out Samson--he's still good for a few more laughs!" The rulers had Samson brought from the prison, and when the people saw him, this is how they praised their god - they said: "Samson ruined our crops and killed our people. He was our enemy, but our god helped us capture him." They made fun of Samson for a while, then they told him to stand near the columns that supported the roof. A young man was leading Samson by the hand because he was blind, and Samson said to him, "I need to lean against something. Take me over to the columns that hold up the roof." The Philistine rulers were celebrating in a temple packed with people and with three thousand more on the flat roof. They had all been watching Samson and making fun of him. Then Samson called to the LORD saying, "Oh LORD God remember me, I pray! The Philistines poked out my eyes, but make me strong one last time, so I can take revenge for my eyes!" Samson was standing between the two middle columns that held up the roof. He felt around and found one column with his right hand, and the other with his left hand. Then he shouted, "Let me die with the Philistines!" He pushed against the columns as hard as he could, and the temple collapsed with the Philistine rulers and everyone else still inside. Samson killed more Philistines when he died than he had killed during his entire life. His brothers and the rest of his family went to Gaza and took his body back home. They buried him in his father's tomb, which was located between Zorah and Eshtaol. Samson was a leader of Israel for twenty years.

66. SAMSON PULLS DOWN A TEMPLE

(JUDGES 16:22-31)

SAMSON'S STRENGTH RETURNS

Judges 16:28-30



Samson's enemies captured him and put him in prison. But God was still with Samson. He made Samson's hair grow.

66. SAMSON PULLS DOWN A TEMPLE

(JUDGES 16:22-31)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, 'O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray!'"
JUDGES 16:28

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Samson's hair began growing again after he was captured.
TRUE or FALSE
2. The Philistines held a great feast to honor their god Dagon.
TRUE or FALSE
3. When they were all happy, they called to bring out Samson so that they could honor him. TRUE or FALSE
4. The Philistines made fun of Samson for a while, then they made him stand between two columns. TRUE or FALSE
5. A young man led Samson to the columns and Samson asked to let him lean against them. TRUE or FALSE
6. There were about three thousand men who watched while Samson performed for them. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. When Samson was leaning against the columns, did he call out to the LORD? What did he ask Him?
2. Did Samson find the two columns with his right hand and his left hand? Was he standing between them?
3. What did Samson do? Did he push on the columns? What happened?
4. Did the Philistines all die when Samson pulled down the temple?
5. Did Samson kill more Philistines when he died than he did his whole life while he was alive?

Lesson 66



Samson pulls down the temple
Judges 16:30

Lesson 66 Activity/Craft

String Tug-O-War

Form pairs. Give a 24" long piece of sting or yarn to most pairs, but to some give two 12" pieces. Oops! By mistake you must have cut some in half. Oh well, tie them together and play anyway! The rules of the tug-o-war are that you can only use the thumb and index finger of one hand. Using masking tape, mark two lines in front of each player and a piece of tape in the center of the string. Whoever can get the marker across their line is the winner. Use this as an illustration: even though a mistake was made, the strings could still be used. This is how God works in our life. Though we have made mistakes, God can still use us!

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that He can make all things work together for good for His purposes in our lives. Thank the Lord that He will continue to use us even when we make mistakes. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.