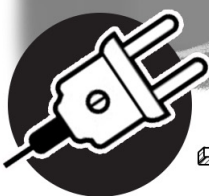


WEEK 1

Samson (Judges 16)



Connect

Prepare: Gather some thick books or any heavy objects

Pick one item from the pile and see if you can carry it. Now, add another item. Still easy, right? Keep adding one item until you are no longer able to carry your pile. (Everyone in the family may have their turn at doing this activity.)

We see how it becomes more and more difficult as you add more items. If there was one man who could keep going, that would be Samson from the Bible. Let's read about his story.



Read the Word

Samson is a very strong man. Let's read Judges 16 and see how strong he is:

Judges 16:3 - But Samson lay till midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and pulled them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron.

Imagine carrying the city gates with their posts on his shoulders! This is something no ordinary man could do. This is why the Philistines, Israel's enemies at that time, were afraid of him.

One day, Samson then fell in love with a woman named Delilah. Delilah was offered money by the Philistines to try to find out how Samson would lose his strength. Each time she asked, Samson would give her a different answer until one day, he finally revealed the truth to her that it can only happen when his head is shaved. Once Delilah knew this, she immediately called on the Philistines to come and capture him.

Judges 16:19-22 (ESV) She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Samson had become so reliant on his own strength that he forgot his strength actually came from God and not his hair. He became proud, thinking that he could do anything. When his hair was cut, the spirit of the Lord left him, rendering him to be just like any man. But in time, his hair grew back. When the Philistines held a festival in their temple, Samson was brought in to amuse them. But Samson asked to be led to the pillars that held the temple and he humbly prayed to God.

Judges 16:28-30 - Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes." And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

After the spirit of God left him, Samson humbly repented before God. He realized he needed God. Do you know that Samson was at his weakest the day he died? He was a prisoner and he was blind. Yet he was able to kill more Philistines that day than during his entire life, when he was strong. How was this possible? Samson's strength came from God. It was not dependent on his abilities. Even when he was weak, or when he was proud, God still used him.

You see, God wants us to rely on Him and not on ourselves. In Isaiah 40:29, it says "He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless." When you rely on God, He will give you power and strength to do things beyond what you are normally able to do on your own.



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- Can you think of something that you are strong enough to do? What is it? Why do you think you are able to do it?

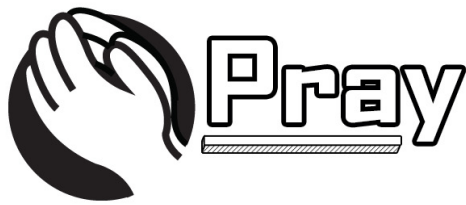
7-12 years old:

- Think of something that you are good at. How did you become good at it? Do you practice everyday?
- How do you feel knowing that you are good at it?

Kid/s to Parents:

- In what way can you depend more on God for strength everyday? Do you still rely on Him even if you know you can do it on your own?

Each one of us is capable of doing different things. It may be in schoolwork, in sports, in playing a musical instrument, or you may be good with a computer. Whatever it is and no matter how good we are, let us continue relying on God. Let us not become like Samson who became proud because of his strength. Let us come to God in humility and allow Him to use us for His purpose.



Dear God,

We pray that you give us the strength to do what you have called us to. We are sorry for the times when we forget that you are the one who always helps us. Always remind us to rely on You always because You will give us power and strength.

In Jesus' name, Amen!



Judges 16:3 - But Samson lay till midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and pulled them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron.

The gates Samson carried are estimated to weigh about half a ton. This is about the same weight as a grand piano.

The distance he traveled from Gaza to the hill is about 40 miles (about 65 kms), which is as long as lining up about **2,268 basketball courts, or 590 soccer fields, or 1300 Olympic-sized swimming pools.**

So, try picturing this in your mind: a man with a grand piano on his shoulders, walking that distance.

Such strength can only definitely come from God!

Source:

<https://splnewulm.org/church/judges-163-the-gaza-gate/>

<https://www.modernpiano.com/How-Heavy-Is-A-Grand-Piano--1-6.html>