LESSON 5:  SAMSON

AIM:  To teach how Samson used the special strength God gave him and to encourage the children to always use their talents for the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE:  ...I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power  (Ephesians 6v10)

STORY:  Judges 13-16
The children of Israel were still under enemy occupation by the Philistines, but God was working to free them. He chose a married couple who had no children, and told them through an angel, that they would have a son whom God would use to get rid of the enemy out of their country.

The child was born and they named him Samson. The Bible says that God blessed the child as he grew. The parents were given instructions by the angel before Samson’s birth, that he was never to have his hair cut or drink strong drink or eat certain foods. Samson’s mother and father obeyed God’s instructions.

One day when Samson was grown up, a lion came out of a vineyard to attack him, and Samson killed the lion with his bare hands. Now the Philistines heard about Samson’s strength and set out to capture him. He was caught and tied up with rope, but the Spirit of God gave him supernatural strength and he broke the rope, found the jawbone of an ass, and went into battle single-handed with the enemy. He killed 1,000 men on his own that day.

Now Samson loved a woman named Delilah, but she was wicked and agreed to fin out the secret of his strength and sell the information to the Philistines so they could capture him. Time and time again, she asked Samson, but he always played a trick on her until he finally gave in and told her that his strength lay in the fact that he had never had his hair cut. According to God’s instructions to his parents.

So, in the middle of the night, Delilah arranged for one of the Philistines to cut off Samson’s hair whilst he slept in her tent. Immediately, his strength was gone and he became a weakling. The Philistines easily captured Samson and to ensure that he would not escape, they poked out his eyes and chained him up in prison.

Samson was sorry for his foolishness and so as his hair grew, God renewed his strength. One day the Philistines had a huge party with 3,000 people, and they called for Samson so they could laugh at him. He was led into the huge building and stood beside the two middle pillars that supported the roof. He prayed to God that He would give him strength so that he could destroy the wicked Philistines. He grabbed the supporting pillars and pulled with all his might and the whole building tumbled down.

Samson killed more Philistines at his death than he had during his entire life. God had given him strength again. Samson was able to finish the work God wanted him to do.
Yet how sad it is that Samson didn’t serve God all his life. God had given Samson great strength. But Samson did not use his strength for God’s glory at all times. None of us may grow up to be as strong as Samson, but God has given all of us special talents. He wants us to use these talents for Him.

**LIFE APPLICATION:** Discuss with the children what they consider to be the special talents in their life and ways in which they can use them for God now and in the future as adults.

**CLOSING ACTIVITIES:**
1. Colour by Dots, Samson and Delilah
2. Colour in the pictures of Samson
3. Puzzle – Samson Animal Search
God want us to remember that our strength comes from Him.

God sent an angel to a married couple in Israel. The angel told them they would have a son who would be used by God to get rid of the Philistines, Israel’s enemies.

They named the child Samson. God blessed the child with great strength. God told them that Samson was never to cut his hair or eat certain foods or to drink strong drinks. Samson obeyed God.

One day Samson killed a lion. The Philistines heard about Samson’s strength and set out to capture him. They caught him and tied him up with a rope, but the Spirit of God gave Samson the strength to break free. He found the jawbone of an ass and killed 1,000 Philistines.

Samson loved Delilah. She was wicked and tried to find the secret to Samson’s supernatural strength. When Samson finally told her, Delilah told the Philistines. In the middle of the night they cut off his hair and he immediately became weak. They threw him into prison.

Samson was sorry for his foolishness and so his hair grew long again and God gave Samson back his strength. Samson was able to finish God’s work.

Read the story of Samson’s super strength in the book of Judges chapters 13-16, then complete the sentences below.
Write the memory verse here: -
Ephesians 6:10 ...

How did Samson use the special strength God gave him?

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______________________________________________________
Samson Animal Search

Samson was the twelfth judge of Israel. He was a very strong man. Once he killed a lion with his bare hands. Another time he fought the Philistine enemies with a donkey jawbone.

The following animals are found in the story of Samson. You can read the story of Samson in Judges 13–16. Find and circle the animals in the word search below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goat</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
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<td>Donkey</td>
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G U L S E A L
H E I F E R S
O D O N K E Y
R X N T X T B
S T A O G N U
E R F L E A G
SAMSON and DELILAH
Colour by Dots
Join up the dots. What happened to the building that Samson is pushing with all his might?

You can find this story in Judges chapter 16, verses 23–30.