

LESSON 4

SAMSON, THE LAST JUDGE



OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about Samson, Israel's last judge.
2. To learn about the importance of choosing friends wisely.
3. To learn how to be spiritually strong through being a true Nazirite.

MEMORY VERSE

"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed."

(Proverbs 13:20)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for the past week and this wonderful Sabbath day.
2. Open our hearts so that we can learn from Samson, Israel's last judge.
3. Guard our hearts and minds from the sins and temptations of this world.
4. Help us to lead a holy and victorious life so that we can serve You and glorify Your Name.



Overview

1. **Samson the Nazirite**
2. **Samson's feats of strength**
3. **Samson loses his strength**
4. **Samson's death**
5. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—Salvation is given by the grace of God.
6. **Life Application**—A True Nazirite
7. **Activity**
 - Samson, Delilah, and the Lion
 - Samson and Delilah Review Game



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Nazirite Vow

The word Nazirite means "consecrated or devoted one." God invented the Nazirite vow for any person who wanted to devote himself exclusively to Him. The Nazirite vow reminds us that God desires all Christians to lead holy and separated lives.

A Nazirite vow can be temporary. For example, Paul made a temporary Nazirite vow that ended with the shaving of his head [Acts 18:18.]. After the period of separation, the person had to offer five different types of offerings: burnt, sin, peace, grain, and drink, along with unleavened bread and unleavened wafers. The person also shaved off their hair and presented the hair as part of a sacrifice [Num 6:18.].

The Nazirite vow could also be as long as a lifetime. Such a vow was voluntary, with one exception—parents could take the vow for their young children, making them Nazirites for life. The vow included three distinct restrictions:

- a. Their hair could not be cut and their beard could not be shaved
- b. They could not consume wine or strong drink
- c. They were prohibited from touching a dead body

Dagon

Dagon was the chief god of the Philistines, the god of grain and harvest. Many temples were built to Dagon and the worship there included human sacrifice. The temples were also the local entertainment centers. Just as people today crowd into theaters, Philistine townspeople crowded into the local temple. They sat on the flat temple roof and looked into the courtyard below. It was at such an event that Samson caused the entire temple to collapse.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students may have trouble looking beyond the “cool” story of Samson and all the things that he did, such as ripping apart a lion or killing 1000 men with the jawbone of a donkey. It may be very easy for them simply to get caught up in the story, losing sight of what they can learn from Samson's life. It is important to emphasize that even though God used Samson mightily, his life had strayed far off the mark. He was controlled by his fleshly desires, befriended the wrong people, and used his gifts for his own purpose. As a result, his life ended tragically.

The students should be reminded that having certain gifts or strengths does not give them an excuse to disobey God's commands or be unkind to others. What God desires for us is to have an obedient heart and to lead a life unstained by the world.



Opener

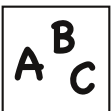
5 Minutes

Having a healthy body is very important to us. What things make us strong physically? [Allow students to respond.]

That's right. Eating healthy food, getting plenty of exercise and activity, getting a sufficient amount of sleep, and building up a strong mind will help us have healthy bodies. At the same time, we need to avoid the things that are not beneficial and are harmful to our bodies. What things might be unhealthy for our bodies? [Allow students to respond.]

Just as it is important to keep our physical bodies healthy, we need to keep our faith and spiritual life healthy and strong, too.

Today, we will learn about a man called Samson who had an exceptionally strong body, but, sadly, a weak and unhealthy spiritual life.



Vocabulary

vow: a serious promise to do something or behave in a certain way

loom: a machine that is used to weave cloth



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet and, at the end of each section, go over the corresponding section on the worksheet with the students. Allow the students to finish each section before moving onto the next one.

A. Samson the Nazirite

Once again, the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord handed them over to the Philistines, who ruled over them for forty years. The Philistines were strong and cruel people who lived by the coast. But God still loved His people, and He would deliver

His people through a judge called Samson.

Not all the Israelites sinned against God and worshipped idols. Among the tribes of Israel there was man called Manoah and his wife, both of whom continued to fear and serve God. Nevertheless, Manoah and his wife had no children. One day, the Angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and told her that God would give her a son. The Angel told her that from the time of his birth, the boy shall be a Nazirite and he would be a judge and deliver the land from the rule of the Philistines. The following year, those very words were fulfilled when Manoah's wife gave birth to a boy called Samson.

Do you know what a Nazirite is?

A Nazirite was a person (either a man or a woman) who had taken the Nazirite vow. The vow was usually temporary, but in Samson's case, it was for life. Being a Nazirite meant taking a special vow to be separated to the Lord for a special purpose. During the period of the vow, a Nazirite had to abide by certain rules set by God. The following Bible passages describe the rules a Nazirite had to obey.

Read Judges 13:4-5 and Numbers 6:1-6.

- He was not to drink wine, vinegar made from wine, or grape juice. Nor was he to eat anything that came from grapevines, such as grapes or raisins, or even the seeds or skin!

People usually drink wine as a form of enjoyment and pleasure. Therefore, the Bible uses wine, which is made from grapes to represent the sinful pleasures of the world. Indulging in the enjoyments of the world often leads us to sin and temptation, which is why we need to avoid them (Eph 5:18).

- He must never cut his hair but let his hair grow.

Usually, what kind of person has long hair? Yes, females usually have long hair. 1 Corinthians 11:14-15 tells us that when a woman has long hair, it is her glory and honor. But if a man has long hair, then it is considered a shame and dishonor. God wanted a Nazirite to have long hair to remind him that he had to deny himself and suffer shame for the Lord.

- He could not go near a dead body.

A dead body is something that is decaying, rotting, and unclean. A Nazirite could not go near a dead body because he had to keep himself holy. He had to avoid things that would defile him and make him unclean.

B. Samson's feats of strength

As Samson grew older, God blessed and abided with him. To accomplish God's plans of delivering the Israelites from the Philistines, Samson was given a special gift—extraordinary physical strength. As long as Samson abided by the laws of God, the Spirit of God would fill him and give him great strength to overcome his enemies.

Look up the following Bible verses to see examples of Samson's strength:

- *Judges 14:5-6* – Samson tore a lion apart as easily as tearing apart a young goat.
- *Judges 14:19* – Samson went down to the Philistine

city of Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men.

- *Judges 15:3-7* – Samson caught three hundred foxes, tied their tails together in pairs and placed a torch between each pair. He then lit the torches and set the foxes free through the fields of the Philistines, destroying the grain and olive trees.
- *Judges 15:15* – Samson found a fresh donkey jawbone and killed a thousand Philistines with it.

C. Samson loses his strength

Before Samson was born, he was chosen by God to fulfill a special purpose. As he grew up, God abided with him and gave him great strength to save the Israelites. But later, sin found a place in Samson's heart. Though Samson was physically strong, he was spiritually weak. Instead of doing God's will, he chose to follow his fleshly desires. He was willful and hot-tempered. Whenever he wished to do a certain thing, he would never listen to advice from anyone. He wanted to do as he pleased. This kind of behavior often got him into trouble.

His wrong choices and bad influences caused him to lead an unholy life and to eventually break the Nazirite vow. When the vow was broken, God no longer abided with him, and he lost his great strength.

Let's look at how Samson gradually broke the Nazirite vow:

1. Samson draws near a dead body

Let's read Judges 14:5-9.

One day, as Samson and his parents were going to Timnah, a city in Philistia, a young lion attacked Samson in the vineyards of Timnah. The Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him and he ripped the lion apart with his bare hands. He did this as easily as if the lion were a young goat. Samson didn't tell his parents about what had happened. When they returned from Timnah, Samson went to look at the carcass of the lion. He found that a swarm of bees had made some honey in the carcass. Samson scooped some of the honey into his hands and ate it along the way. He also gave some of it to his father and mother, but he did not tell them he had taken the honey from the carcass of a lion.

2. Samson drinks wine and enjoys fleshly pleasures

a. *The woman from Timnah*

Read Judges 14:1-3.

One day when Samson was in Timnah, he liked a Philistine girl there. When he returned home, he told his father and mother that he wanted to marry her. Samson's parents

strongly opposed the idea. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites that you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the Philistines to find a wife?" But Samson told his father, "She is the one I want. Get her for me."

Even though God had already told His people that they should not marry Gentiles, Samson insisted. Not only did he want to marry a Gentile, he insisted on marrying a Philistine woman, someone whose people were Israel's greatest enemies. Later at the wedding, Samson threw a wedding feast for thirty young men of the village that lasted for seven days. The wedding celebrations were according to the custom of the day (Judg 14:10-11) and, although the Bible does not specifically mention this, traditionally, there would have been much eating and drinking of wine.

b. Delilah

Let's turn to Judges 16:4-17.

Some time later, Samson loved another woman; this time, it was a Philistine woman called Delilah. Samson did not seem to care about leading a holy life. Instead, he followed his desires and his heart.

When the rulers of the Philistines realized that Samson loved Delilah, they wanted to use her to capture Samson. They said to her, "See if you can get him to tell you the source of his great strength. Find out how we can overpower him so that we can tie him up. And if you do, each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

Delilah was not a good woman and she loved money, so she begged Samson to tell her the secret of his strength. Samson was unwilling to share his secret, so he told Delilah three false ways that others could use to overpower him: by tying him up with 7 new bowstrings, by tying him up with new ropes, and by weaving his hair into a loom. When Delilah realized that Samson had deceived her three times, she continued to pester him day after day until Samson could stand it no longer and finally told her the secret to his strength.

3. Samson's hair is cut

Read Judges 16:18-21.

After Delilah nagged Samson every day, Samson became so tired and fed up that he told her everything. "I've never used a razor on my head," he said. "I've never cut my hair because I've been a Nazirite since the day I was born. A Nazirite is a person set apart for God. If you shave my head, I won't be strong anymore. I'll become as weak as any other man." Delilah realized that Samson had finally

told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. "Come back one more time. He has told me everything." So the rulers returned. They brought the silver with them. Delilah got Samson to fall asleep on her lap. Then a man came and cut off his hair. Delilah then called out, "Samson! The Philistines are here to capture you!" Samson woke up and thought, "I'll go out just as I did before. I'll shake myself free." But he didn't know that the Lord had left him.

The Philistines captured him, gouged out his eyes, and took him to Gaza where he was bound with bronze chains and made to grind grain in the prison.

D. Samson's Death

Finally, let us read Judges 16:22-30.

One day, the rulers of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon because he had given their enemy Samson into their hands. About 3,000 men and women were present at the temple. After they had drunk a lot of wine, they shouted, "Bring Samson out. Let him put on a show for us." As Samson was brought out from the prison, they had him stand near the pillars that supported the temple. Samson, who was blind at that time, said to the boy who was leading his hands, "Place my hands against the two pillars. I want to rest against them."

As the people looked on and made fun of him, Samson prayed to the Lord saying, "O Lord, remember me again. Please strengthen me one more time so that the Philistines pay for what they did to my two eyes."

Then Samson pushed against the pillars with all his might. "Let me also die with the Philistines!" he prayed.

As Samson pushed, the temple crashed down upon the Philistine leaders and all the people who were in it. Samson was able to kill more people at the moment of his death than when he was alive.

In spite of Samson's mistakes and failures, God still heard and answered his final prayers. While in prison, Samson's hair began to grow again and God was willing to hear Samson's prayer of repentance and use him this final time by destroying the temple and its worshippers.

During his twenty years as a judge, Samson committed many wrongs, and yet, his name appears among all the other great characters that overcame different trials through faith (Heb 11:32). Indeed, in the last moments of his life, Samson trusted and relied on God.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation is given by the grace of God.

The salvation that we receive from God is a tremendous grace and blessing that we have to cherish. Our purpose in life is not to live like Samson, but to rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness, to serve and honor God, and to love the people around us.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

[You may use choose to use these questions for Activity #2, and use the activity as an opportunity to check for understanding.]

1. **What was Samson chosen to do from birth?** To be a judge and to save the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines.
2. **What rules did a Nazirite have to obey?** They could not drink wine or anything from the vine. They could not cut their hair. They could not go near dead bodies.
3. **What do each of these rules mean to us today?** We cannot indulge in worldly pleasures. We must suffer and sacrifice for the Lord. We need to avoid things that are unholy.
4. **What was the source of Samson's strength?** His life of holiness and keeping the Nazirite vow.
5. **Give some examples of Samson's strength.** He tore apart a lion with his bare hands. He killed 1,000 Philistines with a fresh donkey jawbone. He killed thirty men in one town.
6. **What caused Samson to lose his strength?** He broke the Nazirite vow. He told Delilah the source of his strength and she had someone cut his hair off.
7. **What did Samson do to bring the Philistine temple down?** He prayed to God for strength, and then he pushed against the pillars of the temple.
8. **How many people did Samson kill at his death?** Around 3,000 men and women.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False; the source of Samson's strength was God's abidance.
3. False; he was chosen to save the Israelites from the Philistines.
4. False; we must lead a holy life, because only then can we fulfill God's purpose for us.
5. D
6. C
7. They could not drink wine or anything from the vine. They could not cut their hair. They could not go near dead bodies.
8. We need to live a life of holiness, stay away from fleshly enjoyments and things that are unholy, and sacrifice for the Lord.
9. Answers may vary.



Life Application

10 Minutes

A TRUE NAZIRITE

The previous judges that ruled in Israel had armies fighting alongside them. Judges such as Gideon and Jephthah each had armies to fight against their enemies. Samson, on the other hand, didn't need an army. He was a one-man army. His physical strength was so great that, with only a donkey's jawbone, he could kill one thousand men alone. At the end of his life, when God gave Samson back his strength, he caused an entire temple to collapse, killing the Philistine leaders and the nearly 3,000 men and women gathered there.

Despite such physical strength, Samson was weak spiritually. He didn't realize that God could only work through him if he lived a clean and pure life. Sadly, Samson allowed sin and wicked people to come into his life so that he was defeated and died tragically.

Today, in order to be victorious over temptations, weaknesses, and our environment, we need to be a true Nazirite.

1. Do not drink wine: Don't indulge in pleasures

Biblical Example

Read Hebrews 11:24-26 and fill in the blanks.

"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward."

Moses grew up as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He gained the knowledge of the Egyptians and enjoyed great luxury and wealth. But when Moses saw the suffering of his own people, who were slaves, he would rather suffer with them than live in the great Egyptian palace.

Scenario

Emily liked to hang out with her classmate Sally. Sally was much trendier than she was and she learned about all the latest things from her. One day, Emily and Sally were browsing through their friend's pictures on Facebook. Sally told Emily that she had made friends with this boy who was very smart and funny. They spent a lot of time chatting and sending each other pictures. Emily wondered if she should also make more friends on Facebook.

- **Are there certain things that you especially like to do?**
- **How might some of our hobbies or pastimes influence our faith?**
- **"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom 12:2). What does it mean to "renew our mind"?**

As humans, we all need time to relax and do things that we enjoy. However, it is important to know how to spend our free time wisely. Some pastimes help develop certain skills and improve our bodies and minds. But other pastimes, though fun, can be harmful to our minds, faith, and relationships. If that is the case, we need to find better alternatives. Ask ourselves these questions the next time we do something in our free time:

- *How long am I spending on this each day? Is it taking time away from doing my homework or spending time with my family? Do I have time to read the Bible or pray?*
- *When I am away from it, do I think about this pastime constantly?*
- *Is this pastime helping me know God more or is it pulling me away from God?*
- *What kind of good virtues, skills, or knowledge am I developing?*
- *Does this pastime cause me to let the guard around my heart down?*

2. Do not draw near a corpse: Keep holy

Biblical Example

Read 1 Peter 2:9 and fill in the blanks.

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Scenario

Fred closed the door with a bang. He slumped his backpack down on the kitchen table. He was so annoyed. His teacher had blamed him for something that he didn't do, and he had to stay behind for detention. Fred hit the table with his fists and then swore out loud. He heard his friends at school swear every day. Fred had sworn in his mind or under his breath many times before, but this was the first time he swore aloud. It felt good for half a second, but then his conscience rebuked him and he felt horrible.

- How was Fred feeling?
- What other ways could Fred have expressed his emotions?

God gave us emotions to experience life and to relate to the people around us. But how we express these emotions can affect us, those whom we love, and our relationship with God. Fred had every right to feel indignant and frustrated. Nevertheless, Fred needed to deal with his emotions appropriately. The Bible tells us that "filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting" are not fitting for the people of God (Eph 5:4). Nor should we allow blessings and cursing to come out of the same mouth (Jas 3:10), as we have to give an account of everything we say to God.

Fred can use other ways to deal with his frustration. For example, he could write down his thoughts and emotions in a journal, create pictures or poems, take a fast walk or run, share his feelings with someone who cares, and of course, he could pray to the heavenly Father who understands.

- What are the things we need to avoid that would defile us or displease God?

Fred's habit of swearing did not just start on the day he had to stay behind for detention. He had picked up this habit from hearing his friends swear every day. Our mind is like a sponge, and unknowingly, we absorb the things we hear and see around us. Therefore, we need to separate ourselves from people and situations that may cause us to stray from God and do what is right. Things such as bad movies, games, books, and music, which can cause our hearts to be defiled, should be avoided.

- Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers (Eph 4:29). Why is it important for us to say words that edify ourselves and others?

3. Do not cut your hair: Suffer and sacrifice for the Lord

Biblical Example

Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 and fill in the blanks.

"From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches."

Apostle Paul was a man who came from a very unique and privileged background. A learned man, he was an expert in the Jewish laws. He had great ambitions and was greatly respected and feared in society. Paul was proud of who he was and what he had achieved. But when he came to know the Lord Jesus, Paul willingly gave up everything that was precious to him. For the sake of the gospel, he was willing to suffer shame and persecution.

Scenario

The Spiritual Convocation was coming up. During the Sabbath service, the pastor reminded everyone to preach to their family and friends. William decided to tell his friends at school about Jesus and invite them to church. During recess, William asked his friends if they believed in God, and he started to tell them about Jesus. Before he finished, his friends started to laugh at him. From then on, each time William approached them, they would say, "Oh, here comes the preacher!" William was hurt and wished that he had not opened his mouth in the first place.

- **How would you encourage William?**

Preaching to others is not easy. It takes a lot of courage and love and we might face rejection and mockery. People in the Bible faced the same thing, too. Noah preached for a hundred years and no one came to believe. Paul dedicated his life to the gospel, but he was greatly persecuted and he was called a "mad man." Our Lord Jesus spent three and half years telling people the Good News, but He was eventually crucified on the cross. When we meet with these kinds of responses, it is discouraging and hurting. But our Lord Jesus sees and understands because He experienced the same thing. When we preach, we are doing what is beautiful in God's sight, even if no one listens, and we will be blessed for our efforts. If we don't give up, we will one day see the fruits of our labor.

- **If God asked you to give up something that is precious to you, what would you give up?**
- **What are some examples of how you might suffer or sacrifice for God?**

You might give up a sports activity or a club meeting to attend Sabbath services. You can be the first person to say sorry because the Bible tells us to forgive and make peace with others.

- **Fill in the blanks. "If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified" (1 Pet 4:14).**

**Activity****Mold Me***10-15 Minutes***1. Samson, Delilah, and the Lion**

Objective: To remind students of Samson's strengths and weaknesses.

This game is based on the familiar game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors," but instead of using just the hands, it is a full-body activity where students will act out "Samson, Delilah, and the Lion." Most students will know how to play "Rock, Paper, Scissors." However, the teacher will need to give the full instructions if anyone is unfamiliar with the rules.

Say to students: We're going to play a game called "Samson, Delilah, and the Lion." This game is based on the familiar game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." But I want to show you a new way to play. Instead of using just our hands, we are going to use our entire bodies, and we're going to use it to tell part of the story of Samson.

It works like this: we will be divided into two teams. Each team will decide on whether they want to be Samson, Delilah, or the Lion.

- If you are Samson, you grunt and make a "muscle-man" pose like this. [Demonstrate the pose by flexing your muscles.]
- If you are Delilah, you pretend to stroke your long hair and say, "Oh, Samson." [Demonstrate.]
- If you are the Lion, you roar loudly, and show your fangs and your claws. [Demonstrate.]

Samson beats the Lion; the Lion beats Delilah, and Delilah beats Samson. Each team will start by standing some distance apart with their backs to each other.

On the count of three, each team will jump around to face the other and make both the sound and action for either Samson, Delilah or the Lion. The team that overcomes the other the most times out of a set number of times is the strongest.

2. Samson and Delilah Review Game

Objective: To review the contents of this lesson.

Preparations

Before class, prepare two sets of the same number of objects as questions. That is, if there are twelve questions, prepare two sets of twelve objects. The objects can be an assortment of things of varying size, such as balls, boxes, books, magazines, balloons, paper cups, and so on.

Instructions

1. Divide students into Team Samson and Team Delilah.
2. From Team Samson, select a volunteer to be Samson, and from Team Delilah, select a volunteer to be Delilah. Samson and Delilah will not answer questions, but hold objects.
3. Team Samson will be given 30 seconds to correctly answer as many questions as possible. For each correct answer, Samson will be given an object to hold. At the end of the 30 seconds, the teacher makes note of how many objects Samson has, and Samson sits down. Now it will be Team Delilah's turn.
4. If a team answers incorrectly, an object will be removed from that team's hands. Also, if an object falls down, it cannot be picked up.
5. The team whose representative (Samson or Delilah) is able to hold up the most objects, and is therefore the strongest, at the end of 30 seconds wins.

Review Questions

[Questions from the Check for Understanding section can be used. Additional questions can be found below. Feel free to come up with your own questions.]

1. What was the name of Samson's father? [Manoah.]
2. How long was Samson a judge in Israel? [20 years.]
3. How many times did Samson lie to Delilah about the source of his strength? [Three times.]
4. Which city did the first Philistine woman that Samson liked come from? [Timnah.]
5. What did Delilah do every day to find out Samson's secret? [She asked him again and again.]
6. What was Delilah's motivation for discovering Samson's secret? [Money.]
7. What three false things did Samson tell Delilah would weaken him? [Tying him up with new bowstrings, tying him up with new ropes, and weaving his hair on the loom.]
8. What did the Philistines do to Samson after they cut his hair? [They captured him, gouged out his eyes, and made him grind grain in prison.]
9. How was Samson's strength restored? [He repented, his hair grew again, and he prayed to God for strength.]

SAMSON, THE LAST JUDGE

A. Samson the Nazirite

Write down the rules of a Nazirite. What does each rule mean to us today?

Nazirite Rule	What does it mean to us today?

B. Samson's feats of strength

Look up the following Bible verses, and then describe Samson's feats of strength.

- a. Judges 14:5-6
- b. Judges 14:19
- c. Judges 15:3-7
- d. Judges 15:15

C. Samson loses his strength

What were Samson's weaknesses and mistakes?

- a. Judges 14:5-9
- b. Judges 14:1-3
- c. Judges 16:4-17
- d. Judges 16:18-21



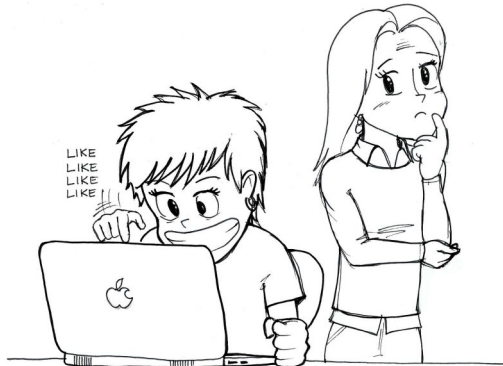
Today, in order to be victorious
over temptations, weaknesses,
and our environment,
we need to be a true Nazirite.

Biblical Example

Read Hebrews 11:24-25 and fill in the blanks.

"By faith Moses, when he became of age, _____ to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to _____ affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing _____ of _____."

**DO NOT
DRINK
WINE** *Don't
Indulge in
Pleasures*



Scenario

Emily liked to hang out with her classmate Sally. Sally was much trendier than she was and she learned about all the latest things from her. One day, Emily and Sally were browsing through their friend's pictures on Facebook. Sally told Emily that she had made friends with this boy who was very smart and funny. They spent a lot of time chatting and sending each other pictures. Emily wondered if she should also make more friends on Facebook.

- Are there certain things that you especially like to do?
- How might some of our hobbies or pastimes influence our faith?
- "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom 12:2). What does it mean to "renew our mind"?

Biblical Example

Read 1 Peter 2:9 and fill in the blanks.

"But you are a _____ generation, a royal priesthood, a _____ nation, His own _____ people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of _____ into His marvelous light."

DO NOT
DRAW NEAR
A CORSE
KEEP HOLY

**Scenario**

Fred closed the door with a bang. He slumped his backpack down on the kitchen table. He was so annoyed. His teacher had blamed him for something that he didn't do, and he had to stay behind for detention. Fred hit the table with his fists and then swore out loud. He heard his friends at school swear every day. Fred had sworn in his mind or under his breath many times before, but this was the first time he swore aloud. It felt good for half a second, but then his conscience rebuked him and he felt horrible.


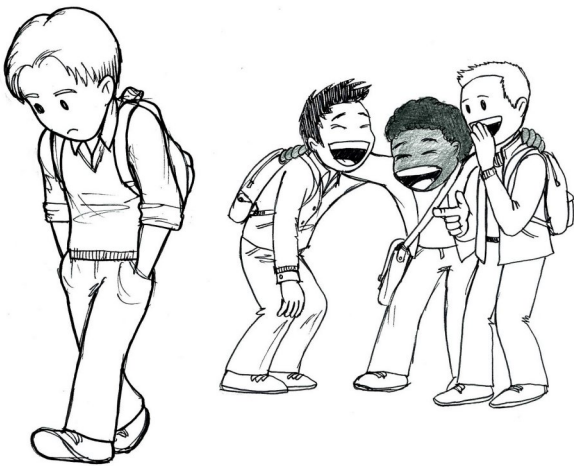
- How was Fred feeling?
- What other ways could Fred have expressed his emotions?
- What are the things we need to avoid that would defile us or displease God?
- "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Eph 4:29). Why is it important for us to say words that edify ourselves and others?

Biblical Example

Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 and fill in the blanks.

"From the Jews five times I received _____ stripes minus one. _____ times I was beaten with rods; _____ I was stoned; _____ times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the _____; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of _____, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in _____ and thirst, in _____ often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches."

**DO NOT
CUT HAIR**
SUFFER AND
SACRIFICE FOR THE
LORD


**Scenario**

The Spiritual Convocation was coming up. During the Sabbath service, the pastor reminded everyone to preach to their family and friends. William decided to tell his friends at school about Jesus and invite them to church. During recess, William asked his friends if they believed in God, and he started to tell them about Jesus. Before he finished, his friends started to laugh at him. From then on, each time William approached them, they would say, "Oh, here comes the preacher!" William was hurt and wished that he had not opened his mouth in the first place.

- How would you encourage William?
- If God asked you to give up something that is precious to you, what would you give up?
- What are some examples of how you might suffer or sacrifice for God?
- Fill in the blanks. "If you are _____ for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is _____" (1 Pet 4:14).

E2 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 4—Samson, the Last Judge

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Proverbs 13:20**)

True or False

1. Samson ruled over Israel as judge for 20 years. _____
2. The real source of Samson's strength was his long hair. _____
3. Samson was chosen from birth to be a judge to save the Israelites from the hands of the Amalekites. _____
4. God still used Samson even though he had many weaknesses and mistakes. This means that it is not necessary to lead a holy life because God could still use you. _____

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : What caused Samson's spirituality to weaken?
 - a. He broke the Nazirite vow one by one.
 - b. He married a Gentile woman.
 - c. He ate of the honey found in a dead lion.
 - d. All of the above.

6. _____ : When did Samson kill the most Philistines?
 - a. When he used the jawbone of a donkey.
 - b. When he played the trick with the foxes.
 - c. When he brought down the temple.

Short Answer

7. What rules did a Nazirite have to obey?

8. Today, how can we be strong and victorious in our faith?

9. What are some things you may change about yourself or your habits after learning about Samson?