

SAMSON AND DELÍLAH

Judges 16:4-21

MEMORY VERSE

JUDGES 16:17

“No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A yo-yo.

A timer, two small containers, one of which is filled with small toys or other small objects.

Several pipe cleaners, large wooden beads, masking tape and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Yo-Yo Demo

You will need a yo-yo. Demonstrate faithfulness using a yo-yo.

During your “yo-yo-ing” ask questions like, “When I throw the yo-yo down, what do I always want it to do?” (come back up); “What happens to my ‘yo-yo-ing’ when the yo-yo doesn’t come back up?” (I have to stop and start over); “How is this yo-yo coming back like being faithful to God?” (Does the right thing, does what you want it to.); “What are some ways that you can be faithful to God this week?” **Remain faithful to God!**

LESSON TIME!

It is sad to be remembered for what one might have been: to go through life and never live up to one's potential. Samson was a man called by God to be His instrument in delivering the children of Israel from the Philistine rule, yet he would never experience all God had intended for his life.

Samson was set apart for special service to God from birth. He had been called by God to be a Nazirite. A Nazirite vow—a vow of special separation and consecration to God—was usually temporary, but in Samson's case, it was for life (Judges 13:5). As a sign of his vow, no razor was ever to touch his head. His hair would keep growing all of his life.

Samson was given supernatural strength and performed great exploits for the Lord fighting against the rule of the Philistines. However, he did not take his calling and enabling seriously. He began to depend more and more on his own strength rather than on God's.

The Bible chronicles Samson's great feats and prefaces them with "the Spirit of the Lord came upon him" (14:6,19; 15:14). However, Samson, full of pride and spiritually weak, was about to make a foolish mistake.

JUDGES 16:4,5

Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

The passion Samson once had for the Lord was now superseded by the passion he had for a Philistine woman—a woman of the world. No longer in fellowship with God and pursuit of His will, Samson was in a dangerous position.

JUDGES 16:6-12

So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you."

And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them.

Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with."

So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.

Samson, foolish and weak, had put himself in a place where his enemy could tempt him. How foolish to have put himself in such a place by choosing to spend time with a Philistine woman, knowing the Philistines were enemies to God's people. As a man called by God to be the leader of the nation of Israel, Samson was aware of his great responsibility. Yet, we find Samson playing games with sin.

Consider Delilah. Her game was to try to find out Samson's strength. Her purpose was to do him harm, not good. Could there be anything more wicked than to betray someone who loves you by discovering a secret that would bring harm to him? For eleven hundred pieces of silver, she was willing to betray him to those by whom he was mortally hated. It's obvious she had no love in her heart for Samson—the man she had captivated.

When we are enticed and drawn to the things of this world, we open the door, for our enemy, Satan to trap us. Satan tries to deceive us into thinking that he has our best interest in mind—that what he offers is fun or good for us. In the end, the path Satan allures us to follow will lead to destruction. Delilah offered Samson pleasure that would last for a moment, but would destroy his life in the end. Giving into the temptation to sin may seem good at first but will always lead to misery and destruction.
Remain faithful to God!

JUDGES 16:13,14

Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom";

So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

Samson continues in his game with Delilah, not even thinking about his spiritual condition. Sin had overcome Samson's heart to the point that he slept in Delilah's presence without concern. Though Samson was a man called by God, he was not a godly man. He had given in to the temptation of sin. Though he could crush an army of a thousand, a deceiving young woman would be his ruin.

Sin is deceiving and blinding—Samson could not think clearly. Why did Samson stay with Delilah? Perhaps it was because he thought he was in love with her and that she was in love with him. Perhaps he thought "love" would overcome any possible deceit. That also turned out to be a lie. Perhaps Samson's foolishness and pride led him to believe he was so strong that Delilah could never hurt him. Unfortunately, Samson was relying on his own strength and his own wisdom.

Pass It Down

This is more of a demonstration than a game. Have a time trial to see how fast your class can "pass it down." Have them all stand in a row, shoulder to shoulder. Place a container at each end of the row, one should be full of small toys or other objects (perhaps, blocks), the other empty.

When you say “go,” the child on the end with the container filled with toys or other items should pick up one item at a time and pass it down to the next person and so on until all the items make it through the line and into the empty container on the other side. Time how long it takes for the children to do this. Allow them to do it a few times. They will probably get faster each time.

Afterward ask what happens when someone is not watching or paying attention. This is really just a fun game, but how can these things be like not being faithful to God? God has a path of obedience for each of us to follow, and it can affect other people when we do not do our part. We need to pay attention to God’s plan for our life and not make a mistake like Samson.

JUDGES 16:15-17

Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies."

And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death,

that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

Samson was deceived in a big way. Each time she tested Samson, she only hoped to discover how she might overcome him. Weary of Samson’s games, she forced him through her persistence to give her the truth.

Delilah would not give up and kept nagging Samson daily to find out the secret of his strength until Samson finally gave in (v. 16). Sometimes our enemy, Satan will keep coming at us with the same temptation. The Bible says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith,...”(1 Peter 5:8,9). And in James 4:7 we read, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”

Sadly, Delilah’s persistence paid off; Samson gave in to her request and revealed all that was in his heart. We should never allow anyone, no matter how attractive or persuasive, to talk us into doing wrong. **Remain faithful to God!**

Unfortunately for Samson, he thought his hair was his strength. The angel that foretold his birth said nothing of his great strength, but only that he should be a Nazirite, which would mean that no razor should come upon his head (Judges 13:5). His consecration (being set apart) to God was his strength, and it was in his obedience to the Lord that the Holy Spirit would work in him mightily.

JUDGES 16:18,19

When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.

Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

Delilah knew that Samson told her all that was in his heart. She was a deceitful woman with honey on her lips and poison in her heart. Cold and calculating, she had toyed with Samson, pretending to love him while hoping to receive money at his expense. Now she could deliver Samson up to the lords of the Philistines. Her wicked scheme accomplished, she began to torment him. Like Delilah, Satan is a liar and will tell us anything so that he can ultimately torment us with the results of sin. Do not listen to him!

Again, how could Samson be so foolish? You would think that he would have walked away from Delilah's deception. If he did not realize what was happening after the first and second experience, surely he should have understood the situation by the fourth time.

May we learn not to make foolish mistakes ourselves—not to be deceived by false promises or the allurements of the world's temporary pleasures. God desires that we remain in close fellowship with Him and pursue His wisdom and direction. His Holy Spirit will reveal the difference between deception and truth. God is able to keep us from falling. May we walk in obedience to God's will, knowing that He wants the best for us. **Remain faithful to God!**

JUDGES 16:20,21

And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

How sad! Samson's relationship with God had deteriorated so much that he did not even realize His presence had left him.

Samson, the mighty warrior, became a slave. Rather than kill him, the Philistines preferred to humiliate him by poking out his eyes and making him grind grain, a woman's job. He now had plenty of time to wonder if the charms of Delilah were worth spending the rest of his life in humiliation.

Blinded and weak, Samson would spend the rest of his short life in Gaza, the place where he had once demonstrated his great strength (16:1-3).

Although God did not completely abandon Samson (16:28-30), He allowed Samson's decision to stand, and the consequences of his decision followed naturally. Samson had taken his abilities as well as God's presence for granted. God offered him all he would ever need; yet he chose instead to put himself into Delilah's deceitful hands. As a result, he would not escape the consequences of his decision. Each of us choose to go God's way or our own way. If we choose to go our own way in disobedience to God, we must realize we will face the consequences of our choice. Sin leads to bondage, misery, and destruction. As Samson experienced, sin binds, blinds, and then grinds (destroys) our life.

Samson's life could have been different if he had only remained faithful to God. **Remain faithful to God!** Daily, we make choices to live our lives for our own selves or for God. A life lived for self will only lead to disappointment, misery, and destruction. With His strength and help, may we resist the temptation and trickery of the enemy. May we fulfill God's call on our life—living up to our potential and experiencing His blessings. We will find He is all we need.

Watch It Baby!

Give your class pipe cleaners and big beads.

Let each child make a person of his own out of the pipe cleaners and beads. They will look like little stick people, use the beads for the head, allowing the children to draw on eyes, nose, etc. Give each child a small piece of masking tape for a blindfold for his person.

Have them walk their people around the edge of the table, instructing them where to walk and what to watch out for so they don't fall off. What happens if the pipe cleaner person does not listen to his creator? Is listening and obeying considered faithfulness? What will happen if we do not listen to our Creator?

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be faithful to the Lord in all things. Pray that the Lord will help us all to take seriously His call upon our lives and the gifts that He has given us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.