



# Samson and the Gate

Lesson Aim: To know God makes us strong.

## THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

## THE WORD

Bible Story: Judges 13:5; 16:2-3

What He has done: God made Samson strong.

## THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "The Lord is my strength."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah, the Judge, Judges 4:4-5; 5:7	God gave the Israelites a judge named Deborah.	To know God gives us judges.
34	Gideon Goes to Battle, Judges 7:17-21	God gave Gideon and His people a victory.	To know we can trust God's plan.
35	Samson and the Gate, Judges 13:5; 16:2-3	God made Samson strong.	To know God makes us strong.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:8-18	God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship.	To know God gives us special friends who worship Him with us.
37	Samuel and Eli, 1 Samuel 3:1-10	God called Samuel.	To know we should listen to God.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 15:1-6. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for giving us strength. Use us in building the faith of Your children. Strengthen them to walk in Your ways and build Your kingdom. Amen."

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# THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a barbell, muscles, or other symbol of strength
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "The Lord is my strength."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "I Can Do Everything" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "It's Praise Time" "I Will Listen" "I Am with You" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" "I'm in the Lord's Army" "How Great Is Our God" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Cedarhurst Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 35
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Judges 13:5; 16:2-3	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Judges 16:3 Visual: Children flex their muscles
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Samson and the Gate	Lunch size paper bag, brown or black paper streamers or yarn, sturdy white paper, glue or glue stick, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Strong Samson	Gate (piece of poster board or cardboard 3 feet x 2 feet, optional: add a scalloped edge on top and draw wood boards)
		<b>Game:</b> Jesus Gives Me Strength	Soft ball for rolling
		<b>Snack:</b> Healthy Snack	Favorite healthy snack
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 7, Lesson 35 Color This Story: "Samson and the Gate"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Judges 13:5; 16:2-3	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> "God's Strength" Memory Pass	Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about children growing stronger or strong heroes.

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Lord is my strength

## THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a barbell, muscles, or any symbol of strength. **Let this sticker help you remember God makes you strong. Today's Whisper Verse is "The Lord is my strength."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

### **SIGN LANGUAGE: "The Lord is my strength."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>"(The) Lord"</b> | Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape diagonally across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash. |
| <b>"(is) my"</b>    | Point to self.   |
| <b>"strength."</b>  | Gently place fingertips of both hands on chest muscles just below the shoulders. Thrust both hands forward while making fists to indicate firmness and strength.     |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "The Lord is my strength," Exodus 15:2. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The King who watches over us

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



**It's Praise Time—that means it is time to praise our God who watches over us and gives us strength. The Bible says, "The Lord is my strength." That is our Whisper Verse today. Let's whisper it together.** Review Whisper Verse together: "The Lord is my strength." Include sign language.

**Let's sing about our God, who watches over us, as we give our offering.** Sing: "I Am with You" while collecting the offering.



**Long ago, our mighty God watched over a man named Samson. God made Samson very strong. Do you think Delbert and Lello have ever heard of Samson? Let's call them out here and see!** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 35.



**God gave Samson strength to lift and carry the big, heavy city gate! God is so great and strong that He can do everything.** Sing: "How Great Is Our God."

**God gives you strength to do all kinds of hard things and to get through all kinds of hard times.** Sing: "I Can Do Everything."



Samson and the gate

## THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;

Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be,

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear,

Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me.

Hug self, point to others and then self.

Last time, we learned Gideon and his army trusted God to help them win the battle. Today, we will hear how God made Samson strong. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Judges 16:3.

### **WATCH THE WORD: JUDGES 13:5; 16:2-3**

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, invite children to flex their muscles as a symbol of strength. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- There once was a boy named Samson.
- God made him very strong.
- God told Samson's mother,
- "Let Samson's hair grow long."
  
- He grew up to lead God's people.
- He was found by the enemy.
- They locked him behind the city gate,
- One night when he fell asleep.
  
- Samson woke in the middle of the night.
- He tore loose that huge city gate.
- He put the pieces upon his shoulders,
- And carried them all away!



**What did Samson do to the gate?** (Picked it up and carried it up the hill.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Judges 16:3 from the teacher's Bible.

**Who made Samson strong?** (The Lord.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "The Lord is my strength."** Include sign language or hand motions. **Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names.**



God gives us strength

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: SAMSON AND THE GATE**

**Purpose:** To remind the children of the story of Samson and the Gate.

**Supplies:** Lunch size paper bag, brown or black paper streamers or yarn, sturdy white paper, glue or glue stick, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** From sturdy white paper, cut a 4-inch circle and a 4-inch square. On the 4-inch square, draw a gate and print: **“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13.** Cut ½-inch slits for arms on each side of the middle of the bag. Cut two 5-inch paper streamers.

**Optional:** Use wiggle eyes. Cut a jagged edge on top of a 3" x 5" index card to make the gate. Use yarn for hair or draw on hair.

#### **Directions:**

1. Draw a face on the 4-inch circle for Samson.
2. Add two paper streamers to the circle for Samson's long hair.
3. Turn the paper bag upside-down so the folded, bottom section becomes the top.
4. Glue Samson's head to the bottom section of the bag.
5. Color the gate.
6. Glue the gate on the front of the paper bag.
7. Show children how to put their thumb and pinky through the two side slits as Samson's strong arms holding the gate. (Make a letter "Y" shape with their pinky and thumb while the remaining three fingers rest on the inside flap of the bag to make the head move.)
8. Optional: Draw or color hair down the back of the bag to show Samson had very long hair.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **God promised Samson's mother He would make him strong.**
- **Samson picked up the huge, heavy gate. Use your fingers as Samson's arms. Show how Samson carried the heavy gate.** Children put thumb and pinky through the holes in the bag and pretend to carry the gate.
- **Samson was very strong. Who made Samson strong? (God.)**
- **Who makes you strong? (God.)**
- **Our Bible Memory Verse tells us God makes you strong. Our Bible Memory Verse is written on our gates. Let's try to say it together!** Have children repeat each phrase of the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse after you.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: STRONG SAMSON**

**Purpose:** Children remember the story of "Samson and the Gate" by acting it out.

**Supplies:** Gate (piece of poster board or cardboard 3 feet x 2 feet, optional: add a scalloped edge on top and draw wood boards)

**God made Samson strong. Let's each take a turn being Samson and lifting the heavy city gate.**

### **Directions:**

1. Assign roles: Samson, two gate holders, three enemies. The remaining children are God's people.
2. The gate holders each grasp one side of the gate. Samson lies down to sleep on one side of the gate and the enemies sit on other side. God's people stand together on a faraway "hill."
3. The enemies point to Samson and whisper, "**Samson is here! Samson is here!**"
4. The enemies pretend to lock the city gate and then hide until Samson wakes up.
5. Samson wakes up and says, "**The Lord is my strength.**" Include sign language.
6. Samson picks up the gate and carries it to God's people on the hill.
7. Samson and God's people shout: "**The Lord is my strength!**" Include sign language.
8. Play again until each child has played the part of Samson.

## **GAME: JESUS GIVES ME STRENGTH!**

**Purpose:** Children will realize Jesus gives them strength.

**Supplies:** Soft ball for rolling

**The Bible says, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. Child holds ball and names an activity that is hard for him or her to do. For example: tying a shoe, riding a bike, sharing toys, counting, reading, or swimming.
4. Together, everyone says to the child with the ball, "**Jesus can give you strength to child's activity.**"
5. Child rolls the ball to another child.
6. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: HEALTHY SNACK**

**Purpose:** Children will enjoy a healthy snack to remind them of one way God gives us strength.

**Snack Suggestion:** Favorite healthy snack

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**  
**Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Let's eat a healthy snack. God gives us healthy food to make us strong.**
  - **How do you know you are growing?** (Getting taller and stronger.)
  - **Let's see the arm muscles God gave you.** Children flex arm muscles.
  - **What can you do now that you could not do when you were younger?** (Children respond.)
  - **Who makes you strong?** (God.)
  - **That's what our Whisper Verse is all about! Let's say it together.** Children say and sign motions to Whisper Verse: "The Lord is my strength."



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Samson and the Gate" craft. Tell someone how God made Samson so strong that he lifted the city gate!

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God makes you strong.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Samson and the Gate." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Can Do Everything" as children color.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SAY & DO: JUDGES 13:5; 16:2-3**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **There once was a boy named Samson.** (Raise index finger.)
- **God made him very strong.** (Make fists to flex arm muscles.)
- **God told Samson's mother,** (Point to heaven.)
- **"Let Samson's hair grow long."** (Point to hair.)
  
- **He grew up to lead God's people.** (Place hands on hips.)
- **He was found by the enemy.** (Use hands as binoculars.)
- **They locked him behind the city gate,** (Lock imaginary gate.)
- **One night when he fell asleep.** (Rest head on folded hands as if sleeping.)
  
- **Samson woke in the middle of the night.** (Stretch arms as if waking.)
- **He tore loose that huge city gate.** (Shake imaginary doors.)
- **He put the pieces upon his shoulders,** (Pretend to lift heavy doors.)
- **And carried them all away!** (Pretend to carry doors while walking in place.)

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

### **GAME: "GOD'S STRENGTH" MEMORY PASS**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Bible open to Philippians 4:13, wood block or small toy

**Teacher Tip:** If there are more than 10 children, begin each new round with the child who finished the last round to make sure each child has a turn holding and passing the block. For very large groups, divide into two circles that play simultaneously.

**Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Now, let's take turns saying it one word at a time until we've said the whole verse.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Give the wood block to the first child.
3. Teacher says, "**I**." As the children repeat the word, "**I**," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
4. Teacher says, "**can**." As the children repeat the word, "**can**," the child holding the wood block passes it to the next child in the circle.
5. Continue passing the block until the children have repeated the entire verse.
6. Play again. Each time you play, try to pass the block and say the Bible Memory Verse faster.



## STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about children growing stronger or strong heroes.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 7, Lesson 35: Samson and the Gate

**PONDER!** Read Judges 13:5; 16:2-3 with your family to hear how God made Samson strong. What did God promise Samson's mother? Who made Samson strong? Who makes you strong? How have you grown stronger as you have gotten older?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for helping me grow up and be stronger. Please give me strength to do things Your way and to build Your kingdom. Amen."

**PLAY!** As a family, brainstorm ways you can use your muscles together to help someone else. Here are a few ideas: help a neighbor care for his or her yard, clean someone's room, or help your parent carry groceries. Be sure to tell the person you help God gave you the strength to help them!

**Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:13

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."