



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

Challenge Verse for older children:

"I lift up my eyes to the hills--where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." "The Lord will watch over your coming and going now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Gideon Goes to Battle: Part 1, Judges 7:17-21	God gave the Israelites a judge named Gideon.	To know God gives us people to lead us.
34	Gideon Goes to Battle: Part 2, 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: Part 1, 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	Ruth and Naomi: Part 2, Ruth 1:8-18	God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship.	To know we can worship and listen to God with our friends.

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	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		Treasure Chest	Stamp or sticker of a barbell, muscles, or other symbol of strength
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "The Lord is my strength."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Can Do Everything" or "I Lift Up My Eyes" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time" "I Will Listen" "I Am with You" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" "I'm in the Lord's Army" "How Great Is Our God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Kings & Kingdoms Lesson 35 Delbert & Lello or King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Judges 13:5; 16:2, 3	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Judges 16:3 Visual: Children flex their muscles Flannel board/figures: Samson, large city gate
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: 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
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Healthy Snack	Favorite healthy snack
		Unit 7 Games: Sand Search	Bin of clean sand, penlight, toy horn, toy heart, eyeglasses
		Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down	None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets
		"Jesus Gives Me Strength" Ball Roll	Soft ball for rolling
		Scenes from King City Chronicles (older children only)	King City Chronicles scripts for Lessons 34-36, optional: capes, eye masks, or sunglasses
		Blanket Ball	Blanket or sturdy tablecloth, ball, or balloon
		Musical Chairs	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Can Do Everything" or "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player, chairs
	Act it Out	Bible Times clothing or stick puppets of: Gideon, torch, trumpet, Samson, Ruth, Naomi	
Final 5	Final Five	Access Daily Way: Unit 7, Lesson 35 Color This Story: "Samson and the Gate"	

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Lord is my strength

THE WELCOME

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.

Open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure. Child unlocks 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.)

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

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| "(The) Lord" | 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. |
| "(is) my" | Point to self. |
| "strength." | 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group setting with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in songs by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.



It's Praise Time—that means it is time to praise our God who watches over us. He 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."

* May substitute [Lesson 35 King City Chronicles script or storybook](#).



Samson and the gate

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

Last time, we learned Gideon and his army trusted God to help them win the battle against their enemy. 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. Have children assist by placing Bible story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

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...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

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 drink. Wait to serve the snack.
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."

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

UNIT 7 GAME OPTIONS

Choose one or more of the activities below. Play until the final five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > **SNACK** > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the Bible stories or the Unit 7 Worship Attribute: The King Who Watches Over Us.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, penlight, toy horn, toy heart, eyeglasses

Prepare: Place all items beneath the surface of the sand.

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all objects have been located, display them together on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 7 Bible stories. The penlight reminds us of the torches Gideon used to win the battle. The horn reminds us that Gideon's army blew their trumpets. The heart reminds us that God gives us friends who we can worship with as He did with Ruth and Naomi. The eyeglasses remind us that God is watching over us.

GAME: THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

Purpose: This nonverbal true-false game helps children master the Bible story or Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets

Directions:

1. Teacher or puppet retells today's Bible story or Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase to say "Thumbs up or thumbs down?"
2. If retelling the Bible study, read it in phrases. For some phrases, state accurate story facts. For other phrases, replace story facts with silly facts. For example, say, "**Gideon told the army to blow their trumpets. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" (Children respond with thumbs up.) "**Gideon told the army to blow their whistles. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" (Children respond with thumbs down.)
3. If reviewing the Bible Memory Verse, read it in phrases. For some phrases, read it correctly. For other phrases, replace a word with a word that makes no sense. For example, say, "**I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" (Children respond with thumbs up.) "**I can do everything through Samson who gives me strength. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" (Children respond with thumbs down.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: "JESUS GIVE ME STRENGTH" BALL ROLL

Purpose: Children will realize that Jesus gives them strength.

Supplies: Soft ball for rolling

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

Directions:

1. Have children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. The child holds the ball and says an activity that is hard for that child to do. (Tying a shoe, riding a bike, sharing toys, counting, reading, swimming, etc.)
4. All say together to child with ball, "**Jesus can give you strength to child's activity.**"
5. Child rolls ball to another child. Continue playing until all children have had a turn.

GAME: SCENES FROM KING CITY CHRONICLES

Purpose: To learn applications to the Unit 7 Bible stories, older children may act out today's King City Chronicles script.

Supplies: King City Chronicles scripts for Lessons 34, 35, and 36, optional: capes, eye masks or sunglasses

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's Bible story.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise with the script so all children can be their favorite character, a new character, or children may just take turns being the same character.
3. Improvise with costumes and act it out!

GAME: BLANKET BALL

Purpose: Children catch a ball in a blanket to remember God watches over us.

Supplies: Blanket or sturdy tablecloth, ball or balloon

In this game, we will remind each other that God watches over us. Let's lift the blanket and toss the ball in the air. When the ball lands in the blanket, together we will tell each other, "God watches over you!"

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
2. Place a ball or balloon in the center of the blanket.
3. Together, the children quickly raise the blanket to toss the ball or balloon into the air.
4. As the ball lands, lead children in saying, "God watches over you."
5. Play several times.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Can Do Everything" or "I Lift Up My Eyes", CD player, chair for each child

Prepare: Set chairs back-to-back in a row. Place CD in player.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed; all children remain in the game. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.

Directions:

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing the song.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

GAME: ACT IT OUT

Purpose: To help learn the Unit 7 stories, children act them out in costumes or with stick puppets.

Supplies: Bible Times clothing or pictures of the following characters attached to craft sticks: Gideon, torch, trumpet, Samson, Ruth, Naomi

Directions: With each phrase, teacher says phrase and acts it out with hand motions, then repeats same phrase and motions with children. Optional: Children can wear costumes and act it out or children can hold craft sticks with characters. You may choose one or more stories.

GIDEON GOES TO BATTLE

- **One day, the Lord told Gideon,** (Point to heaven.)
- **"My army you shall lead.** (Salute as a soldier.)
- **Stand them in a circle 'round the enemy.** (Stand up straight as a soldier.)
- **And I'll give you the victory."** (Grasp and shake own hands high in victory.)

- **So Gideon gave everyone a trumpet,** (Raise imaginary trumpet in right hand.)
- **And a jar with a light inside.** (Hold imaginary jar in left hand.)
- **He said, "Watch me. Do what I do.** (Point to self.)
- **And shout the battle cry!"** (Cup hands around mouth as if shouting.)

- **They blew their trumpets and broke their jars,** (Blow imaginary trumpet.)
- **And held their lights up high.** (Raise left fist high as a torch.)
- **The Lord gave Gideon the victory,** (Grasp and shake own hands high in victory.)
- **And the enemy ran away and cried.** (Cover face as if weeping.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

(GAME: ACT IT OUT continued)

SAMSON AND THE GATE

- **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.)

RUTH AND NAOMI

- **Ruth grew up in Moab.** (Point far away.)
- **Naomi came from Bethlehem.** (Point in opposite direction.)
- **Naomi missed her home and family.** (Make a sad face.)
- **Naomi and Ruth were friends.** (Place hands on heart.)

- **When Naomi went back to Bethlehem,** (Walk in place.)
- **Ruth wouldn't let her go alone.** (Shake head "no.")
- **"Your people will be my people."** (Point to others and then to self.)
- **Ruth said, "Where you go, I go."** (Hold hands and walk in place.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

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

ACCESS VERSION OF THE DAILY WAY: Distribute Access Ministries version of the Daily Way, if available. Show the Daily Way to your family. Talk about how God makes you strong.

COLOR THIS STORY: "Samson and the Gate." Discuss today's Bible story and play Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse song "I Can Do Everything" or "I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills" as children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now, it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

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."

Unit 7 Bible Memory Challenge Verse: Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

"I lift up my eyes to the hills--where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

"The Lord will watch over your coming and going now and forevermore."