



Samson Receives Strength From God

Judges 15:9-16; 16:4-30




Five- and six-year-olds are growing stronger and developing new skills daily. They enjoy showing off and testing these skills! Applaud each milestone—celebrate shoe-tying and rejoice in riding a bike without training wheels! Teach your children that each accomplishment is a gift from God. Pray with your children, thanking God for their special gifts as they grow with him each day.



► **Bible Point**
God gives good gifts.

Key Verse
“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God” (Isaiah 41:10).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will remember that God gives them gifts to serve others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Always With Us Use cards and a game to find out when God is with us.	Bible, shoe box, wrapping paper, tape, scissors Teacher Pack: “God Is Always With Us” cards 	Gift-wrap a shoe box. Cut a slit in the lid large enough for the “God Is Always With Us” cards in the Teacher Pack to fit through.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo’s News Find out what a hand weight has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, hand weight Teacher Pack: CD	Place the hand weight in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.
	Bible Time Open gift bags to find out more about Samson’s story.	Bible, 4 gift bags, marker, 1 string licorice per child, play money, safety scissors, 12-inch strand of brown or black yarn per child, glue Teacher Pack: Paper Heart, “Samson” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)  	On the head of Samson, glue at least one strand of 12-inch brown or black yarn per child. Allow the yarn to hang below the edge of the poster. Number four brightly colored gift bags. Place the following items in the bags: Gift Bag 1: string licorice, Gift Bag 2: the Paper Heart, Gift Bag 3: play money, Gift Bag 4: safety scissors.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: My Special Gift Draw a picture of themselves using a gift that makes God happy.</p>	My Bible Playground, gel pens, 1 gift bow per child	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p>Center 2: Good 'n' Plenty Gifts Make cereal necklaces as they compliment each other.</p>	yarn, scissors, large fruit-flavored cereal rings, a large bowl	
	<p>Center 3: Gifts Made for Sharing Work together to draw and assemble a puzzle.</p>	large piece of poster board, scissors, markers	Cut up a large piece of poster board into six to eight puzzle pieces of various shapes and sizes, one per child.
	<p>Center 4: "Giving" Mobile Make a mobile as a reminder of God's good gifts.</p>	1 pot pie pan or small paper plate per child, 4 different colored sheets of construction paper per child, yarn, paper punch, magazines, glue, 1 pair of safety scissors per child, yarn needle	Prepare a pot pie tin (or paper plate) for each child by using a yarn needle to poke a piece of yarn down through the center and then back up, to tie a loop for hanging. Then punch four holes around the outside edge of each tin with a paper punch. Cut four 12-inch pieces of yarn and four 3-inch squares of any color construction paper for each child.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p>"Good Gift" Prayer Thank God for a gift, and sing a song of thanks.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "All Here Today"
(track 6); "Love and
Pray" (Matthew 5:44)
(track 4)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "All Here Today" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "I Have the Joy" and lead children in doing the motions.

 **We've got our friends, pals, buddies, chummies** (*have children pat each other's backs*)

All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the left*)

All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the right*)

All here today! (*have children pat each other's backs*)

We've got our friends, pals, buddies, chummies

All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the left and then look to the right*)

All here to learn and play! (*have children clap to the beat*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS to us. Let's sing "Love and Pray" (Matthew 5:44) to praise God who loves us and is always with us.**

Begin the CD again, and lead children in singing "Love and Pray" (Matthew 5:44) (track 4 on the CD). Encourage children to join you in repeating the verses.



And he says,

Love, love, love your enemies.

Love, love, love your enemies.

Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

(Repeat.)

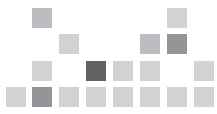
This love is surprising.

This love is unique.

This love comes from Jesus.

Let us hear him speak.





And he says,
Love, love, love your enemies.
Love, love, love your enemies.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

This love is surprising.
This love is unique.
This love comes from Jesus.
Let us hear him speak.

And he says,
Love, love, love your enemies.
Love, love, love your enemies.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

Love, love, love your enemies.
Love, love, love your enemies.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.
Pray, pray, pray for those who persecute you.

“Love and Pray” (Matthew 5:44) by Rob Biagi. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Always With Us

What You'll Do

Take out the “God Is Always With Us” cards from the Teacher Pack, and separate them and place them face down in a pile in front of you.

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Isaiah 41:10, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.” This means that we should not fear, because God is with us. Let’s say our verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted Key Verse: **“Do not fear; God is with you.”**

Ask:

- Can you tell me about a time you were scared or worried about something?

Always With Us Supplies

Bible
shoe box
wrapping paper
tape
scissors

Teacher Pack
“God Is Always With Us”
cards

Always With Us Easy Prep

Gift-wrap a shoe box.
Cut a slit in the lid large
enough for the “God Is
Always With Us” cards
in the Teacher Pack to
fit through.





Say: **The Bible tells us that no matter where we are or what is going on in our lives, God is with us and taking care of us. So we don't have to be afraid; we can trust God to help us. I've placed a pile of cards in front of me. Together with a partner, I'd like you to choose a card and act out the situation drawn on the card. The rest of us will try to guess the situation on the card. Remember that in each of these situations, God is with us.**

Choose partners for the kids. If you have an uneven number of kids, be a partner yourself. Give children ideas about how to act out the gifts. For example, a pair who chooses the running card could jog in place, or children who choose the ladder card could mime climbing a ladder. There are 10 cards. If you have more than 20 kids, you can either reshuffle the cards to use again, or have the kids form groups of three instead of two. After the class has guessed all of the situations, collect the cards and place them in a pile in front of you.

Say: **Our Key Verse tells us not to fear, because God is with us. No matter where you are or what you are doing, God is with you and taking care of you. You can pray to God or sing to him when you feel alone or scared. He loves you and will always listen to you and give you strength in those situations. Let's say "thank you" to God for being with us all the time.**

Hold up the cards, one at a time, and show the kids. Have them thank God for being with them in each particular situation shown. Then place each card in the gift-wrapped shoe box. Help kids come up with their own examples of times God is with them.

Say: **Every day you are in new places and new situations. Our Key Verse today says that God is with us during those times and all the time. This is one of God's gifts to us! He loves us and is always with us.** Hold up the gift box. **We can pray to God and talk to him, and he will always listen to us and take care of us. In today's story we will see how God was always with a man named Samson.**

Theo's News Supplies

CD player
Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
hand weight
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the hand weight in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo found for us today.





(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the hand weight around the circle so the rest of the class can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide an exercise weight in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, there's a man in the story who was very, very strong.

Teacher: Kids, what are weights used for?

(Pause for kids to tell you what they know about weights and exercise.)

Theo: People exercise with weights to make themselves strong. In today's Bible story, a man named Samson didn't need to use a weight like this to become big and strong—God just made him that way!

Teacher: Let's see how Samson used his gift of strength to serve others.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Judges 15, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you. Then set the four gift bags in front of you, and tell kids that you'll be using the bags to tell the Bible story. Hold up the "Samson" poster as you begin the story.

A long time ago, there was a man named Samson. Samson had very long hair. God gave Samson a special gift of strength! Show me how you can make big muscles! Have children stand up and show their strong muscles. **The Philistines were mean people who didn't like Samson and wanted to put him in prison! Samson's people, the people of Judah, were afraid of the Philistines, so they went to find Samson.** Lead children in marching in place and looking around.

When the people of Judah found Samson they said, "Samson! What have you done to us?" Have children repeat, "Samson, what have you done to us?" **The people of Judah were afraid Samson was going to get them all in trouble, so they took Samson to the Philistines so they would all be safe.** Set aside the "Samson" poster for use later in the story.

Choose a child to open Gift Bag 1 and hold up the string licorice.

Say: **The people of Judah tied Samson up and led him to the Philistines.** Help the children loop the licorice around their wrists so everyone is connected. Loop the licorice around your wrists last. **The Philistines came running and shouting.** Lead kids in stomping their feet and shouting while their wrists are still connected with licorice.



Bible Time Supplies

- Bible
- 4 gift bags
- marker
- 1 string licorice per child
- play money
- safety scissors
- 12-inch strand of brown or black yarn per child
- glue

Teacher Pack

- Paper Heart
- "Samson" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

ALLERGY ALERT

Bible Time Easy Prep

On the head of Samson, glue at least one strand of 12-inch brown or black yarn per child. Allow the yarn to hang below the edge of the poster. Number four brightly colored gift bags. Place the following items in the bags: Gift Bag 1: string licorice, Gift Bag 2: the Paper Heart, Gift Bag 3: play money, Gift Bag 4: safety scissors.





Say: **But ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS, and he gave Samson a burst of strength to break the ropes!** Have kids take the licorice off their wrists. Let the kids eat the licorice as they experience the rest of the story. **Samson was so strong, he picked up the bone of a donkey and struck down 1,000 men!**

Later on, Samson fell in love.

Choose another child to open Gift Bag 2 and hold up the Paper Heart. Have children place their hands on their hearts and say “Ahh.”

Say: **But the girl, Delilah, only wanted to trick Samson.** Lead children in “booing.” **The mean Philistine rulers wanted Delilah to find out why Samson was so strong. If Delilah found out, they’d give her something.**

Choose another child to open Gift Bag 3 and hold up the play money. Have the children rub their fingers together and say “Gimme money! Gimme money!”

Say: **Money! So, Delilah nagged and nagged at poor Samson to share his secret. One day, Samson shouted, “Enough!”** Lead children in shouting “Enough!” **Samson told Delilah that if someone cut his hair, he’d lose his strength.** Lead children in fluffing their own hair.

One night, Samson fell asleep. Have everyone snore. Then whisper, “Guess what happened?”

Choose another child to open Gift Bag 4 and hold up the safety scissors. Show kids the “Samson” poster.

Say: **Snip! The Philistines cut off all Samson’s hair.** Give each child a turn to take the safety scissors and cut off one strand of the long yarn. When they have finished, cut off any remaining strands of yarn. **Samson lost his strength, and his enemies took him to prison.** Have children stand in a straight line in front of you. Have each child hold onto the waist or shoulders of the person in front of him or her. Hold the hands of the first person in line and lead the line of children to “prison.” **While Samson was in prison, the Philistines wanted Samson to entertain them in a large place.**

Let me show you what happened! Have the children create a wall by standing side by side in a straight line. Have kids move far enough apart in the middle of the “wall” to leave a doorway. **Samson was brought in, and he stood between two large posts. He prayed for God to give him the gift of being strong again! He wanted to use his gift to serve others.** Stand in the “doorway.” **Samson put one arm on each post, and he pushed with all his might!** Gently nudge the children on either side of you, and lead them in crumbling to the ground. **The walls crumbled, and the whole building fell on top of the enemies!** Have kids sit in a circle.

Samson used his gift of strength to conquer the mean Philistines. Just like he gave good gifts to Samson, ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS to you so you can serve others.





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was the gift God gave Samson?
- How do you think Samson felt when he lost his strength?
- What would you do if you were strong like Samson?

Say: **God gave Samson the gift of strength so that he could conquer the Philistines and show how powerful God is. God gives each of us good gifts so that we can serve others, too.**



4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

My Special Gift

What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 2 My Bible Playground student pages. Set out gel pens and gift bows.

Say: **God gives everyone special gifts that they can use to serve others. Look at the different gifts around the page and think about what your gifts might be. Then, in the blank gift package, draw yourself using that gift in a way that makes God happy. For example, you could draw a picture of yourself patting the back of a friend who is crying, or you could draw a picture of yourself singing a song for your grandparents.**

Help children write their names on the gift-tag portion of their pages. When children finish, have them each place a gift bow onto the drawing to remind them that **▶ GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What good gift do you think God has given you?
- How can you use that gift to serve others?

Center 1: My Special Gift Supplies

My Bible Playground
gel pens
1 gift bow per child

Center 1: My Special Gift Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
2 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Center 2: Good 'n' Plenty Gifts Supplies

yarn
scissors
large fruit-flavored
cereal rings
a large bowl



Center 3: Gifts Made for Sharing Supplies

large piece of poster
board
scissors
markers

Center 3: Gifts Made for Sharing Easy Prep

Cut up a large piece of
poster board into six
to eight puzzle pieces
of various shapes and
sizes, one per child.

Say: ► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS** so we can serve others. Remember to thank God for all the gifts he's given you!

■ CENTER 2:

Good 'n' Plenty Gifts

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children wash their hands (or use wet wipes) and then sit in a circle. Give each child a two-foot length of yarn. Fill a large bowl with large fruit-flavored cereal rings. Tell kids that we serve others when we say nice things to them. Have kids work in pairs and take turns saying nice things about their partners, such as "You tell funny jokes" or "You have a great smile." As each child receives a compliment, have him or her "thread" a cereal ring onto his or her piece of yarn. Continue with the compliments until everyone has lots of rings on their yarn pieces. Help children tie their yarn pieces around their necks to make necklaces.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did it feel to say nice things about your friends?
- How did it feel to have your friends tell you nice things?
- How can you serve others by saying nice things to them?

Say: **We can serve others by telling each other nice things. Nice words are sweet, like the cereal on our necklaces. Our words are also powerful like Samson. Words can either hurt people or make them feel better. So let's remember to serve others by telling each other nice things.**

■ CENTER 3:

Gifts Made for Sharing

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a puzzle piece and several washable markers. Ask the children to think about one of their gifts from God and draw a picture on their puzzle piece of themselves doing the action. For example, they could draw a picture of themselves playing nicely with friends. Or they could draw a picture of themselves waving to new neighbors. When kids finish, have them work together to assemble the giant puzzle. Then have the children look at the completed puzzle and see how all their good gifts fit together perfectly to serve others.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think God gave each of us different gifts?
- How can you work together with a friend to serve others?

Say: **God gives each of us good gifts, just like he gave Samson a good gift. When we all work together to use our gifts, we can be powerful like Samson! We can work together to make puzzles or sing songs or welcome new friends. When we serve others together, just think what we can do for God!**

■ CENTER 4:

“Giving” Mobile

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Samson received a special gift from God; he received the gift of great strength. ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS. He’s given all of you gifts, too. Let’s look through magazines and find some good gifts that God has given to us.**

Have the children look through magazines and cut out four pictures that represent good gifts that God gives them such as homes, food, parents, friends, and church. (Younger children may need assistance.) Then have the children each glue a picture of one “good gift” to a square of construction paper. Punch a hole in the upper part of the square, and tie a piece of yarn to it. Help kids tie the other end of the yarn to one of the holes you punched in the outside edge of the pie tins (or plates). Do this with the other three pictures as well. Tie the squares at different lengths to make each mobile more interesting. As the children work, talk about the many good gifts God gives them.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some of the gifts God has given you?
- How can you say “thank you” for the good gifts God has given you?

Say: **► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS because he loves us. Samson used his good gift to serve God; we should also use our gifts to serve God and other people. Take your mobiles home with you to remind you of the good gifts God has given you.**



Center 4: “Giving” Mobile Supplies

- 1 pot pie pan or small paper plate per child
- 4 different colored sheets of construction paper per child
- yarn
- paper punch
- magazines
- glue
- 1 pair of safety scissors per child
- yarn needle

Center 4: “Giving” Mobile Easy Prep

Prepare a pot pie tin (or paper plate) for each child by using a yarn needle to poke a piece of yarn down through the center and then back up, to tie a loop for hanging. Then punch four holes around the outside edge of each tin with a paper punch. Cut four 12-inch pieces of yarn and four 3-inch squares of any color construction paper for each child.





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

“Good Gift” Prayer Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “Good Gifts” (track
12)

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.** I’d like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to think about how God gives good gifts.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Flex your muscles for a friend and tell him or her how God gave Samson a gift to serve others. God wants you to serve others with his good gifts, too.**
2. **Serve others by telling them nice things. Say one nice thing to a friend or family member each day.**
3. **Serve a couple of friends by helping them pick up their toys.**

Say: **If you want to flex your muscles, circle choice number 1. If you want to serve others, circle choice number 2. If you want to pick up toys, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“Good Gift” Prayer

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Pause at the appropriate spot in this prayer and have each child show “muscles” and say one strength or gift God has given him or her.

Dear God,

You are so good!

Thanks for the good gifts you give us. *(Have children each show muscles and thank God for one of their gifts.)*

Help us use these gifts to serve others!

In Jesus’ name, amen.





Close by singing “Good Gifts” (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad.” Encourage the kids to join you in repeating the verses.

🎵 **God’s been givin’ good gifts to us,** *(stretch your hands in front of you)*
We’ve sure come a long way! *(march in place)*
God’s been givin’ good gifts to us, *(stretch your hands in front of you)*
We can do more every day. *(march in place)*
Can’t ya see how big we’re growin’; *(squat down and jump up)*
We’re doing much more than before. *(march in place)*
God is helpin’ us grow stronger *(make muscles)*
So we can serve him more! *(march in place)*
(Repeat 2x.)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.



