




Samson Receives Strength From God

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

As babies' and toddlers' gross motor skills develop, they begin to feel more powerful. No longer content to "bloom where they're planted," toddlers delight in exploring the world on their own. Use this lesson to help babies and toddlers credit their newly acquired skills to the loving God who gave them good gifts, including physical strength. Your guidance will lay the foundation for a lifetime of gratitude and service.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Make a Muscle Hear the story of Samson, and touch his bulging muscles.	cereal box, glue, scissors, tennis ball Teacher Pack: "Mighty Samson" teaching picture 	Glue the "Mighty Samson" teaching picture onto an empty cereal box, cutting away the area indicated by cut lines. Insert a tennis ball into the empty area to replace Samson's muscle.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Strong Samson, Strong Hear an action rhyme, and move their "mighty muscles."		
	Mirror-acious Gift Look into a gift box to see God's precious gift.	shoe box, gift wrap, tape, mirror, scissors	Tape a small mirror inside a shoe box, and gift-wrap the box and lid separately. Place the lid on the box.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



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 learn that God gives them abilities that they can use to help others.





TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	All Fall Down Hear the story of Samson, and use the Samson picture to topple an enemy army.	cereal box, glue, scissors, tennis ball, blocks Teacher Pack: “Mighty Samson” teaching picture 	Glue the “Mighty Samson” teaching picture onto an empty cereal box, cutting away the area indicated by cut lines. Insert a tennis ball into the empty area to replace Samson’s muscle.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	God’s Good Gifts Create pictures to remind them that families are gifts from God.	crayons, scissors, gift wrap, glue sticks, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “God’s Good Gifts” page (at the end of the lesson), tape	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out one small square of gift wrap for each child.
	Uplifting Strength Lift a “barbell” over their heads like strong Samson could have done.	yardstick, masking tape, newsprint	Wrap two large balls of crumpled newsprint with masking tape, and then tape each ball to one end of a yardstick to make a “barbell.”
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	


***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





2-YEAR-OLD



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started</p>	<p>Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2 Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Blown Away Hear the story of Samson, and help blow the enemy away.</p>	<p>cereal box, glue stick, scissors, tennis ball, marker, several lunch sacks, brown or black yarn Teacher Pack: “Mighty Samson” teaching picture, “Samson” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Glue the “Mighty Samson” teaching picture onto an empty cereal box, cutting away the area indicated by cut lines. Insert a tennis ball into the empty area to replace Samson’s muscle. Draw sad faces on several lunch sacks, and open the sacks. Cut enough 5- to 6-inch strands of brown or black yarn for each 2-year-old to have at least one strand, and then set aside the poster and the yarn for use in this activity.</p>
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>I Can Play a game to discover what they can do for God.</p>		
	<p>Leveraged Takeover Lift stuffed toys with a fulcrum.</p>	<p>yardstick, block, 2 or 3 stuffed toys</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.</p>	<p>My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





INFANT

**1 GETTING
STARTED**

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing or listen to "I Wanna Shout!" (track 4) to the tune of "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with infants. As you sing, point the baby's hands toward him or her on the word "me." Place his or her hands by the mouth when you sing "shout," and raise baby's arms up high on "hooray."

God gave some special gifts to me. *(Pretend to hold a gift.)*
Watch and you'll see! *(Make "binoculars" over eyes.)*
Oh, when I think about *(point to temple)*
My gifts I wanna shout, *(cup hands around mouth)*
"Hooray! Our God gave these gifts to me!" *(Pretend to hold a gift.)*
Tra-la-la-la-la-la-la!
(Repeat.)

Sing or listen to "Say, Say, Oh Friend" (not on CD) to the tune of "Say, Say, Oh, Playmate" anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with infants. When singing, lay an infant on his or her back. On the words "Say, say, oh friend," roll the baby's hands one over the other. On "trust," place one of baby's hands over his or her heart, and on "God," raise the same hand toward heaven.

Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God in all you do.
Trust God in work and play.
Trust God in night and day.
Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God to be with you.
Trust God; his word is true forevermore!



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "I Wanna Shout!"
(track 4)





Make a Muscle Supplies

cereal box
glue

scissors
tennis ball

Teacher Pack

“Mighty Samson”
teaching picture

Make a Muscle Easy Prep

Glue the “Mighty Samson” teaching picture onto an empty cereal box, cutting away the area indicated by cut lines. Insert a tennis ball into the empty area to replace Samson’s muscle.

Mirror-acious Gift Supplies

shoe box
gift wrap
tape
mirror
scissors

Mirror-acious Gift Easy Prep

Tape a small mirror inside a shoe box, and gift-wrap the box and lid separately. Place the lid on the box.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Make a Muscle

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God gave Samson a gift of strong muscles.** Help a baby touch the “muscle” on the Samson picture. **Samson used his gift of strong muscles to help God’s people. Let’s see your strong muscles! You are a strong baby! Someday you will use your muscles to serve God, too.** ► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.** Thank you, God, for the good gifts you give us.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Strong Samson, Strong

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Do this action rhyme with a baby:

Say: **Samson’s gift of might** (*cup baby’s hands as if he or she is holding a gift*)

Helped him win a fight. (*Lift baby’s hands over his or her head, and cheer.*)

The enemy ran away. (*Gently pedal baby’s feet.*)

What a happy day! (*Help baby clap his or her hands.*)

Strong Samson, strong. (*Help baby make a muscle with his or her arm.*)

► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS!**

Mirror-acious Gift

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Show the box with the mirror inside to a baby.

Say: **Let me show you a special gift.** Let the baby remove the lid and look at his or her reflection. **Who’s that? [Baby’s name] is one of God’s good gifts.** ► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.**



Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sing “I Wanna Shout!” (track 4) to the tune of “John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt” anytime during the lesson. As you sing, help toddlers do the hand motions suggested in the parentheses. Repeat the song several times, and help toddlers move their hands and arms.

God gave some special gifts to me. (*Pretend to hold a gift.*)
Watch and you’ll see! (*Make “binoculars” over eyes.*)
Oh, when I think about (*point to temple*)
My gifts I wanna shout, (*cup hands around mouth*)
“Hooray! Our God gave these gifts to me!” (*Pretend to hold a gift.*)
Tra-la-la-la-la-la-la-la!
(*Repeat.*)

Sing “Say, Say, Oh Friend” (not on CD) to the tune of “Say, Say, Oh Playmate” anytime during the lesson. Hold a toddler on your knee, facing you. Bounce him or her each time you sing, “Say, say, oh friend.” On the word “trust,” place the toddler’s hand over his or her heart. For “God,” raise the toddler’s hand toward the sky. On “forevermore,” hold both of the toddler’s hands toward the sky.

Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God in all you do.
Trust God in work and play.
Trust God in night and day.
Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God to be with you.
Trust God; his word is true forevermore!



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: “I Wanna Shout!” (track 4)





All Fall Down Supplies

cereal box
glue
scissors
tennis ball
blocks

Teacher Pack

“Mighty Samson”
teaching picture

All Fall Down Easy Prep

Glue the “Mighty Samson” teaching picture onto an empty cereal box, cutting away the area indicated by cut lines. Insert a tennis ball into the empty area to replace Samson’s muscle.

God’s Good Gifts Supplies

crayons
scissors
gift wrap
glue sticks
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “God’s Good Gifts” page (at the end of the lesson)
tape

God’s Good Gifts Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Cut out one small square of gift wrap for each child.

Summer Quarter

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

All Fall Down

What You’ll Do

Set the Samson picture on a table.

Say: **Samson was a mighty man. God gave him a good gift of strength. Can you show me your strong muscles?**

Samson used his strength to protect God’s people from enemies. Here are some enemies of God. Stack two or three blocks to create the enemies. **The bad men wanted to stop Samson, but God made Samson stand strong.** Move the Samson picture on the box to topple the blocks. **Samson used his good gift to keep God’s people safe. God gives you good gifts to help others, too!** Stack the blocks again, and let toddlers take turns moving Samson to topple the enemies. ► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

God’s Good Gifts

What You’ll Do

Give each child a copy of the “God’s Good Gifts” handout, and set out crayons. Have children each draw a picture of their family on the front of the gift picture. Then use a single piece of tape to attach the top of a gift-wrap square over each child’s picture. Show children how to lift the gift-wrap square to see God’s special gift.

Say: **What a special gift! ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.**





Uplifting Strength

What You'll Do

Let the toddlers take turns pretending to be as strong as Samson and lifting the barbell over their heads.

Say: **God gave Samson the gift of strength. God gives you strength and other good gifts, too. ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.



Uplifting Strength Supplies

yardstick
masking tape
newsprint

Uplifting Strength Easy Prep

Wrap two large balls of crumpled newsprint with masking tape, and then tape each ball to one end of a yardstick to make a “barbell.”

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)





Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "I Wanna Shout!"
(track 4)


2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED


Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "I Wanna Shout" (track 4) to the tune of "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" anytime during the lesson. Before you sing, show the children how to do the suggested motions in the parentheses.

 **God gave some special gifts to me.** (*Pretend to hold a gift.*)
Watch and you'll see! (*Make "binoculars" over eyes.*)
Oh, when I think about (*point to temple*)
My gifts I wanna shout, (*cup hands around mouth*)
"Hooray! Our God gave these gifts to me!" (*Pretend to hold a gift.*)
Tra-la-la-la-la-la-la!
(Repeat.)

Sing "Say, Say, Oh Friend" (not on CD) to the tune of "Say, Say, Oh Playmate" anytime during the lesson. Group the children in pairs. Let the children hold hands and wiggle around on the line "Say, say, oh friend." On the word "trust," have each child place a hand over his or her heart. For "God," have the children raise their hands above their heads. On "forevermore," have the children hold hands again and jump up and down.

 **Say, say, oh friend,**
Trust God in all you do.
Trust God in work and play.
Trust God in night and day.
Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God to be with you.
Trust God; his word is true forevermore!



2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Blown Away

What You'll Do

Gather the children, and show them the picture of Samson.

Say: **God gave Samson a good gift. God made Samson a very strong man. Samson protected God's people. Bad people got angry with Samson and wanted to take him away.** Have the children pretend that the lunch sacks are the bad people. Have them stand the sacks up all around Samson.

But strong Samson chased the bad people away. Show the children how to blow on the sacks and knock them over. **All the enemies were gone. Samson got rid of them as easily as you did. Samson used his gift to protect God's people from their enemies.** Gather the children around you, and have them sit in a circle. Place the "Samson" poster in the middle of the circle. Hand each child one or two strands of yarn.

God gave Samson a great gift of strength. God promised Samson that he would be strong for his whole life if he never, ever cut his hair. Since Samson didn't cut his hair, it grew and grew and grew! Let's glue this yarn onto the picture of Samson so he'll have really long hair.

Use a glue stick around Samson's head, and then help the children stick their yarn strands onto the wet glue.

Say: **Look how long Samson's hair is now. He must be really, really strong. God gave Samson a good gift. God gave you good gifts, too. What are you good at?** Point out how each child's gifts are from God. ► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS.**



Blown Away Supplies

- cereal box
- glue stick
- scissors
- tennis ball
- marker
- several lunch sacks
- brown or black yarn

Teacher Pack

- "Mighty Samson" teaching picture
- "Samson" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Blown Away Easy Prep

Glue the "Mighty Samson" teaching picture onto an empty cereal box, cutting away the area indicated by cut lines. Insert a tennis ball into the empty area to replace Samson's muscle. Draw sad faces on several lunch sacks, and open the sacks. Cut enough 5- to 6-inch strands of brown or black yarn for each 2-year-old to have at least one strand, and then set aside the poster and the yarn for use in this activity.





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

I Can

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the children in a circle.

Say: **Let's play a game called I Can. I will say a sentence like "I can sweep the floor." Your job is to act out whatever I say.**

Say the following sentences, and act out motions for the children to imitate. If a child has an idea for an "I can," lead the group in acting out the idea.

- I can dust the table.
- I can hug a friend.
- I can say, "I love you."
- I can pick up toys.

Have the group sit down.

Say: **You all have many things you can do. God gave you good gifts. You can use your "I cans" to serve God. ► GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS to us all.**

Leveraged Takeover

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show the children how to make a simple fulcrum with a yardstick and a building block. Show them how easy it is to lift stuffed toys with the fulcrum. Let the children take turns lifting the toys as you say this verse:

Say: **Samson was strong, and so am I.
I can lift this toy up high!
Samson used his gifts; I can, too!
I'll serve God in all I do.**

► **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS. Thank you, God, for [name each child]'s good gifts!**

Leveraged Takeover Supplies

yardstick
block
2 or 3 stuffed toys



Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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



HOME
CONNECT®

Growing With Jesus



Balanced Discipline

As children mature, they will learn how to use gifts to effect change. We can see this skill in process as children try to change our minds by smiling at us while doing the precise things they have just been corrected for. Seek to respond to these challenges by affirming your child's uniqueness while holding firm on the issue. For example, as you remove your child from the situation, say, "You have a beautiful smile, and that's still a no-no." Affirming a gift as you offer correction will help keep your discipline balanced.

OK
TO COPY

Your child learned God gives good gifts (from Judges 15 and 16). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Strong Samson, Strong

Do this action rhyme with your baby:

Samson's gift of might
(cup baby's hands as if he or she is holding a gift)

Helped him win a fight.
(Lift baby's hands over his or her head, and cheer.)

The enemy ran away.
(Gently pedal baby's feet.)

What a happy day! *(Help baby clap his or her hands.)*

Strong Samson, strong.
(Help baby make a muscle with his or her arm.)

TODDLER

Uplifting Strength

Wrap two large balls of crumpled newsprint with masking tape, and tape each ball to one end of a yardstick to make a "barbell." Let your toddler pretend to be as strong as Samson and lift the barbell over his or her head.

Say: **God gave Samson the gift of strength. God gives you strength and other good gifts, too. God gives good gifts.**

2-YEAR-OLD

I Can

Play a game called I Can with your child. You'll say a sentence like "I can sweep the floor," and your 2-year-old will act out whatever you say. Say the following sentences, and act out motions for your child to imitate.

Say:

- I can dust the table.
- I can hug my mom [dad].
- I can say, "I love you."
- I can pick up toys.

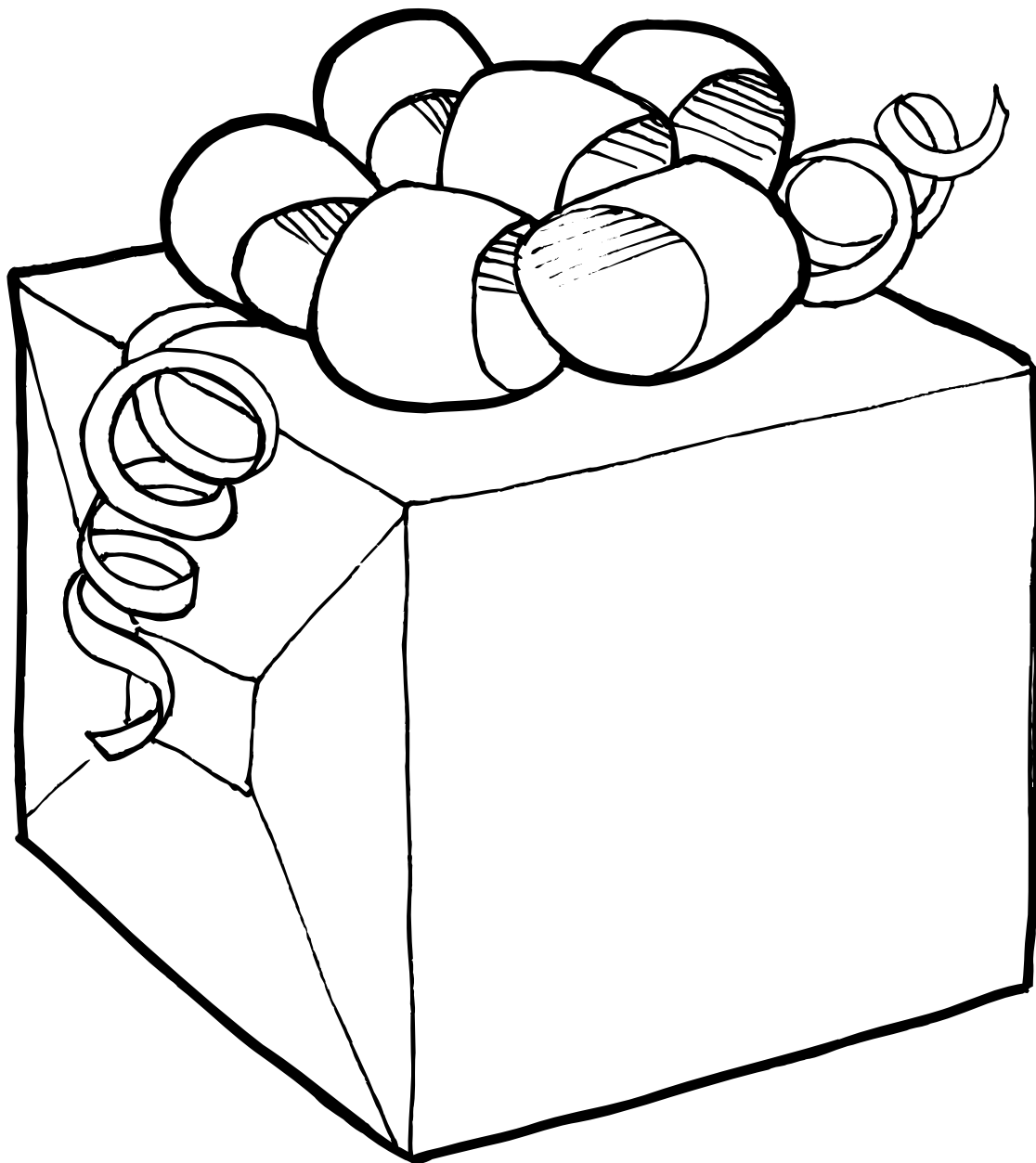
You have many things you can do. God gave you good gifts. You can use your "I cans" to serve God.

Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Place a gift bow on the bathroom mirror. During the week pick up your child, show his or her reflection under the bow, and say, "You're God's gift to me!"
- Identify some of God's good gifts by placing gift bows on them.



God's Good Gifts



**OK
TO COPY**

Illustrated by Nancy Munger.



