

Last week we were introduced to Samson. Samson was a Nazerite, set apart by God to help the Israelites when the Philistines ruled over them. When the Philistines heard that Samson had fallen in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah, they went to her. They asked her to help them find the secret to Samson's strength. After many attempts to find out his secret, Samson finally told Delilah that if his hair were cut, he would be as weak as any other man. Delilah immediately sent word to the Philistines who came and cut his hair while he slept. When Delilah woke him up, the Philistines blinded Samson, put him in prison and forced him to work. One day the Philistines were celebrating and Samson was brought to the temple to entertain them. There were so many Philistines there that over three thousand of them had to sit on the roof! Everyone laughed and made fun of Samson. Samson asked the servant leading him, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that hold up the temple, I want to rest against them." As he stood there Samson prayed "O Lord God, please give me strength one last time." Then with all his might, Samson pushed the two pillars that supported the whole building with all his might and the pillars gave way. The whole temple came crashing down, killing everyone there.

In our story Samson put the wishes of Delilah above the wishes of God. God had commanded that Samson's hair not be cut, and Samson told this to Delilah even though he knew that he couldn't trust her. Samson was showing unfaithfulness to God when he revealed his secret to Delilah. Like Samson, we also are unfaithful to God when we sin against his commands. We put the wishes of our friends before God's wishes. We hurt others. We disobey our parents.

When Samson told Delilah the secret to his strength, the Philistines came and cut his hair while he slept. Was his hair really the source of his strength? If you grew your hair long would you have super strength? No, God gave Samson his great strength. His long hair was just a sign that he was a Nazerite and that God was with him.

When the Philistines captured Samson they did terrible things to him. God allowed these things to happen to Samson so that he would turn from his sinful ways and be faithful to the Lord. God often uses things in our own lives to lead us to be sorry for our sins, trust in Jesus for forgiveness and change our ways. This is called repentance.

We know that Samson had turned from his sin when he prayed to God to allow him to have strength so he could serve God one last time by destroying the Philistines and their temple, even at the cost of his own life.

*We Sin; God Forgives Worksheet Answers*

*Part One: Answers should be similar to the following: Samson- I was unfaithful to God when I told Delilah my secret. Me-I have been unfaithful to God and sinned by fighting with my brother, telling lies, etc. God- I showed mercy to Samson by answering his prayer for strength. And I show mercy to you by forgiving your sins for Jesus' sake.*

*Part Two: 1.sin; 2.forgives; 3.praise/blesses; forgives; 4.Savior*

*Part Three: Answers will vary. Possible responses are: 1. I sin against God; I disobey God's commands. 2. Forgiving my sins; sending Jesus to be my Savior.*

***Want to share your artwork with us?***

Email a picture of your Sunday School craft to [office@gsholmen.org](mailto:office@gsholmen.org)

\*We will be showing pictures sent to us on the Church Screens during announcements