

VICTORY KIDS ELEMENTARY

UNDER THE BIG TOP: INCREDIBLE BIBLE STORIES

"WE KNOW THAT IN EVERYTHING GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. THEY ARE THE PEOPLE GOD CALLED, BECAUSE THAT WAS HIS PLAN." ROMANS 8:28 (ICB)

AFTER WORSHIP:

BIBLE PRESENTATION:

Live Host:

"Alright Victory Kids — now I need everyone's attention, because this moment is super special!" *(Pauses for effect)* "Here at Victory Kids, we love when friends come to visit... but we REALLY love when they come back again... and again... and again!" *(Smiles big)*

"So today, if this is your third time hanging out with us here at Victory Kids, we've got something AWESOME just for you!" "If that's you — go ahead and raise your hand nice and high so our team can spot you. Come to the stage because we want to celebrate you BIG TIME!" We have something really special that we want to give you..." *(Team members hand out Bibles)* "A brand-new Bible just for YOU! Because we believe God's Word is the best gift ever — it's full of hope, adventure, truth, and it reminds us every day who we are and how much God loves us!"

Can we clap it up and make some noise for our third-time friends getting their Bibles today?!" *(Claps hands, and waits for applause, celebrates big)*. And if you're sitting there thinking, 'Hey, I want a Bible like that!' — no worries! Keep coming, keep learning, and we'll have something for you too!"

CONNECT: CHECK IN / PRE SERVICE GAMES

10 MINS

THIS IS OPTIONAL, IF IT ISN'T NEEDED. PLEASE FEEL FREE NOT TO USE IT!

Pre Service Game Stations: As students are being checked in, use this time to get to know each student. Help them get comfortable in the classroom and find a friend or group to play games with. If you have enough volunteers in the room, get involved with the games. Fun builds trust with kids, so don't be afraid to have fun with them! Make sure everyone helps put away preservice games before large groups start.

GAME STATIONS

20 MINS

Live Host: Let's have our leaders come down to the front to get ready for games!

Are you ready for a game? Shout YES! I can't hear you! Let's get ready to play BIG TOP DART GAME! *(Note for Live Host: make sure to give commentary during the game, and encourage the audience to cheer throughout the game).*

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BIG TOP DART GAME

- **Supplies:** Circus Theme Dart Board Game
- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 2 contestants to join me on stage! When a circus comes to town, every game booth has to be set up with a plan. You don't just throw things anywhere, you aim on purpose! In today's game, you're going to show how God's plan is on target. Each contestant has 35 seconds to throw 5 balls at the dartboard. Each clown's face is worth points. The contestant with the most points receives 2 Bible Bucks.

THE BIG TOP PIN KNOCKDOWN!

- **Supplies:** Giant bowling game, painters tape to mark rolling line
- **Live Host:** On the count of three, I want you to shout YES for the next game! One...Two...Three... YES!!! Alright, Victory Kids, it's time to step right up to the Big Top Bowling Lane! Under the circus tent, every strong performer has to aim carefully and stay focused and that's exactly what you're about to do. I need 3 contestants to join me up front!

Here's how it works: Each contestant will take turns rolling the bowling ball from behind the line to try and knock down as many circus pins as possible. You only get one roll, so make it count! After each contestant has rolled, we'll see who knocked down the most pins. The contestant with the most pins knocked down receives 3 Bible Bucks!

FLOW: WELCOME, FIRST-TIME VISITORS, WORSHIP & OFFERING

25 MINS

Live Host: We want to welcome our first-time visitors in a big way! If this is your first time visiting with us, we are so excited that you are here!

INTRO: MEMORY VERSE

5 MINS

Live Host: Hey, Victory Kids! Are you ready? This month, we're stepping *Under the Big Top* to explore incredible Bible stories that show us just how powerful our God is! Just like every amazing act in a circus needs strength and skill, these stories remind us that God is the one who gives power, courage, and help to His people. And here's the best part, God isn't just at work in the Bible stories. He's at work in us, too! Our memory verse teaches us that God helps us want to do what is right and gives us the strength to do it.

Now, if you're ready to learn this month's memory verse, shout, **"UNDER THE BIG TOP!"** ...Cue the memory verse video!

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LESSON RECAP VIDEO

1 MIN

LIVE HOST'S INTRO TO LESSON

5-7 MINS

Live Host (Ringmaster Tone): Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, and Victory Kids of all ages... welcome back **Under the Big Top!**

This month, we're stepping into a brand-new series of incredible Bible stories featuring one of the strongest people in the Bible: **Samson**. But this isn't a story about big muscles, tricks, or showing off. It's a story about God, the One who gives purpose, strength, and direction.

Under this Big Top, we'll see how God chooses His people, gives them strength, allows them to face hard moments, and never stops working, even when mistakes are made. Each part of Samson's story reminds us that our strength comes from God and that His plans are always good. Before Samson ever lifted anything heavy, God already had a plan for his life. God chose Samson before he was born and set him apart for a special purpose. And just like Samson, God knows us, sees us, and has a plan for each one of us, too.

So, get ready, Victory Kids, because today we're entering **The Strongman Enters the Ring: God Has a Plan**

Key Scripture: Our key scripture for this lesson comes from Jeremiah 1:5 (ICB). *Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*

(At this point, you can decide to play the lesson video or act out March week 1 of Ringmaster Rae/Ray Skit)

LESSON VIDEO OR RINGMASTER RAE

2-3 MINS

(Both are found in the media file)

MINISTRY LESSON

10 MINS

Supplies needed: Blueprint of a house/building

Live Host Hook: *(hold up the blueprint)* Can anyone tell me what this is? *(wait for responses)*.

That's right, it's a blueprint. A blueprint is a plan that builders use in preparation to build a building. Builders don't start building and just hope it works. The plan comes first.

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That's how God works. Before Samson was born, before he was strong, before anyone knew what he would do, God already had a plan. Samson's life wasn't an accident. God had a purpose ready before Samson ever took his first breath. And today, we're going to learn that God didn't just have a plan for Samson, He has a plan for you, too.

- **God Plans Our Purpose Before We Are Born**

Samson's story begins with his parents, long before he was born. His mother could not have children, and this made her very sad. One day, God sent an angel to speak to her with amazing news. The angel told her that she would have a baby and that her son would be chosen by God for a special purpose. This baby was not chosen because of anything he had done, but because God had a plan for his life from the very beginning.

That special purpose had to do with God's people, who were in trouble because they had stopped listening to God and were being ruled by their enemies, the Philistines. God promised that this baby, Samson, would grow up to help rescue His people. From the very start, Samson was set apart for God. His life was not an accident. God knew him before he was born and had a purpose for him. This part of Samson's story teaches us something important. God has a plan for our lives, too. The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 1:5 (ICB). Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Just like God knew Samson, God knows you. Before you ever took your first breath, God saw you, loved you, and had a plan for your life.

- **God Prepares Us for What He Calls Us to Do**

After the angel shared God's plan for Samson, he also gave Samson's parents clear instructions. God didn't just tell them that Samson would be special someday; He showed them how to raise him right from the start. Samson was being set apart for God, and that meant his life would look different. The angel explained that Samson should not eat or drink certain things and that his hair should never be cut. These instructions were not punishments or rules to make life harder. These were signs that Samson belonged to God and that God was getting him ready for the work ahead.

This is called preparation. Preparation means being given what you need ahead of time so you are ready when something important comes. Think about how you get ready for a big game, a school play, or the first day of school. You don't wait until the last minute. You practice, listen to instructions, and get help from others so you're ready when the moment arrives. That's what God was doing with Samson. Even before Samson could make choices for himself, God was already at work through his parents, guiding them so Samson would grow up knowing his life belonged to the Lord. In the same way, God prepares us too, through the people who care for us and the boundaries He gives us. So, we can be ready for what He has planned.

- **God Walks With Us as His Plan Unfolds**

Samson didn't suddenly become strong or important all at once. The Bible says, "The boy grew, and the Lord blessed him. The Spirit of the Lord began to work in him." Judges 13:24–25 ICB.

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This tells us that as Samson grew up, God was already with him. God was helping him, guiding him, and getting him ready little by little. Samson didn't need to understand everything yet. God was already working in his life as he grew.

Do you remember the blueprint (show the blueprint from the hook)? When a builder uses a blueprint, the building doesn't go up all at once. The builder follows the plan step by step, knowing what the finished building will look like even before anyone else can see it. In the same way, God already had a plan for Samson's life while Samson was still growing. God worked patiently, one step at a time. And just like Samson, God is working in your life too. You may not know everything God will do yet, but God does. He is building your life carefully, step by step, and He never stops working, even when you can't see the whole picture yet.

MINISTRY MOMENT

10 MINS

Raise your hand and tell me something you learned today. I am giving away Bible bucks!

Today, we learned **The Strongman Enters the Ring: God Has a Plan.**

- **God Plans Our Purpose Before We are Born**
- **God Prepares Us for What He Calls Us to Do**
- **God Walks with Us as His Plan Unfolds**

Today we learned that God had a plan for Samson before he was born. This reminds us that our lives are not accidents. Even when things don't turn out the way we think they should, God sees us, knows us, and is working in our lives just like He was working behind the scenes in Samson's story.

Call to Action

For your call to action this week, you are going to need a piece of paper:

This week, when you feel small, overlooked, or unsure of your purpose, remember this: God knew you before you were born and made you on purpose.

Write your name at the top of the page. Then write one sentence thanking God for creating you and having a plan for your life.

Come back next week ready to share, and don't forget, Bible Bucks are waiting!

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WRAP-UP & CLOSING PRAYER

5 MINS

(If your campus begins with small groups, please ask review questions before closing prayer. If your campus ends with small group, move directly to closing prayer (these questions will be asked and answered in small group))

1. Who is the Bible story about today? **A man named Samson.**
2. Did God just tell Samson he would be strong one day? **No, God gave instructions to help prepare him**
3. Who helps prepare us today for what God has planned? **Our families, teachers, church, and the rules that guide us.**
4. God prepared Samson before he ever became strong. What are some ways God might be preparing you right now?

Before we move to small group, let us take a moment to pray

Closing Prayer

(Please feel free to encourage the children to lead)

Dear Lord, thank You for seeing us when we are hurting and for caring about everything we feel. When things seem scary or impossible, help us trust You and come to You in prayer instead of giving up. Thank You for being a God who brings hope, healing, and restoration, and for sending Jesus to show us Your love. Help us remember that You are always with us, even when things feel broken. In Jesus' name, Amen.



ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP LESSON

UNDER THE BIG TOP: INCREDIBLE BIBLE STORIES

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SMALL GROUP OPTION ONE - (There are TWO options provided for small group the second one is for the campuses that does small group first)

INTRO

Live Host: Good morning, everyone! I hope you enjoyed today's lesson. Can anyone tell me what you learned today? *(wait for students' responses)*

The Strongman Enters the Ring: God Has a Plan

Today, we learned how Samson's story begins at a time when God's people were struggling and needed help. Long before anyone could see how God would act, **God was already moving**. He sent a message through an angel and showed that He was working ahead of time, even when the situation felt uncertain.

This story reminds us that God does not wait for problems to appear before He acts. He is already at work, guiding events and people according to His purpose. We can find this story in **Judges chapter 13**.

Can anyone tell me where to find the book of **Judges** in the Bible? *(Pause for responses.)*

Great! Let's find it together.

Everyone open your Bibles to the **Old Testament**, because that's where Judges is found. The first person to get there gets a Bible Buck!

(Show the kids how to locate Judges and find chapter 13.) Great! Let's do it together!

Now that we've found it, here's your challenge for the week:

When you talk with your parents about today's lesson, open your Bible to **Judges 13** and show them where Samson's story begins.

Okay, let's get a little deeper into what we learned today.

ICEBREAKER

(this icebreaker has two parts: questions from today's lesson and the call to action from last week)

1. Who is the Bible story about today? **A man named Samson.**
2. Did God just tell Samson he would be strong one day? **No, God gave instructions to help prepare him**
3. Who helps prepare us today for what God has planned? **Our families, teachers, church, and the rules that guide us.**
4. God prepared Samson before he ever became strong. What are some ways God might be preparing you right now?

Great job answering the questions. Does anybody remember what we were supposed to do last week for our call to action? *(Wait for responses)*

Our Call to action for last week:

When you feel scared, hurt, or worried, remember this: **God sees you and cares about everything you're going through. He will heal and restore!**

Write It Down: Take a moment to pause with God and talk to him over anything that may make you anxious or if you feel sick in your body. Write a letter to him asking him for your healing and believe in your heart that he will do it. Let's share and receive some Bible Bucks.



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PRAYER REQUESTS

Tell students we're starting prayer, remain with eyes closed, and focus attention on God. Ask for any prayer requests they would like to share. If your small group needs a little encouragement, give them categories like **family, school, or friends** to get them thinking about areas they need prayer in. After students share, lead the group in prayer, covering each prayer request, using the name of each student that asks for prayer.

RECAP CALL TO ACTION

5 MINS

Today, we learned about **The Strongman Enters the Ring: God Has a Plan!**

For your call to action this week:

This week, when you feel small, overlooked, or unsure of your purpose, remember this: God knew you before you were born and made you on purpose.

Write It Down:

Write your name at the top of a page. Then write one sentence thanking God for creating you and having a plan for your life.

Come back next week ready to share, and don't forget, Bible Bucks are waiting!

Next week, we will share in Small Groups and receive Bible Bucks.

S.O.A.P

10 MINS

Please use the S.O.A.P sheet.

ACTIVITY: (OPTIONAL)

This activity can be taken from the game station section if needed.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Optional - you can invite a child to pray)

Dear Lord, thank You for being with us today. Thank You for knowing what we need and for working even when we don't see it yet. Help us trust You when life feels hard or when we're not sure what comes next. Teach us to be patient as we grow and to listen to You as You guide us. Thank You for walking with us every step of the way. We love You, and we trust You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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S.O.A.P

S.O.A.P is a simple but helpful way to study the Bible and apply it to our own lives.

S.O.A.P stands for, **SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION AND PRAYER** and involves four simple steps.

S: SCRIPTURE

You physically write out the scripture. You'll be amazed what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and actually write out what you are reading!

O: OBSERVATION

What do you notice about the verses? What do you think the main message is? What verses, words or ideas jump out to you? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words?

A: APPLICATION

Ask God how He wants you to apply the verse to your own life. This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?

P: PRAYER

Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

LET'S S.O.A.P TOGETHER

"Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

JEREMIAH 1:5

Name:	Grade:	Date:
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S.O.A.P

“Before I made you in your mother’s womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”
Jeremiah 1:5

SCRIPTURE What did you read?

OBSERVATION What is God saying?

What does this look like in my life?

APPLICATION

PRAYER Dear God...

Check out this month’s Memory Verse Song!

“We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.^[a] They are the people God called, because that was his plan.”
Romans 8:8 (ICB)

