

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 BALANCE BUILDER! *(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 BALANCE BUILDER!

- **Supplies: Painter's tape, 2 empty water bottles**
- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 2 contestants to join me on stage! When a circus comes to town, performers don't rush into the ring; they practice balance, focus, and control. Every step matters under the Big Top! In today's game, you're going to show off your circus balancing skills. Each contestant will balance an object on their open hand while walking along this taped line. No grabbing the object and no rushing! If your object falls, you must stop and reset at the starting line before trying again. The first contestant to reach the end of the line with their object still balanced wins and receives 3 Bible Bucks!

TEAM STRONGMAN CHALLENGE

- **Supplies: Two boxes filled with books or other items that will make it heavy for one person to push alone; Two empty boxes, painter's tape to mark the start and finishing 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, I need four contestants to join me on stage!

We're going to make two teams: Team One and Team Two! When a circus strongman steps into the ring, they don't always work alone. Sometimes the biggest jobs take teamwork! Here's how this game works:

Contestant One will try to move this big box of items across the stage and place them into the empty box at the finish line by themselves. Now listen carefully. You can't finish this task alone. When I shout **HELP**, contestant two from each team will jump in and help their teammate finish the job together. The first team to work together and get filled boxes to the finish line and then put all their items into the empty box at the finish line wins and receives 2 Bible Bucks each! On your mark, get set, GO!

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, our incredible Bible story features 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: Strength Comes from God.**

Key Scripture: Our key scripture for this lesson comes from Philippians 4:13 (ICB). *I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength.*

(At this point, you can decide to play the lesson video or act out March week 2 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: a bin/box filled with heavy items like books (heavy enough that one child can't lift it on their own)

Live Host Hook: Alright, Victory Kids, I need one brave volunteer to help me with something. (Bring student volunteer up front.) Your job is simple. Please try to lift this box/bin by yourself. (Student tries but can't lift it.) Okay, let's pause right there, thank you for trying. Everyone, give our volunteer a big hand.

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This box/bin is much heavier than it looks. Now, let me ask you something, Victory Kids. Should our volunteer have just tried harder to lift the bin/box? (Wait for responses.) Sometimes trying harder isn't enough. I'm going to ask for some help. Can I get (Name an adult volunteer) to come help us? Alright, now let's try together. (Live Host and adult volunteer lift the box together.) Look at that! The box didn't change. What changed was the help.

That's what we are going to see in today's story about Samson. His strength didn't come from trying harder or being stronger than everyone else. His strength showed up when God stepped in to help him. Just like our volunteer needed help to lift this box, Samson needed God's strength.

Let's step into the story and see how God gave strength at the right moment.

- **Samson Received His Strength from God**

Last week, we learned that God had a plan for Samson and was preparing him as he grew. This week, we begin to see that plan start to unfold in real life. One day, while Samson was walking through the vineyards, something scary happened. A young lion rushed toward him. Samson didn't have a weapon, and he wasn't trained to fight a lion. It looked like, Samson didn't stand a chance. But the Bible tells us what happened next: "The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson with power" (Judges 14:6 ICB). In that moment, God stepped in and gave Samson strength, and Samson defeated the lion with his bare hands. This didn't happen because Samson was skilled. It happened because God helped him right when he needed it most.

That wasn't the only time this happened. Later, when Samson was in danger again, the Philistines captured Samson and tied him up with strong ropes. Everything looked hopeless. But as the Philistines closed in, "the Spirit of the Lord came upon him with power" again, and the ropes fell off like burned thread (Judges 15:14, ICB). These moments teach us something important. Samson didn't choose when the strength showed up. God gave him strength at the exact moment he needed it. Every time Samson faced something too big for him, God stepped in. This reminds us that God's help doesn't run out, and He shows up right on time even when situations look impossible.

- **Samson Used His Strength to Help God's People**

As Samson grew stronger, the Philistines became angry because he was getting in the way of their plans. They had been hurting God's people, and Samson's actions were beginning to stop them. Samson wasn't a leader with an army or a big plan, but God still used him to protect His people. When the Philistines tried to attack or trap him, Samson was able to break free and stop them, even using things that didn't seem very strong.

This shows us that God can use anyone to do what is right. You don't have to be big or powerful for God to work through you. When you see someone being treated unfairly or needing help, God can use you too, even if you feel small or unsure.

- **God's Work Takes Time**

Even though Samson helped God's people, the problems did not disappear right away.

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The Philistines were still there, and every time Samson acted, they reacted. Sometimes Samson brought help, and then more trouble followed. The Bible shows us again and again, help, then trouble, then help again. But God was still at work.

Samson could not see the whole plan God was working out. He only knew what was happening right in front of him. Even though Samson was strong, God's work was bigger than one victory or one moment. God was using many moments over time to move His plan forward. This teaches us that God does not always fix everything all at once. Sometimes He works little by little, guiding each step until His plan is complete. Samson's story was still unfolding, and our story is too. So, trust God because He isn't finished yet and know that His work takes time.

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: Strength Comes from God.**

- **Samson Received His Strength from God**
- **Samson Used His Strength to Help God's People**
- **God's Work Takes Time**

Today, we saw how God used Samson's strength to help His people during a difficult time. God stepped in at the right moments, and Samson's strength made a difference. But the story didn't end there. The problems weren't over yet, and God's plan was still moving forward, one step at a time.

Call to Action

For your call to action this week:

This week, pay attention to moments when God helps you even in small ways. It might be to help, making a good choice, staying calm, or doing the right thing when it's hard.

When you notice God's help, take a moment to thank Him.

Come back next week ready to share one moment you noticed, 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. What suddenly rushed toward Samson? **A young lion.**
2. What happened right before Samson defeated the lion? **The Spirit of the Lord came upon him powerfully**
3. Did Samson's strength make all the problems go away? **No, the problems didn't end right away.**
4. Can you think of a time when God helped you? **(Open response)**

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 being with us today. Thank You for giving help at the right time and for caring about Your people. Help us remember that You are always working, even when problems don't disappear right away. Give us strength to do what is right and patience to trust You as Your plan continues. We love You, and we trust You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP LESSON

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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: Strength Comes from God

Today, we continued Samson's story and saw what happened when God's plan began to move into action. As Samson grew, God gave him strength at the right moments, and that strength helped God's people during a difficult time. Samson's actions showed that God was still working, even though the problems weren't finished yet.

We can find today's story in **Judges chapters 14 and 15.**

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 14 and 15.) 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 14 or 15** and show them where Samson's story continues.

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. What suddenly rushed toward Samson? **A young lion.**
2. What happened right before Samson defeated the lion? **The Spirit of the Lord came upon him powerfully**
3. Did Samson's strength make all the problems go away? **No, the problems didn't end right away.**
4. Can you think of a time when God helped you? **(Open response)**

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 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.

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: Strength Comes from God**

For your call to action this week:

This week, pay attention to moments when God helps you even in small ways. It might be to help, making a good choice, staying calm, or doing the right thing when it's hard.

When you notice God's help, take a moment to thank Him.

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

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 giving help at the right time and for caring about Your people. Help us remember that You are always working, even when problems don't disappear right away. Give us strength to do what is right and patience to trust You as Your plan continues. 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

"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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

“I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13

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)

