

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 BEAN COUNT! *(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 BEAN COUNT

- **Supplies:** Jellybeans or Dried beans (counted), a jar, index cards
- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 10 contestants to join me on stage! Here we have a jar filled with beans, and your job is to guess how many beans are in the jar. You have 15 seconds to write down your guess. The contestant who guesses the correct number of beans receives 2 Bible Bucks.

CLOWN COSTUME RACE

- **Supplies:** 2 sets of clown costumes, 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 two contestants to join me on stage! At GO, each contestant will dress up in a clown outfit at the starting line. Once fully dressed, the contestants will race to the finish line. The contestant who reaches the finish line first receives 1 Bible Buck! 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!

LESSON RECAP VIDEO

1 MIN

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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've been walking through 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 act in this series 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 Falls**

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 3 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: Bell or soft chime

Live Host Hook: Alright, Victory Kids, I need one volunteer to come help me up here. (Bring student volunteer up front.) Here's how this works. Every time you hear this bell, your job is to freeze; don't move at all. Let's practice. (Ring the bell clearly once. Volunteer freezes.) Great job! Now stay ready. (Ring the bell very softly. Volunteer likely misses it.) Hmm... you didn't freeze that time. That's okay, stay right there. (Ring the bell louder.) (Volunteer freezes.)

Alright, everyone, give our volunteer a hand! Now let's think about what just happened.

The warning bell was there the first time, but it was quiet. When it got louder, it was easier to notice.

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Sometimes warnings don't start out loud. Sometimes they're gentle, quiet reminders that tell us to slow down, stop, or pay attention. If we're not listening closely, we can miss them. Today's Bible story is about someone who didn't notice the warning at first. Over time, he stopped paying attention, and that led to a big change he didn't expect. Let's step into the story and see what happened.

- **Samson Stopped Listening to God**

Last week, we learned that God helped Samson protect His people. When Samson was in danger, God gave him strength at the right time. Samson knew God was helping him, and he had been taught how to live in a way that honored God. But in today's part of the story, something begins to change, not in Samson's strength, but in his choices. Samson started doing whatever felt good to him. He stopped slowing down to think about what God wanted. He spent time in places and with people who pulled him away from God. One of those people was a woman named Delilah. Delilah did not follow God, but Samson kept choosing to stay close to her anyway. He didn't ask God for help. He didn't leave when danger was close. He stayed.

This is how Samson's trouble began. Samson didn't lose his strength, first he stopped paying attention. In the same way, when we ignore small warnings or keep choosing what feels easy instead of what is right, we can slowly move away from God without even realizing it. Listening to God early helps protect us before problems grow bigger.

- **Samson Shared What He Should Have Protected**

The Philistines were afraid of Samson because God kept using him to stop them. They wanted to take away his strength so they could capture him and take control of God's people again. Since they couldn't defeat Samson by force, they made a plan. They decided to use someone Samson trusted. So, they went to Samson's friend, Delilah. The Bible says that the Philistines promised her a huge reward if she could find out where Samson's strength came from. Since Delilah did not follow God, and she cared more about a reward than about doing what was right, she went along with the Philistines' plan.

So, whenever Samson visited her, Delilah kept asking him the same question: "Tell me where your strength comes from." At first, Samson joked and gave her wrong answers. But Delilah didn't stop asking. The Bible tells us she asked him again and again until Samson became tired. Finally, Samson told her the truth. He shared that he had been set apart for God since birth and that his hair was a sign of that promise. When Samson shared this, he wasn't just answering a question. He was giving away something God had asked him to protect. That choice mattered. Once Delilah knew the truth, the Philistines had the chance they had been waiting for.

- **Samson Lost the Strength God Had Given Him**

After Samson told Delilah the truth, The Bible says she sent a message to the Philistines and told them, "Come back one more time. He has told me everything" (Judges 16:18). When Samson visited Delilah the next evening, he fell asleep and Delilah called someone to cut his hair off. After the haircut, Delilah shouted, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" Samson jumped up, expecting everything to be the same as before.

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He thought his strength would still be there. But the Bible tells us something very serious in Judges 16:20: "He did not know that the Lord had left him." Samson tried to fight, but this time nothing happened. What God had set apart was taken away, and Samson didn't even notice.

The Philistines captured Samson and took away his freedom. The man who once broke ropes and defeated enemies was now helpless. His fall came after many choices, ignoring warnings, staying when he should have left, and giving up what God told him to guard. When Samson stopped listening to God and trusting Him, he lost the strength that only God could give. Here's the truth we need to remember: God's strength isn't something we control. It's something He gives when we walk with Him and listen to Him.

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 Falls.**

- **Samson Stopped Listening to God**
- **Samson Shared What He Should Have Protected**
- **Samson Lost the Strength God Had Given Him**

Samson's story reminds us that even the strongest person can fall when they stop listening to God. Strength doesn't come from muscles, talent, or being confident; it comes from staying connected to God and trusting His way. God wants to guide us, protect us, and help us, but He asks us to listen and follow Him. When we do, we stay strong in the way that matters most.

Call to Action

For your call to action this week:

Pause and Listen

This week, practice pausing before you act. When you feel unsure, tempted, or distracted, stop and ask yourself: "Is this helping me listen to God, or pulling me away?" Take a moment to pray and ask God to help you choose His way.

Come back next week ready to share one time you paused and listened. 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 began to change in Samson's life before he lost his strength? **He stopped paying attention to what God wanted and started doing whatever felt good to him.**
2. Why were the Philistines afraid of Samson? **Because God kept using Samson to stop them and protect His people.**
3. What was the Philistines' plan to defeat Samson? **They wanted to learn the secret of his strength so they could take it away.**
4. What is one small warning or reminder God might use to help us make a better choice before problems grow bigger? **(Open response)**
5. Do you think God can still use Samson even though he messed up? Explain your answer.

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 loving us and for being with us every day. Help us listen to You and follow Your guidance, even when it's hard or when distractions try to pull us away. Teach us to trust You, stay close to You, and remember that real strength comes from walking with You. Thank You for never giving up on us. We love 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: The Strongman Falls

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 16**.

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 16.) 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 16** and show them where Samson's story takes a serious turn.

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 began to change in Samson's life before he lost his strength? **He stopped paying attention to what God wanted and started doing whatever felt good to him.**
2. Why were the Philistines afraid of Samson? **Because God kept using Samson to stop them and protect His people.**
3. What was the Philistines' plan to defeat Samson? **They wanted to learn the secret of his strength so they could take it away.**
4. What is one small warning or reminder God might use to help us make a better choice before problems grow bigger? *(Open response)*
5. Do you think God can still use Samson even though he messed up? Explain your answer.

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:

Pay attention to moments when God helps you, even in small ways. It might be 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.

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 Falls**

For your call to action this week:

Pause and Listen

This week, practice pausing before you act. When you feel unsure, tempted, or distracted, stop and ask yourself: "Is this helping me listen to God, or pulling me away?" Take a moment to pray and ask God to help you choose His way. Come back next week ready to share one time you paused and listened.

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 loving us and for being with us every day. Help us listen to You and follow Your guidance, even when it's hard or when distractions try to pull us away. Teach us to trust You, stay close to You, and remember that real strength comes from walking with You.

Thank You for never giving up on us. We love 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)

