

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 DANCE OFF! *(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 DANCE OFF

- **Supplies:** Music
- **Live Host:** Alright, Victory Kids, I need 5 contestants to join me on stage! When the music drops, we will have a dance-off. Each contestant will show off their best dance moves. At the end the audience will pick their favorite dancer. The dancer or dancers with the most audience applause will receive 2 Bible Bucks!

BIG TOP RING TOSS

- **Supplies:** Ring toss game
- **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! Each contestant will take turns tossing the rings. The contestant who lands the most rings will receive 1 Bible Buck!

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 learned 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 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's Act.**

Key Scripture: Our key scripture for this lesson comes from Psalm 73:26 (ICB). *My mind and my body may become weak. But God is my strength. He is mine forever.*

(At this point, you can decide to play the lesson video or act out March week 4 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: two paper cups and a string (put together like the telephone game)

Live Host Hook: Alright, Victory Kids, I need two volunteers to join me. (Place them a bit of a distance apart.) Here's how this works. One of you will talk quietly into the cup. The other will listen. (have them try) Did you hear what they said? Ok now move in closer and speak louder. Now could you hear them?

Sometimes it's hard to hear when someone is far away. But today's story shows us something important: even when someone feels far from God, God still hears when they turn back and call out to Him.

- **God Still Hears Us When We Come Back to Him**

After Samson lost his strength, his life looked completely different.

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The Philistines captured him, hurt him, and made him work for them. The Strongman who once stood fearless now felt weak and ashamed. From the outside, it may have looked like Samson's story was over. But the Bible tells us something important was happening quietly in the background. Judges 16:22 says, "But the hair on his head began to grow again." This wasn't just about hair; it was a sign that God remembered Samson and still had a purpose for him. Even after Samson's mistakes, God was still there.

Later, when the Philistines gathered to celebrate, they brought Samson out to make fun of him. Standing there, Samson finally did something he hadn't done in a long time; he prayed. Judges 16:28 tells us that Samson cried out to God and asked Him to remember him and give him strength one more time. This was a "Big" moment for Samson, because he didn't hide or pretend like he hadn't done anything wrong. He turned back to God honestly. And God heard him. This shows us that no matter how far we've gone or how badly we've messed up, God still listens when we call out to Him. It's never too late to pray.

- **God's Power Brings the Final Victory**

As Samson stood in the building, he asked to be placed between the pillars, holding it up. Then he prayed one last time. Judges 16:30 tells us that Samson pushed with all his might, and the building collapsed. The Philistines were defeated, and God's people were rescued. This was Samson's final act, and it showed where the real power came from all along. It wasn't from Samson's muscles. It wasn't from his hair. It was from God.

Let's pause and think about this together. Who do you think deserves the credit for what happened at the end: Samson or God? (Wait for responses.) That's right, God. Samson's story ends by reminding us that God's power is always greater than human strength. When God steps in, He brings victory in His way and in His time. Even when the story feels messy, God can still finish it with purpose.

- **God Still Works Through People Who've Messed Up**

Samson's story shows us that making mistakes does not mean God is finished with us. Even after Samson lost his strength and faced the consequences of his choices, God still listened when he turned back and prayed. God worked through Samson again, not because Samson was perfect, but because he came back to God with a humble heart.

This helps us understand something important for our own lives. When we make wrong choices, disobey, or feel like we've messed up, we don't have to hide from God or give up. We can stop, turn back to God, and ask for His help. God still listens, still loves us, and can still work in our lives when we choose to come back to Him.

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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's Act.**

- **God Still Hears Us When We Turn Back to Him**
- **God's Power Brings the Final Victory**
- **God Still Works Through People Who've Messed Up**

Samson's life reminds us that strength comes from God, not ourselves. When we listen to God, He helps us stand strong. When we fall, He invites us to turn back. And even when we feel broken, God is still able to work through us. The Strongman's story doesn't end with failure, it ends by pointing us back to a powerful and faithful God.

Call to Action

For your call to action this week:

Quiet Prayer Reset

Samson prayed when he felt weak and stuck. This week, choose one quiet moment: at home, in the car, or before school to pause and pray silently. You don't have to say anything out loud. Just take a moment to turn your heart back to God.

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. What happened to Samson after he lost his strength? **The Philistines captured him and treated him badly.**
2. When the Philistines brought Samson out to make fun of him, what did Samson do? What did Samson ask God for in his prayer? **He prayed to God./He asked God to remember him and give him strength one more time.**
3. What happened when Samson pushed against the pillars? **The building collapsed and defeated the Philistines.**
4. What can we do when we have made bad choices that have moved us away from God? **(Look for answers like pray, repent, apologize)**

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 never giving up on us. Thank You for listening when we turn back to You, even after we make mistakes. Help us remember that real strength comes from You, not from ourselves. Teach us to listen to You, trust You, and come to You when we need help. We are thankful that You are always working in our lives. 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's Act

Today, we reached the final part of Samson's story and saw what happened after everything seemed lost. Samson had made serious mistakes and lost the strength God had given him, but his story didn't end there. When Samson finally turned back to God and prayed, God listened. Even in weakness and failure, God was still at work, showing that His power is greater than our mistakes and His plans are not finished when we fall.

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 how Samson's story ends and how God's power brings the final victory.

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 happened to Samson after he lost his strength? **The Philistines captured him and treated him badly.**
2. When the Philistines brought Samson out to make fun of him, what did Samson do? What did Samson ask God for in his prayer? **He prayed to God./He asked God to remember him and give him strength one more time.**
3. What happened when Samson pushed against the pillars? **The building collapsed and defeated the Philistines.**
4. What can we do when we have made bad choices that have moved us away from God? *(Look for answers like pray, repent, apologize)*

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:

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.

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's Act**

For your call to action this week:

Quiet Prayer Reset

Samson prayed when he felt weak and stuck. This week, choose one quiet moment: at home, in the car, or before school to pause and pray silently. You don't have to say anything out loud. Just take a moment to turn your heart back to God.

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 never giving up on us. Thank You for listening when we turn back to You, even after we make mistakes. Help us remember that real strength comes from You, not from ourselves. Teach us to listen to You, trust You, and come to You when we need help. We are thankful that You are always working in our lives. 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

"My mind and my body may become weak. But God is my strength. He is mine forever."

PSALM 73:26

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

“My mind and my body may become weak. But God is my strength. He is mine forever.”
Psalm 73:26

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)

