



## 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

### LESSON - GOD HEARS ME WHEN I PRAY!

Under the Big Top, we hear true Bible stories that help us learn about God’s love. Today’s story teaches us something very important: God still hears us when we turn back to Him and pray. Last week, we learned that Samson stopped listening to God. Today, Samson’s life looks very different. Samson is no longer strong. He feels sad and tired. From the outside, it looks like Samson’s story is over.

**SAY IT:** Samson felt sad.

**DO IT:** Put your hands on your cheeks and make a sad face.

But the Bible tells us something important. Even though Samson made mistakes, God did not forget him. The Bible says Samson’s hair began to grow again. This showed that God was still paying attention to Samson.

**SAY IT:** God still cares!

**DO IT:** Point to your heart.

Samson did something very important. He prayed. Samson talked to God and asked for help. Samson didn’t hide or pretend he was okay. He turned back to God and prayed.

**SAY IT:** I can pray to God!

**DO IT:** Fold your hands together.

And guess what? God heard Samson’s prayer. God listened when Samson turned back to Him. This teaches us something special: when we pray, God listens, too.

**SAY IT:** God hears me!

**DO IT:** Put your hand by your ear.

God didn’t help Samson because he did everything right. God helped Samson because He loves His people. The same is true for you, when you don’t do what’s right, and you ask God to forgive you, He will help you because He loves you, too.

**SAY IT:** God helps me!

**DO IT:** Give yourself a big hug.

At the end of Samson’s story, God showed where real strength comes from. The strength didn’t come from muscles or hair. The strength came from God.

**SAY IT:** God is strong!

**DO IT:** Show your muscles.

*God hears us when we pray. God helps us when we turn back to Him. God’s power is always greater.*

**SAY IT:** God hears me when I pray!

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, Thank You for loving us. Thank You for hearing us when we pray. Help us turn back to You and trust You. We love You, Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### LESSON QUESTIONS - 10 MINS

#### 2 & 3YR OLDS

1. Did Samson pray to God? **(Yes)**
2. Did God forget Samson when he made a bad choice? **(No)**
3. Can we pray to God, too? **(Yes)**
4. Does God listen when we talk to Him? **(Yes)**

#### 4YRS - 1ST GRADE (IF YOU HAVE 1ST GRADERS YOU CAN LET THEM BE YOUR HELPER).

1. What did Samson do when He needed help? **He prayed.**
2. Did God hear Samson’s prayer? **Yes.**
3. Where does real strength come from? **God.**
4. What can we do when we need help? **Pray to God**



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### ACTIVITY 1: STRONGMAN RELAY

**Items Needed:** 2 inflatable dumb bells, painter's tape for start and finish lines.

**Connection:** There was more to the strongman's story, and God gave him strength one more time.

**Step 1:** Mark the start and finish lines with painter's tape.

**Step 2:** Two students will pick up the inflatable dumb bells and race to the finish line.

**Step 3:** The first student to reach the finish line with the dumb bells wins.

### ACTIVITY 2: HEAR THE WHISPER

**Items Needed:** None

**Connection:** God hears quiet prayers.

**Step 1:** Leader whispers a short phrase.

**Step 2:** Kids try to repeat it. --

**Phrases:**

- "God, help me."
- "God, I need You."
- "God, thank You."

**Step 3:** God hears us even when we whisper

### ACTIVITY 3: BUBBLE PARTY OR STORY TIME

**Items Needed:** Bubbles and music OR book basket

We've got some extra time today, so let's spend it worshipping and dancing with bubbles or reading a book to the class (please show the pictures on each page).

### CRAFT OR COLORING SHEET (USE 1 OR 2 OPTIONS DEPENDING ON CLASS AGE & TIME)

#### FINGER PRAYER HANDPRINT CRAFT

**Items Needed:** 24 Sets Religious Bible Crafts Kit for Kids 5 Finger Prayer Handprint Fan Craft Kit

**Connection:** When we pray, God listens.

**Step 1:** Distribute hands and stickers

**Step 2:** Allow the children to assemble praying hands

**Step 3:** Help them add the popsicle stick to the back of the hand.

#### SAMSON'S FINAL ACT COLORING SHEET

**Items Needed:** Coloring sheet and crayons.

**Connection:** Samson prays and God listens.

**Step 1:** Distribute the coloring sheets and allow time to color.

# SAMSON DESTROYS THE PHILISTINE TEMPLE

Judges 16



**SAMSON  
PRAYS**

**GOD GIVES  
STRENGTH**

**THE TEMPLE  
IS DESTROYED**