

Clip My Hair

Bible: Clip My Hair (Samson) • *Judges 13–16*

Bottom Line: God is stronger than anyone.

Memory Verse: “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” *Psalms 27:13, NIV*

Life App: Confidence—Living like you believe what God says is true

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

10:15

Stronger

- No supplies needed

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Strong Samson

- Print the “Strong Samson” Activity Page on cardstock and cut out each figure; one “Samson” for each kid
- Crayons or markers
- Craft sticks; one for each kid
- Black yarn cut into 4-inch lengths; seven for each kid
- Tape; if possible, tear off two strips for each kid before the session (You’ll be glad you did!)

10:15

Tug of War

- A long rope

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that kids would understand that true strength comes from God and that God is stronger than anyone. Pray for kids to be comforted knowing that they don’t have to rely on themselves when faced with a challenge, but they can rely on God’s strength to help them face anything that comes their way.

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver Idea

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Offering container

What You Do:

- Guide kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Ask a series of “Which is stronger?” questions like the ones below. Kids can vote by pretending to be the stronger animal.
 - Which is stronger:
 - A mouse or a moose?
 - A hamster or a horse?
 - A jaguar or a jellyfish?
 - A worm or a walrus?
 - A goose or a gorilla?
 - A chicken or a cheetah?
 - A bee or a bear?
 - A dog or a donkey?
 - A llama or a lion?
- Ask: “If you could be any kind of strong animal, which animal would you be? Why?”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

- Greet kids as they arrive and make sure they know where to put their offerings.
- As they come in, gather in a circle and play “Stronger”:
 - The first player says, “An ant is pretty strong, but a horse is stronger.”
 - The next player repeats the last part and then adds their own: “A horse is pretty strong, but an elephant is stronger.”
 - Play around the circle, encouraging kids to add animals, machines, fairy tale characters, and superheroes to the list.
 - You are the judge if any disputes arise.
- When the game is over, talk about what makes someone strong on the outside.
 - Is it which heavy objects they can lift or move?
 - Is it how far they can run or how high they can jump?
 - What makes someone strong on the inside: their ability to keep calm in danger, their enduring care for others, their optimism in the face of difficulty?

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “Every Reason to Dance”
- “Imagine the Impossible”
- “Eye of the Storm”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: 10 Second Count Down

CG: AMPED Theme Slide

Host is on stage welcoming the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: “Hello, everyone! I’m so glad to see you. We’re in for a totally AMPED day here at [your environment’s name]. I’m confident that it’ll be awesome! That’s what we’re talking about this month: confidence.

“Tell me, what is confidence?”

CG: Confidence Slide

“Yes! Confidence is living like you believe what God says is true. When we believe what God says is true, that gives us the strength to obey Him and do what He says.

“You can have the confidence to climb a mountain if you trust that the ropes are secure. You can have the confidence to get on a skateboard if you trust that your helmet and pads will keep you safe. Life is like that, too. If you want to follow God and live the way He wants you to, then you need to have EXTREME confidence that He’s with you and that He’ll be right there to help you along the way.”

“Now, let me break up the heave a bit. I want us all to stand and call the Power Praise team in here.”

Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship

SFX: “Every Reason to Dance”

SFX: “Imagine the Impossible”

SFX: “Eye of the Storm”

Historyteller enters as Host exits.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hey, everyone! Did you know that the Bible is divided into two sections? (*Hold up Bible.*) The second half is called the New Testament, and it begins when Jesus was born. The New Testament is about how Jesus saved us and changed everything. The first half of the Bible is called the Old Testament, and it’s full of stories about God coming through for His chosen people, the Israelites.

“The problem is, the Israelites had a habit of not obeying God. They would believe God for a while, but then they would lose confidence in Him and start going their own way. They would end up getting themselves in trouble. When that happened, they would call out to God for help, and because God loved His people, He would send someone to save them.

“That’s where our Bible Truth picks up for today. I think we have a pretty funny video to tell us more about it.”

CG: 252 Story

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

“In his last moments, Samson remembered that it wasn’t his hair that gave him strength. His strength came from God alone. Samson had relied on his own strength before, but it was only strength from God that could set the Israelites free.

“Here’s what we can learn from Samson’s life story.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**God is stronger than anyone.** We need to obey God and depend on HIS strength—not our own.

“Let’s pray.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, You are stronger than anyone or anything. Thank You for showing us how strong You are through Samson’s life. Thank You for saving Your people over and over again. And thank You for saving us through Your Son, Jesus. Help us to trust You and rely on Your strength each day. We love You and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

Historyteller exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “Samson had some pretty extreme strength! He was able to defeat lions and break through ropes like they were nothing. But where did His strength REALLY come from? (*Pause for response.*) Right, it came from God. Samson trusted in his own strength instead of remembering that God had given it to Him to begin with.

“You and I can live with confidence when we remember how strong God is. We can ask Him for His

strength whenever we have to face something tough. And we can trust Him in the good times and the tough times. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what!**

“Here’s one thing we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God is stronger than anyone. That truth gives me confidence! I can do what God says because I know He is stronger than anyone. That kind of confidence lets us and everyone around us see more of Jesus in this world.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” *Psalm 27:13, NIV*

“Let’s talk some more in Small Group about how God’s strength amps us up and helps us live with confidence. See you later!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Strong Samson

What You Need: “Samson” cutouts, markers or crayons, yarn, tape, craft sticks

What You Do:

- Briefly review the Bible Truth as you give each child a “Strong Samson” figure. Be sure to touch on the following key points:
 - God sent an angel to tell Samson’s mother that she would have a son. The angel told her to never to cut his hair. His long hair would be a sign that he belonged to God.
 - God’s spirit made Samson strong. He was so strong that he wrestled a lion and won. He was so strong that he fought 1,000 men in battle and won!
 - One day Samson told a woman named Delilah that the secret of his strength was that he never cut his hair.
 - Delilah had someone shave his head while he was asleep, and Samson’s strength was gone.
 - Later, Samson remembered the true source of his strength: God!
 - One day, while the Philistines were making fun of Samson and worshiping their false God, Samson asked God to make him strong one more time, and He did. Samson pushed down two pillars of the temple and everyone died, including Samson.
- Invite kids to color their figures. Ask: “What’s missing from our Samsons?” (*His long hair!*)
- Help each child count seven pieces of yarn and tape them to the back of Samson’s head. Tell kids that Samson braided his hair into seven braids (*Judges 16:13*).
- Show kids how to tape their Samson figures to craft sticks to make puppets.
- Invite kids to use the puppets to tell their favorite part of the Bible Truth.

What You Say:

“Samson was VERY strong. But who gave Samson his strength? Yes, God did. God was the One who made Samson so strong.

“God is stronger than anyone or anything. What are some things God has done that show how strong He is? (*He made the world; He parted the Red Sea; He healed people.*) Yes! Since God is stronger than anyone or anything, can He help you when you have troubles? (*Yes!*) Yes, He can! Whether you have a problem at school, a problem in your family, a problem with a friend, or any problem at all, God can help you. He loves you, and He is stronger than anyone. So the thing to give you confidence today is this: **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone!**”

10:15**Tug of War****What You Need:** Long rope**What You Do:**

- Use the rope to play tug of war using one or more of the following options:
 - Play environment-wide with 2nd grade vs. 3rd grade
 - Play one small group vs. another small group
 - Play birthdays that fall in January–June vs. July–December
 - Play kids vs. adults
- Declare a winner and then head back to your small group space.

What You Say:

“That was super fun! You guys are pretty strong. Samson was strong too. But there is someone even stronger. **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone.** There isn’t anything or anyone that’s bigger or more powerful than God! That’s why we can have confidence in any circumstance—because it’s not about how strong you are, it’s about how strong God is!”

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you felt that God was with you and gave you strength to do something you didn’t think you could do. This could be an example from childhood like raising money or helping someone in some way.) [Bottom Line] “God is stronger than anyone. I can always put my confidence in him.”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

“Who’s the strongest person you can think of right now? Is it your dad? A character in a video game? A superhero? God is WAY stronger than all of them! **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone!** He’s so strong that He created the whole world and everything in it. He’s so strong that He brought his only Son back from the dead!

“Since God is so strong and since He loves you so much, can you trust Him when you have a problem? *(Pause.)* Yes, you can! So whenever you have a problem, ask God to help you. He loves you more than anyone and He is stronger than anyone. Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You that we can trust You no matter what. Thank You that You love us more than we can imagine and that You are stronger than we can imagine. Help us rely on Your strength instead of on our own strength when we have problems. Thank You that You love us and that You will help us. We love You, Lord. You are SO good. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids, “Who is stronger than anyone? *(God!)* Yes, **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone!**”