

THE STORY

Before God's people, the Israelites had kings to rule them, God sent judges to lead them. God used Samson, one of Israel's judges, to fight battles for His people for twenty years. Before Samson was born, an angel of God announced to a husband and wife that they would have a son, although they had almost given up hope of having children. The angel announced that the baby boy would grow up to be strong and would help God's people.

'This boy will be special' the angel said. 'God will be with him and will make him strong. Don't ever cut his hair. His long hair will be a sign that God has chosen him for a special job.'

God's promises always come true. So a baby was born. His parents called him Samson. He grew up to be very strong because God was with him. Samson was so strong that he killed an angry lion with his bare hands. Samson fought against an army of Philistines, the enemies of God's people, and won, even though his only weapon was the jawbone of a donkey.

Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman. Delilah didn't know God. The Philistines promised Delilah a lot of money if she could find out what made Samson strong. So Delilah kept asking: 'Why are you so strong? What's your secret?'

At first Samson played tricks on her, instead of giving her the real answer. But Delilah kept asking and asking. Finally, he admitted that his long hair was the sign that God made him strong, so his hair should never be cut.

At night, while Samson was asleep, Delilah had Samson's hair shaved. She called in the Philistines, who came and tied him up, blinded him and put him in their prison. Since Samson's hair was cut, God's strength had left him.

The Philistines were very proud of capturing Samson, and bragged that their god was more powerful than Samson's God. Many Philistines gathered to praise Dagon, their god. They led blind Samson into their temple so that they could make fun of him and his God.

Samson remembered that God had a special plan for him. Samson asked to be led to the tall main pillars in the crowded temple. The Philistines led Samson's blind, weakened body there and thought that he could do nothing. But Samson wasn't alone. He prayed: 'O Lord God...give me strength just once more'.

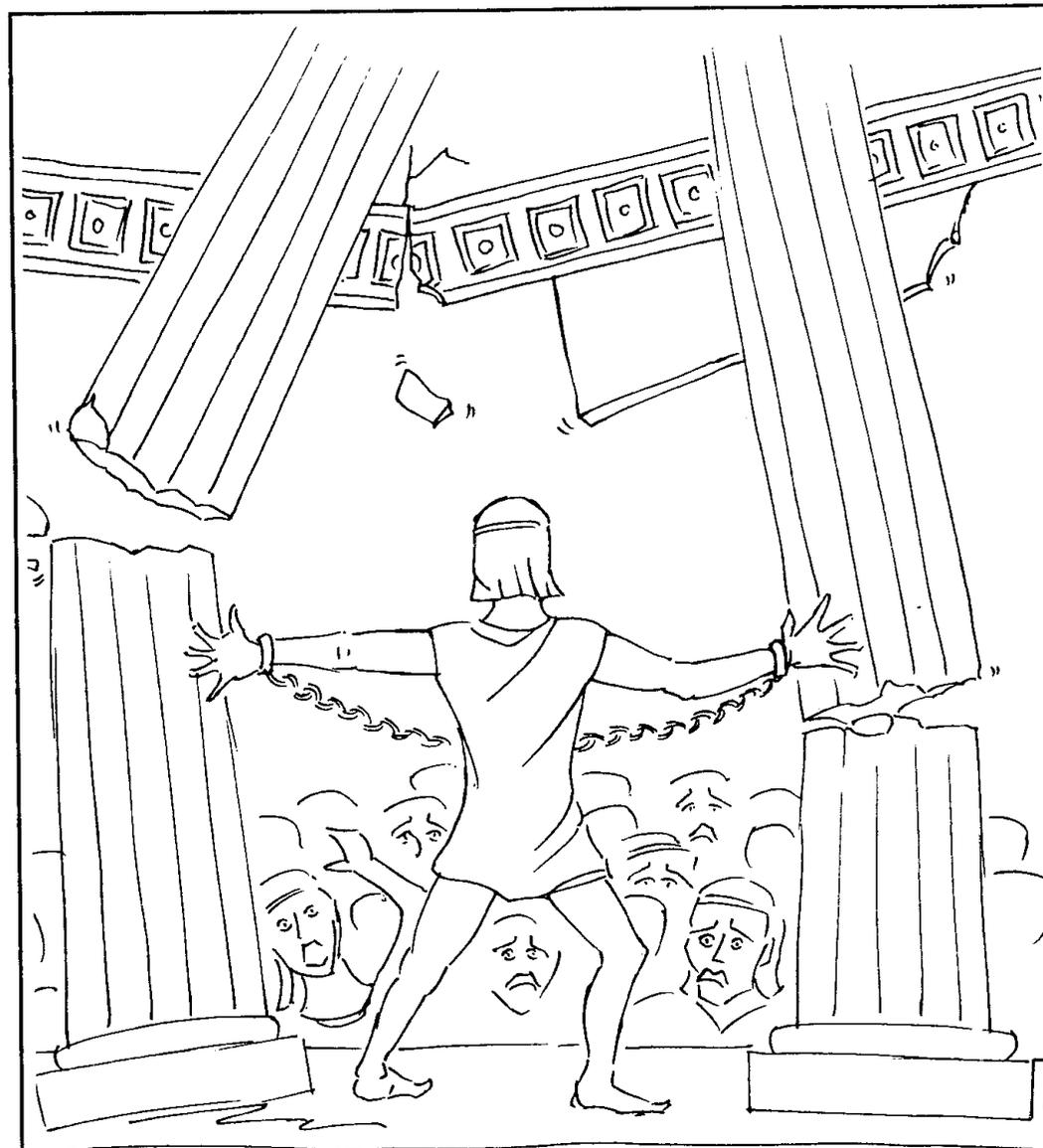
God heard Samson's prayer, and answered it. Samson pushed those pillars and the temple crashed down, killing the Philistine leaders and the worshippers at the temple. Samson also died, but his work for God had been done, just as God had promised before his birth.

FAITH AND FAMILY TIME

- Talk about the story picture and the children's activities. Read the story in Judges 13—16 or in a Bible story book.
- Family members need different kinds of strength; physical strength, mental ability, patience, tolerance, self-control, etc. Above all, we each need strong faith in Jesus. Talk about these strengths. Ask God to give needed strengths, especially if a family member feels weak in some area of his or her life.
- Talk about similarities between Samson and Jesus, eg in the announcement by an angel of the forthcoming birth (Judges 13 and Luke 1), and by dying to help their people (Judges 16).

PRAYER

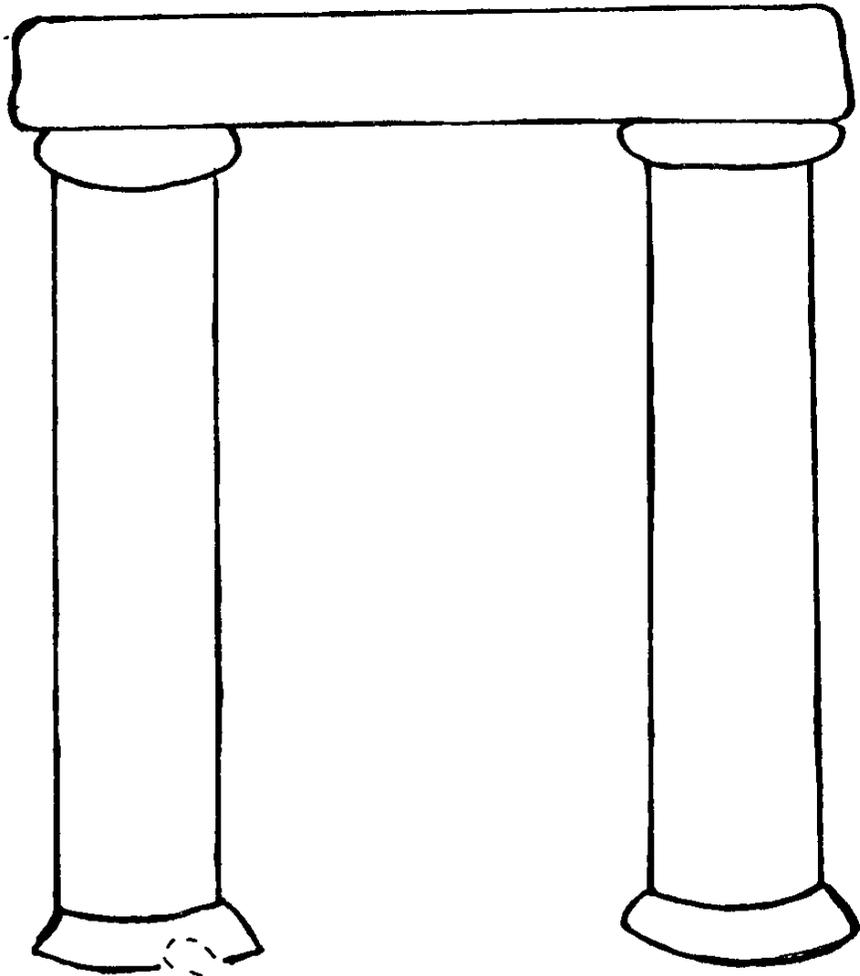
Gracious Father, we pray for the gift of strength. Make us strong to do Your will in spite of temptations to take the easy way. Give us strong trust in Your Word and promises. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



SAMSON

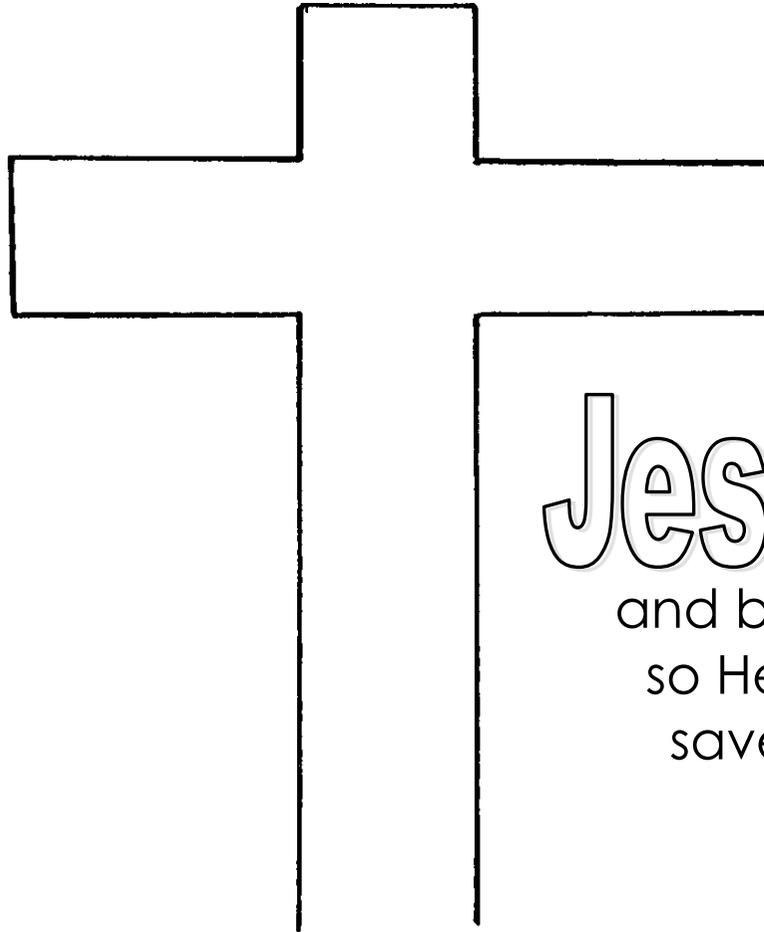
Judges 13 – 16

Draw two strong men who died to help their friends.



Samson

Samson was the man that God made strong to save His people.



Jesus

Jesus is God and became a man so He could die to save His people.



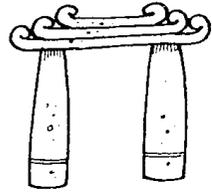
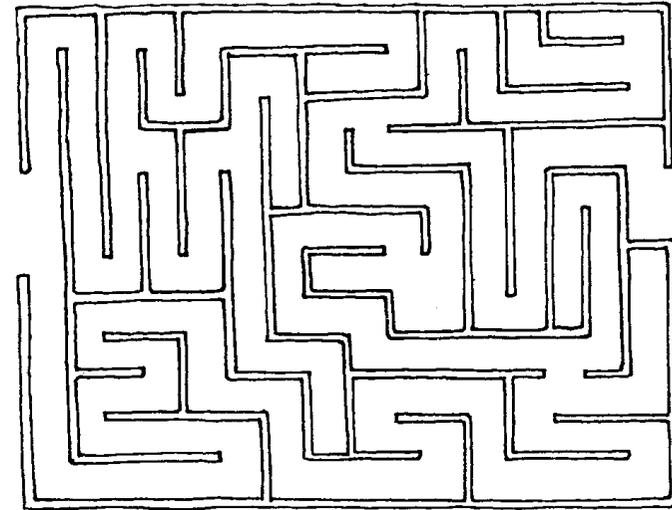
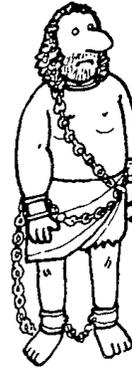
Bible Verse
Be strong in the Lord.
Ephesians 6:10

Put a ✓ or a X for True or False.

- ___ Samson was to never cut his hair.
- ___ Samson killed a lion with the jawbone of a donkey.
- ___ Samson loved a Philistine woman called Delilah.
- ___ Delilah loved and trusted God.
- ___ Delilah loved Samson.
- ___ Delilah had Samson's hair cut while he was asleep.
- ___ Samson was made blind and put in prison.
- ___ The Philistines wanted to make fun of Samson and his God.
- ___ Samson prayed that God would make him see again.
- ___ God answered Samson's prayer and made him strong again.
- ___ God will give us strength too, to do His will.



Lead Samson to the two pillars.



Something to think about and discuss

- Samson must have felt very strong and proud when he killed the lion with his bare hands or defeated the Philistine army with the jawbone of a donkey. How do you think he felt when his hair had been cut and he was blinded and put into prison?
- How do you suppose he felt when he prayed to God to give him strength once more?
- When we are close to God, we are strong, because God gives us strength. How do we get close to God?
- Think of times when you are weak, but God makes you strong.

BIBLE VERSE
**BE STRONG IN
THE LORD
AND IN HIS
MIGHTY POWER.**
EPHESIANS 6:10

You can sing the Bible Verse to the Happy Birthday tune:

Be strong in the Lord
Be strong in the Lord
Be strong in the Lord
and in His Mighty Power.



God makes us strong to do his will

God wants us to obey His commandments. God helps us to be good and to obey Him. God gave Samson strength to fight his enemies, the Philistines. When we pray: 'Lead us not into temptation', we ask God for another kind of strength — the strength to fight against everything that is bad and to obey Him. Samson couldn't knock down the temple by himself. God gave him the strength. We can't be good and obey God's rules by ourselves. But God can make us strong.

Samson and Jesus

Just as Samson did mighty deeds,
so did Jesus here on earth.
Just as Samson was captured, humiliated
and died, so Jesus did that for us.
Just as Samson died to help save his people,
so Jesus died to save us, His people.



Find these words from the story in the wordsearch.

- | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| ANGEL | JAWBONE | PRISON |
| BLIND | JUDGE | RIDDLES |
| DAGON | KILL | SAMSON |
| DELILAH | LION | SHAVE |
| GOD | PHILISTINES | SIGN |
| HAIR | PILLARS | STRONG |
| ISRAEL | PRAYER | TEMPLE |

The leftover letters make who we are strong in.

P	S	P	H	I	L	I	S	T	I	N	E	S
R	A	D	N	G	I	S	T	R	O	N	G	T
I	M	H	E	B	E	R	E	I	L	O	D	P
S	S	K	I	L	L	A	L	E	G	N	A	R
O	O	R	D	I	I	E	V	A	H	S	G	A
N	N	D	O	N	E	L	P	M	E	T	O	Y
D	I	R	G	D	U	J	A	W	B	O	N	E
R	P	I	L	L	A	R	S	H	H	A	I	R

BIBLE VERSE
WHEN I AM WEAK THEN I AM STRONG.
 1 CORINTHIANS 12:10B

God said:

Paul wrote

1 4 6 3 5 2 7

5 12 2 16 10 11 1

10 9 1 11 13 2

5 2 11 18 17 12 2 16

6 2 7 14 2 15 17 10 16

10 11 1 9 17 7 3 16 8

5 2 11 18 16 2 20 20

In church God's name makes us strong

We cannot fight against temptation and the devil all by ourselves. We are too weak. We need God's strength. In our church services we remember that God is with us.

At the start of the service we say: 'In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. This reminds us that we are God's people through our baptism. He is present with us.

Sometimes before we confess our sins we say: 'Our help is in the Name of the Lord'. This tells us that only God can help us.

At the end of our prayers we say: 'through Jesus Christ our Lord', or 'we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ'. That means that in our prayers we ask God to help us, not



because we have been good or done something good, but rather because Jesus was good and died for our sins on the cross. We know God will help us because we come to Him in the strong name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Losers and Winners

In a war you know who your enemies are. When Israel and the Philistines were fighting each other with swords and spears they each knew who was who. But in peace time the Israelites started socializing with the Philistines and marrying into their families. They even went to the temples and prayed to their gods. That's when the Philistines were really God's enemies.

We have those sort of problems today. God has enemies. Anyone or anything that makes us forget God or do things that God doesn't want us to do is God's enemy and perilous to our faith in God.

When we are weak losers, not winners against these enemies of God, we can know that we don't have to fight alone. Jesus has already won the victory for us. *How did He do that?*