



WEEK THREE - JUNE 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Clip My Hair • 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." - Psalm 27:13 NIV*

Life App: *Confidence - Living like you believe what God says is true.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: There's an important story about honesty throughout the book of Judges 13-16. From the start, Samson was set apart to lead God's people. His life had many ups and downs as he tried to live from his own strength, but ultimately his confidence in God allowed him to carry out the plan for his life.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids to your group and use a couple minutes to ask about their week (highs/lows)
- Ask a series of "Which is stronger?" questions like the ones below..
- Which is stronger:
 - Batman or Superman
 - A wet noodle or a wet paper towel
 - Your dad or your big brother
 - Your dad or your grandfather
 - A monster truck or a tractor trailer
 - An airplane or a locomotive
 - The ocean or the mountains
 - JELL-O® or Play-Doh®
 - A kind word or an unkind word

2. Burly Beasties

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: "Burly Beasties" Activity Cards; tape

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a tight circle.
- Tape a "Burly Beasties" card to each child's back. (Shh! Be sure the kids keep each picture a secret!)
- Lead the group to mingle around the room. Call out a riddle below, leading kids to gather around the child whose animal answers the riddle.
- When all the kids are gathered around that child, encourage him to guess what animal he is. (Provide additional clues if necessary.)
 - Elephant: I live in grasslands, and I live in forests. My skin is thick and tough. I have large ears and a long trunk. Who am I?

- Rhinoceros: I live in grasslands, and I live in forests. My skin is thick and tough, and it can be colored gray. I have four legs and small ears. I also have one or more horns. Who am I?
 - Gorilla: I live in forests, and I can climb trees. I have arms and legs, but I often walk on my feet and knuckles. You might see me pound my chest to show how strong I am or to tell my family to follow me. Who am I?
 - Grizzly Bear: I have shaggy fur, four legs, and very long claws. I live in the woods. I eat berries, nuts, fish, and many other things. I'm usually brown. Who am I?
 - Tiger: I live in the jungle, and I can climb trees. I have a long tail, stripes, and I walk quietly on four paws. Who am I?
 - Polar Bear: I have white fur, four legs, and small ears. I live in very cold places, and I like to swim. Who am I?
 - Horse: I have four legs and a long tail. You might find me on a farm or ranch. I can pull heavy things, but you can also ride on my back. Who am I?
 - Hippopotamus: I have a large body, a big mouth, and big teeth, but my legs are short and my ears are small. I spend much of my day in the water to keep cool. Who am I?
 - Orca/Killer Whale: I have a large body and a large tail. I also have large teeth. I'm black and white, and I live in the ocean. Who am I?
 - Lion: I live in grasslands and I have a long tail. I have a loud roar that scares my enemies away! Who am I?
- Guide kids to move like that animal as they find the answer to your next riddle.

What You Say:

"What do elephants and rhinoceroses and gorillas and bears and tigers and horses and hippos and orcas and lions have in common? (They're all big; they're all strong.) Yes! They're all VERY strong. [Transition] In Large Group, we'll hear about a person who was very strong. In fact, he was the strongest person EVER. Let's go learn more."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *God is stronger than anyone."* Believing that God is stronger than anyone can give us the confidence to put our trust in what He can do more than what we can do. We can only do so much on our own. We need God's help to accomplish God's plan for our lives.

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Ping Pong Bible Story Review

[Bible Story Review]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines & working as a group

What You Need: Two buckets; ping-pong balls; paper; pencils

What You Do:

- Take the SG to the center of the room. Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a bucket and half of the ping-pong balls.
- Instruct teams to select one player from their team to hold the bucket on their head and stand about three feet away from the rest of the team.
- Ask review questions from the story below back and forth to each team.
- If answered correctly, that player earns the opportunity to toss the ball into the bucket on his teammate's head.
- The teammate with the bucket on his head may move around to try to catch the ball.
- Select one player from each team to keep score.
- Each team receives a point for every correct answer and two points for every ball that makes it into the bucket (for a potential total of three points for each turn).

Review Questions:

- The angel that appeared to Manoah's wife to tell her she would have a son or daughter? (A son)
- The angel told her never to do what? (Cut her son's hair)
- Manoah and his wife named their baby what? (Samson)
- Samson was very what? (Strong)
- Samson wrestled what to the ground with his bare hands? (A lion)
- Samson punished the Philistines by capturing 300 foxes and tying what to their tails? (Torches)
- This made the Philistines mad! His own people turned on him and tied Samson up. Where did they take him? (To the Philistines)
- Samson broke free, grabbed the jawbone of a what and fought off 1000 Philistines. (Donkey)
- Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman named what? (Delilah)
- Delilah begged Samson to tell her the secret of her strength. First, Samson told her to tie him up with how many strings? (Seven)
- Later, while he was sleeping, Delilah tied him up with seven bow strings and then screamed, "Samson, the Philistines are coming!" What happened next? (Samson flexed and the strings snapped instantly)

- Delilah begged him again to tell her the secret of his strength. Samson told her to bind his hands again. What happened this time? (Samson broke free again)
- Delilah and the Philistines tried one more time, this time weaving Samson's hair into the cloth on a loom. What happened? (Samson broke free again)
- Finally, Samson admitted the secret to his strength. What was it? (His hair; he'd never cut it)
- What happened when they cut his hair? (The Philistines captured Samson)
- Later, they brought Samson out to make fun of him and he convinced them to let him lean against what? (The pillars/columns of the temple)
- Samson remembered the true source of his strength. What was it? (He asked God to give him strength)
- Samson grabbed the pillars and shoved. What happened? (Samson and the Philistines were killed beneath the rubble)

What You Say:

*"Great job, everyone! What a crazy story. The real source of Samson's strength wasn't his hair. What was it? (Pause.) Yes, it was GOD's power in him! He would have been weak without God's power, because [Bottom Line] **God is stronger than anyone.** You and I can trust God and always have confidence in His strength. We won't face an entire army, but we might need help standing up for what is right or choosing to be honest when we'd rather tell something other than the truth to get out of trouble. God will always give us the strength we need to keep going and keep doing the right thing when we choose to put our confidence in Him."*

2. Pray & Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Challenge the kids to stand up and show you their best strong man pose by flexing their muscles. This will probably cause lots of silly giggling, and that's okay!
- Have the kids sit down and remind them that REAL strength—the strength it takes to do the right thing—comes from God, NOT our muscles.
- Encourage kids to go around the circle and complete the following sentence, "God help me to show strength this week by _____."
- If a child has trouble filling the blank, he or she can tap the person next to them to skip their turn. (You can also prompt kids by asking if they have any tests at school or big games coming up this week. Ask if there's a friend who doesn't do the right thing all that often and if they feel tempted to follow that friend's lead.)
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Heavenly Father, thank You for the story of Samson and how he learned that his strength wasn't about his hair or even his muscles. His strength came from You. Help us to remember that we can put our confidence in You because You are stronger than anyone. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

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