



## **Samson the Strong**

### **Welcome (Parents and Carers asked to stay until after the Pilots Prayer)**

Welcome back to Friends on Faith Adventures. We are looking forward to going on a journey and nobody knows where we will end up. All we know is we have got our crate filled with adventure and an open path ahead. So, hold on tight and enjoy the ride!!

Let's hear about FOFA bear and FOFA cam's adventures this week and how everyone got on with the Walking the Way challenge. (Encourage everyone, including parents and carers, to join in.)

### **The Pilots Prayer**

Lord help us to be:

Prepared for adventure

In all we do.

Loving and caring,

Open to others

Together as one community

Sharing the love of Jesus on our way.

Amen

### **Fun Together**

Test of strength. These games are set to test the strength of the children.

Get a thick rope or sheet twisted into a rope and organise a tug-o-war [between the group when split in two].

Give each child a sheet of A4 paper get them to tear it in half and place the two halves together. Then tear it in half again and again put the two halves together, continue this until the paper becomes too thick to tear and the winner is the one who can tear the most pieces at once.

Get some old phonebooks, or newspapers and make thick books from them, have a book ripping competition.

Have a thumb war competition.

**The theme of this session is Samson - a man famous for his strength.**



## Samson the Strong

### The Big Story : Samson the Strong (Judges 13 & 16)

Required in the bag:

- Toilet roll to make muscles
- 7x Ropes made out of toilet roll.
- 7x Ropes made of wool that is easy to break
- Long Hair Made of yellow wool (long strands tied together in the middle)
- Scissors
- Bag of money

*[Get 4 volunteers: Samson, Delilah and two stone pillars.]*

Reader 1: So today we are looking at a man called Samson. Now, his parents couldn't have babies. However, one day God visited his mum and told he would give her a child, but there were a few conditions to this. They were not to drink wine, beer or eat forbidden food.

Reader 2: Wow, God is quite demanding.

Reader 1: Yeah, but God didn't stop there. He promised her that she would have a special son, but he was not to eat grapes or raisins, drink wine or touch a dead body... erh! But most of all - he was not to cut his hair.

Reader 2: Hold on - did you say he mustn't cut his hair?!

*[Get one of the volunteers (with a long sleeved top on) to be Samson]*

Reader 1: That's right. So as Samson grew up, he grew huge muscles and huge hair.

Reader 2: Hold on, he hasn't got long hair or muscles!

*[Shove some toilet roll in the sleeves of Samson's top to make muscles and place a wool wig on his head.]*

Reader 1: Happy now?

Reader 2: Yes.

Reader 1: So, the bigger and more handsome Samson got the more interest he got from... GIRLS!

Reader 2: Ooooh!



## Samson the Strong

Reader 1: One particular girl caught Samson's eye, she was called Delilah.

*[Get one volunteer to be Delilah]*

Reader 2: Delilah was very pretty.

Reading 1: Now, Samson was trying to defend his people (the Israelites) from a group called the Philistines. They weren't being very nice, but Samson was very strong and was able to defend his people.

Reader 2: Have you seen those muscles. *(point to muscles)*

Reader 1: Anyway, back to Delilah. The Philistines found out that Delilah and Samson liked each other and decided that they would find the secret to Samson's strength through her.

Reader 2: How?

Reader 1: Money *[get the bag of money out of the bag]*. They asked her to find Samson's weakness and tell them, so they could destroy him.

Reader 2: BOOOO!

Reader 1: So that night she asked him.

Reader 2: Oh, Samson my little hunk, my muscly masterpiece, my beautiful bodybuilder what is your weakness, what makes you less strong?

Reader 1: Now, Samson had been ordered by mum not to tell anyone about his weakness. He told Delilah that if he was tied by 7 stings he wouldn't be able to escape, but this wasn't true.

Reader 2: Delilah tied him with 7 strings, she even used double knots!

*[Get Delilah to 'tie' Samson with toilet paper strings]*

But that didn't work, he snapped them with ease. *[Samson breaks strings]*

Reader 1: Delilah was not happy but wasn't about to give up yet. So, the next night she made him a nice meal and asked again.

Reader 2: Way to a man's heart is through his tummy, huh?

Reader 1: This time Samson said that new ropes would hold him, so Delilah waited for him to fall asleep and tied him with new ropes.

*[Get Delilah to 'tie' Samson with wool strings]*



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Again, Samson ripped them apart with ease [*Samson breaks strings*]

Reader 2: Surely Samson was getting suspicious by now?

Reader 1: Well, no, not really. Again, she tried and when it didn't work a third time she started crying saying that Samson didn't trust her or love her if he didn't tell her. Well, Samson really liked her and didn't want to see her cry...

Reader 2: No, he didn't...

Reader1: He did! He told her about the hair and how he had a special gift from God.

Reader 2: Let me guess, Delilah became a barber all of a sudden?

[*Get Delilah to cut the wool wig carefully with the scissors*]

Reader 1: Yep, that night she cut Samson's hair and called the Philistines to come and get him. When he woke, he was soooo weak and the Philistines took him and chained him up between two pillars of their temple.

[*Get two volunteers to be temple pillars and hold Samson's arms*]

But they took so long to kill him, that Samson's hair started to grow back again along with his strength.

Reader 2: This isn't going to end well, is it?

Reader 1: When he was strong enough, Samson brought the temple down by pushing the pillars apart.

[*Get Samson to gently push over the two pillars and let them carefully fall over*]

The roof came crashing down, killing Samson and a large number of Philistines. This was how God freed the Israelites from the Philistines. Samson didn't seem to take God's rules for him seriously, but God still used Samson to defeat the Philistines. Imagine how much more Samson the Strong could have done for God if he hadn't given in to Delilah.

Reader 2: I wonder why God gave Samson this super strength...



## Samson the Strong

### Creative Adventure

#### **What you will need:**

- Biodegradable plant pots- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gardman-Fibre-Pots-Round-Value/dp/B000ZLK0EU/ref=sr\\_1\\_10?crd=24W3U1GTJA73G&keywords=biodegradable+plant+pots&qid=1554160923&s=gateway&sprefix=biodegrad%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-10](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gardman-Fibre-Pots-Round-Value/dp/B000ZLK0EU/ref=sr_1_10?crd=24W3U1GTJA73G&keywords=biodegradable+plant+pots&qid=1554160923&s=gateway&sprefix=biodegrad%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-10)
- Or from garden centres
- Soil
- Cress seeds
- Sharpie pens

Get the young people to draw Samson's face on the plant pots and colour in. Then fill the pot with soil and plant the seeds. When the seeds grow they will create Samson's hair. Suggest you have a hair growing competition by taking a photo of their pot. When the cress grows, the children can cut Samson's hair and create a Samson hair sandwich. The children can also write what they think their gifts/talents are on the other side of the pot.

#### Wondering questions to use during creative time:

What special gift would you like to have?

What special gift do you have?

How might that gift grow?

What could weaken that gift?

### The Adventure Map

Explain the Adventure Map and how a lot of the books were written hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth. However, a lot of the stories in the Bible before the birth of Jesus, talk of his coming and set out how God wants us to live our lives.



## Samson the Strong

Take the young people to the Adventure Map that you have created on the wall. Get the children to find where on the Map today's story came from. Choose one or some of the things created by the children to be photographed and attach this to the wall to create a visual reminder of where the story came from and your adventure together. The aim is that in a year you will have lots of reminders of the stories and where in the Bible they come from. Use a piece of string or ribbon to connect the photo of the craft work to the book of the Bible.

### Walking the Way

**This is a time to invite the parents and carers back in to share what the children have been up to during the session. They will also be here to hear about the Walking the Way challenge and the tasks (should they choose to accept them) that the children (and parents) are about to undertake.**

For the Younger: FOFA the bear

This is FOFA. FOFA likes nothing more than to go on an adventure; FOFA is a little more adventurous than me. FOFA believes that faith is a journey and that's why FOFA would love to take you on a journey with him and walk the way of God in our everyday lives. Each session FOFA would like to go home with one of you and add to FOFA's scrapbook of things you do together. FOFA doesn't mind if you draw a picture of what you have done, take a photograph or just write a story about it. FOFA also doesn't mind if you just come and tell the rest of us what you got up to together. But because FOFA's memory isn't very good as FOFA's brains are made of stuffing, it would be better to save the memories in the book if you can. At the end of our time together we can always remember the great adventures we have been on together with FOFA and hopefully you will walk a little closer with God.

For the Older: FOFA cam

This camera is your window on the world. You have one shot at this, so choose carefully. You will be given a very precious piece of equipment – a FOFA cam. You have one photo to take with the camera, that records one thing – a way you have met the challenge. If there are other people in the photo, please ask their permission first and explain this photo will be put on display here. Bring back the camera and your photo next time to share your moment - and remember you only have ONE shot at this!

Every time we will choose someone to take FOFA bear and someone to take FOFA cam to help them with the challenge – but we can all have a go at the challenge!

Our Walking the Way Challenge this time is: think about what gifts you have and one way this helps others.





## **Samson the Strong**

### **Adventurers Go!**

So today we have heard how God gave Samson a great gift and a reason for that gift. God made each of us for a reason too and gave us gifts. Your life might not be perfect, but he wants you to learn and grow with what you have and use our gifts well.

### **Prayers (choose one/both)**

Dear God

Sometimes we feel strong, sometimes we feel weak

Sometimes we are good at doing the right thing sometimes we just don't

Sometimes we want to boast and show off and sometimes we are happy with who we are

Be with us in the good times and the bad times

And help us to make good choices as we listen to you.

**Amen**

### **Active Prayer**

Pose like a strong man and think of things that make you strong (friends, family, people you trust)

Shout in a strong voice "Thank You God!!"

Curl up into a tiny ball and think of those things that make you feel small or unhappy (arguments, bullying, scary tests)

Say in a quiet voice "God please be with me"

**Amen**

### **End Prayer Every Session: Altogether**

**We are Friends on Faith Adventures, travelling together with God.**

**Adventurers go! Amen**



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- 7x Ropes made of wool that is easy to break
- Long Hair Made of yellow wool (long strands tied together in the middle)
- Scissors
- Bag of money

### **Craft**

Biodegradable plant pots- from good garden centres or

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gardman-Fibre-Pots-Round-Value/dp/B000ZLK0EU/ref=sr\\_1\\_10?crd=24W3U1GTJA73G&keywords=biodegradable+plant+pots&qid=1554160923&s=gateway&sprefix=biodegrad%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-10](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gardman-Fibre-Pots-Round-Value/dp/B000ZLK0EU/ref=sr_1_10?crd=24W3U1GTJA73G&keywords=biodegradable+plant+pots&qid=1554160923&s=gateway&sprefix=biodegrad%2Caps%2C161&sr=8-10)

- Soil
- Cress seeds
- Sharpie pens

Location	Possible hazard	Action required	Action taken	Signature
<b>During session</b>	Use of sharpies and possible damage to clothes	Consider offering protective clothing	Offer children protective clothing and warn older children of the indelible nature of the pens.	
<b>During session</b>	Use off scissors possible cutting of hands	Use rounded end scissors or closely supervise young children	Allocate a helper to the younger children or get an adult to do the cutting	
<b>During session</b>	Possible soil infection	Buy soil from a reputable source.	Buy soil do not use soil from the garden as can carry infection.	