



SAMSON AND DELILAH

Memory Verse: "Do not be fooled: 'Bad friends will ruin good habits.'" 1 Corinthians 15:33, ICB

Story Overview:

Although the Lord chose Samson, Samson did not always choose God! He fell in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah, who did not believe in God. The Philistine rulers paid Delilah to find the secret of Samson's strength. Delilah begged Samson to tell her his secret and finally revealed that his strength was in his long hair. Delilah told the Philistine leaders, and they cut Samson's hair, made him blind, and put him in prison to do hard work.

Background Study:

It seems Samson did not learn from his mistakes! The story that follows seems almost incredible unless you have seen the way Satan uses the tool of lust to bring down those of even the strongest character.

Samson fell in love with another woman, Delilah. The Philistines were still trying to find a way to destroy Samson, so they used Delilah. They offered her money to find out the secret of Samson's strength. We don't know if Delilah agreed because of fear (remember how Samson's wife was killed? [Judges 15:6](#)) or simply greed. Whatever the reason, Delilah tried her best to find out the secret of Samson's strength.

First, Samson told Delilah that his strength would be gone if his hands were tied with fresh thongs of leather. During the night, Delilah tied Samson's hands. The Philistines hid in the room so that they could be there to capture Samson. When Delilah woke him, he jumped up and snapped the thongs of leather.

Trying to make Samson feel guilty, she enticed him once again to tell him his secret. Once again, Samson told her a false reason. Delilah did exactly as Samson had told her. She tied him with new ropes. Once again, the Philistines hid in the room. Delilah woke Samson, and he snapped the ropes.

Once again, Delilah tried to entice Samson. He told her his strength would be gone if his hair was woven into a loom. Delilah did this, and when she woke him, he jumped up and pulled the loom apart.

Now, Delilah has used her best tricks. She began talking about love. If Samson loved her, then he would tell her. She continued to nag him. You would think Samson would remember what happened when his wife had nagged him into telling him the answer to his riddle ([Judges 14:16-17](#)).

Delilah was hard to resist. Finally, Samson told her everything. He revealed that his long hair symbolized his dedication to God. If he forgot his dedication and allowed his hair to be cut, God would no longer provide him with tremendous strength.

Delilah called all of the Philistine leaders back to her house. After Samson was asleep, Delilah told one of the men to shave off Samson's seven braids. Then she said, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" His vow was broken; God no longer gave him special strength. The Philistines captured Samson.

After all of the taunts Samson had sent their way, the Philistines wanted to make sure that he was taken care of. They wanted him to be a symbol of Israelite humiliation. They gouged out his eyes and shackled him. He was put to work doing the menial task of grinding in a mill.

The Story:

After time had passed, Samson fell in love with another woman. Her name was Delilah.

The Philistines still hated Samson. They did not understand how he could be so strong. They wanted to know the secret of his strength so they could capture him. When the Philistines heard about Samson and Delilah, they decided to use Delilah to find out Samson's secret. They went to Delilah and offered her lots of money. They told her they would give her the money if she could trick Samson into telling the secret of his strength.

That night, Delilah begged Samson to tell her about his strength, "Samson, please tell me how you can be captured." Samson decided to trick Delilah. He told her that if someone tied him with leather strings, his strength would be gone, and he could be captured.

During the night, while Samson was sleeping, the Philistines came and hid in the room. Delilah tied him with the leather strings just like he had said.

Delilah said, "Wake up Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" Samson

immediately jumped up and snapped all of the leather strings off.

Samson had tricked Delilah! Delilah did not like that. She knew that the Philistines would not like that either.

The next time Delilah asks Samson to tell her the secret of his strength, he tells her that the secret is new ropes. His strength would be gone if he were tied with new ropes that had never been used. Anyone could capture him.

Once again, Delilah waited until he was asleep and tied him with new ropes. The Philistine men hid in the room. Delilah said, "Wake up Samson, the Philistines are upon you!"

Samson immediately jumped up and snapped the ropes. Ropes were not the secret of his strength!

Delilah begged Samson to tell her the real way that he could be captured. Samson told her that if someone wove his hair into a loom, all of his strength would leave him. Delilah tried that, too. She wove his hair into a cloth loom while he was sleeping. When she called out to him: "Samson, the Philistines are upon you", Samson jumped up and broke the loom into pieces.

Delilah was getting angry. Why wouldn't Samson tell her his secret?

"Samson, if you really loved me, you would tell me how you can be captured. Please tell me. Please, please, please!"

Finally, Samson got tired of Delilah asking him. He wanted Delilah to love him. If he hadn't told her, maybe she would no longer love him. Maybe she wouldn't want to be around him. He decided to tell her about the Nazarite Vow. He told her that if he ever cut his hair, all his strength would leave him. Anyone could capture him then.

Now Delilah knew that she had the real secret. She told the Philistine men to hide in the room one more time. After Samson was asleep, Delilah got one of the men to sneak over and shave off Samson's hair. His hair was in seven braids, and the Philistine shaved off all of them.

This time, when Delilah said: "Wake up Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" Samson jumped up but had no strength. He had broken his promise to God and all of his special strength left him.

The Philistines captured Samson and made him a slave in a mill where grain was ground up into flour. They also made him blind. Now, all of the Philistines could come and watch Samson and make fun of him.

Every day, Samson probably wished that he had not listened to Delilah. He knew that he should have done what the Lord said.

ACTIVITY

Complete the word puzzle

Review and Reflection Questions:

1. Who was Samson's girlfriend? _____

2. Why did Delilah try to trick Samson?

3. Why did Samson finally tell Delilah that his strength was in his hair?

4. What did the Philistines do with Samson when they cut his hair?

5. Why was it not a good idea for Samson to be friends with or in love with Delilah, who was a Philistine?

6. What did you learn about people from this story?

Reflection:

1. What part of this story did you find most interesting?
2. What is something you wonder about in this story?
3. Samson had long hair that had never been cut. How long do you imagine Samson's hair was?
4. How do you think Samson felt when Delilah kept asking him to tell her the secret to his strength?
5. How do you think Delilah felt when Samson tricked her about the different ways, he would lose his strength?

Prayer: Dear God,
