

SAMSON'S WEAKNESS**Judges 16**

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:6 – **“Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, **that He may exalt you in due time.”** (Grades 1 & 2 memorize bold portion of the verse.)

Lesson Aim: God turns away from proud people, but uses humble people that trust and obey Him.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – Be plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Get the children involved in a discussion about the difference between proud, haughty people and humble people. **If you have pictures** of such kinds of people, show them and see if the children can tell you what kind of people they are by just looking at the pictures. You might be able to find a Bible picture of the Pharisee and the publican who went to the temple to pray (Luke 18:9-14). After they have identified the proud and the humble people, ask them how they could tell the difference.

If you have no pictures, ask the children some questions. How many of you would know if you met a proud, haughty person? What does such a person say? (He brags about himself and speaks against others.) What does he do? (He laughs at others; disobeys leaders; breaks the rules.) Does he please God? (He cannot please God by acting this way.) Who is the most proud person in the Bible? (It is Satan – read Isaiah 14:12-14.)

The opposite of being proud and haughty is to be humble. What does a humble person say? (He praises God and speaks well of others.) What does he do? (He helps others; obeys his leader; keeps the rules without complaining.) He always seeks to please God.” Who is the most humble person in the Bible? (It is Jesus Christ – read Philippians 2:5-8.)

If you sin against God, you are **proud** and **haughty** and are **like Satan**. If you obey God, you are **gentle** and **humble** and are **like Jesus**. In our story today, we are going to learn about a man who was first haughty and then became humble. But before we have the story, we will look at our memory verse and see what God does for humble people.”

HE: (for Authority): Read the verse and explain any difficult words or thoughts, such as “under the mighty hand of God” and “exalt you in due time.” The first phrase could be a picture of a child being guided through a dangerous place by his father’s hand on his shoulder. As long as he obeys his father’s hand and does not try to go in a different direction, he is safe. The second phrase could be a picture of a father rewarding (“exalt”) his son for obeying him. The time for reward is left up to the father, not to the son (“in due time”).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): “Now that we understand our memory verse and know why it is important to be humble, listen to the story of Samson and find out when he was humble and when he was not.” Tell the story of Samson as found in Judges 16. **Be sure to read this story from the Bible many times before reading these notes. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.** Use these notes to give you insight to understand the text. Also, use them to give you ideas on how to organize your thoughts and to apply this lesson to your class’ needs. Do not feel that you must teach all of these facts or make all of these applications. In fact, you may decide to use only one of them, or maybe none of them. They are only suggestions. Do with them as the Spirit of God leads you from personal reading of the Scriptures.

I. Samson was Haughty (16:1-24)**A. Samson Played with His Sin (1-17)**

1. He chose bad girl friends (the harlot and Delilah).

He thought he could have bad friends without getting into trouble. He played with sin.

2. He lied three times about his strength.

Lying is sin, but he thought that he was strong enough to lie and get away with it. He was proud.

3. He told the secret of his power to Delilah.

Samson had a spiritual secret that should not have been given to a sinful woman. He was foolish.

WE: If we think we can choose bad friends and still please God, we are proud and do not know the truth. We will be like them; we are playing with sin. If we tell lies, we are a liar and the truth is not in us. We may be able to fool people, but we cannot fool God. Lying is the mark of a proud person. If we tell our spiritual secrets to sinful people, we are playing with sin and we will get hurt. We are proud and foolish.

B. Samson Paid for His Sin (18-24)

1. Sin took away his strength; he became weak like other men.
2. Sin took away his sight; his eyes were blinded.
3. Sin took away his freedom; he was bound in prison.
4. Sin took away his service to God; he had to grind grain for the Philistines.
5. Sin took away his testimony for God; his enemies mocked him and praised their god, Dagon.

WE: If we sin, we will lose our power with God. If we sin, we will lose our ability to see how God's Word applies to our lives. If we sin, we will be bound by our sinful habits. If we sin, we will no longer be able to serve God, but will be a worker for Satan. If we sin, we will lose our testimony for God and the people of the world laugh at us when God punishes us for our sins.

II. Samson Became Humble (16:25-31)

A. Samson Prayed for Strength (25-28)

1. Samson realized his sin had brought shame to God.
2. He wanted to serve God once again by destroying the power of His enemies.
3. He asked God to remember him.
4. He asked God for strength to destroy the power of His enemies. He was humble now and depended on God's power.

WE: If we realize that our sins have brought shame on God's name, we need to repent and hate our sins so we can serve Him and no longer hurt Him. If we want to serve God and destroy the power of sin in our lives, we must confess our sins, naming them one by one to God, and run away from them (2 Tim 2:22). If we want God to remember us, we must be humble in our hearts and ask Him to show His favor to us (James 4:8-10). If we are humble and depend completely on the Lord, He will help us to overcome Satan, habitual sins and worldly pleasures (Phil. 4:13).

B. Samson Prevailed over Satan (29-31)

1. Samson found the main pillars of Dagon's temple.

These pillars held up the whole roof of the temple. If they could be knocked down, the temple would be destroyed. The pillars were the weak spot in the temple.

WE: We must find the weak spot in Satan's defense. It is the use of the Word of God; he cannot defend himself from the skillful use of the Word of God. That is how Jesus defeated him: He quoted the Scriptures to stop his temptations (Mt 4:4, 7, 10). When we obey God's Word and use it with care, we always can defeat Satan. That is why he does not want you to know the Bible.

2. Samson was ready to die in his fight against God's enemies.

Samson had learned that pride got him into all this trouble. God used these troubles to teach him to be humble. Now he wanted to obey God so much that he was willing to die in serving God.

WE: We must become humble in our hearts before we can truly serve God. We must die to our sinful desires and be ready to live a holy life in obedience to God.

3. Samson pushed over the pillars of the temple.

Samson destroyed the temple of Dagon, the false god of the Philistines. Thousands of people that worshipped Dagon were in his temple mocking Samson when he pushed over the pillars. These people died when Samson destroyed the temple. Samson died with these people, but he defeated Dagon, a demon that served Satan. For this act of faith in God, he is included in God's Hall of Heroes (Heb. 11:32).

WE: We must have faith in God to defeat Satan in our lives. When we die to our own efforts to win the battles against sin and trust Christ to give us the power, we can have victory over every sin in our lives. When this happens, God will exalt you and make you very important in the future.

BE (for Action): When was Samson proud? (Let the children review the lesson, but be sure they learn that it was his love of sin that made him proud.) When was Samson humble? (Let the children answer once again but be sure they know it was due to his faith and obedience to do God's work that made him humble.) God wants us to be humble by trusting Him and obeying Him. If there is sin in your life and you are willing to tell God that you are sorry for it, God will forgive you. Tell God about it right away and He will forgive you today. When you are willing to do whatever God wants you to do, you will be humble. Have the children bow their heads; ask them to raise their hands if they want to confess their sins to God and serve Him. Deal with them after class.