

FAMILY WORSHIP

## The Story of Samson



Choose portions of Judges 13-16 to read aloud (or retell for very young children). Here is a summary of key points you might want to cover.

### Judges 13

An angel of the Lord told Manoah and his wife that they would have a son who would grow up to help his people. Samson was born, and his parents never cut his hair because he was to be raised as a Nazirite serving the Lord. As Samson grew, the Lord blessed him.

### Judges 14

Samson killed a lion (with his bare hands) on his way to see a Philistine woman he wished to marry. Later, he found a swarm of bees and honey inside the carcass. Samson posed a riddle about the honey at a wedding feast with thirty Philistines. He was angry when they got his wife to find out the answer.

### Judges 15

Samson was angry that his wife was given to another man. He used three hundred foxes to burn fields of grain, vineyards and olive groves to punish the Philistines. He demonstrated his strength against the Philistines several times, once killing a thousand men with the jawbone of a donkey.

### Judges 16

Samson loved a woman named Delilah. She betrayed him when the Philistines offered her silver if she could find out the source of Samson's strength. Delilah eventually found out the answer and shaved Samson's head. He was taken to prison but managed to kill many more Philistines in the end.

### Discussion Ideas

1. The Lord raised up Samson to lead the Israelites. What special way did his parents learn that they would have a son?
2. Samson was raised as a Nazirite. What did that mean?
3. Who were the Philistines? Why did the Israelites need to fight them? (They lived in the land of Canaan and made life difficult for the Israelites.)
4. What are some examples of Samson's great strength against the Philistines?
5. What was the secret of Samson's strength? How did the Philistines find out the secret?
6. Samson was a good leader for the Israelites, judging them for twenty years. But he also made mistakes such as wanting to marry a Philistine woman and later, loving Delilah. What can we learn from Samson's example?