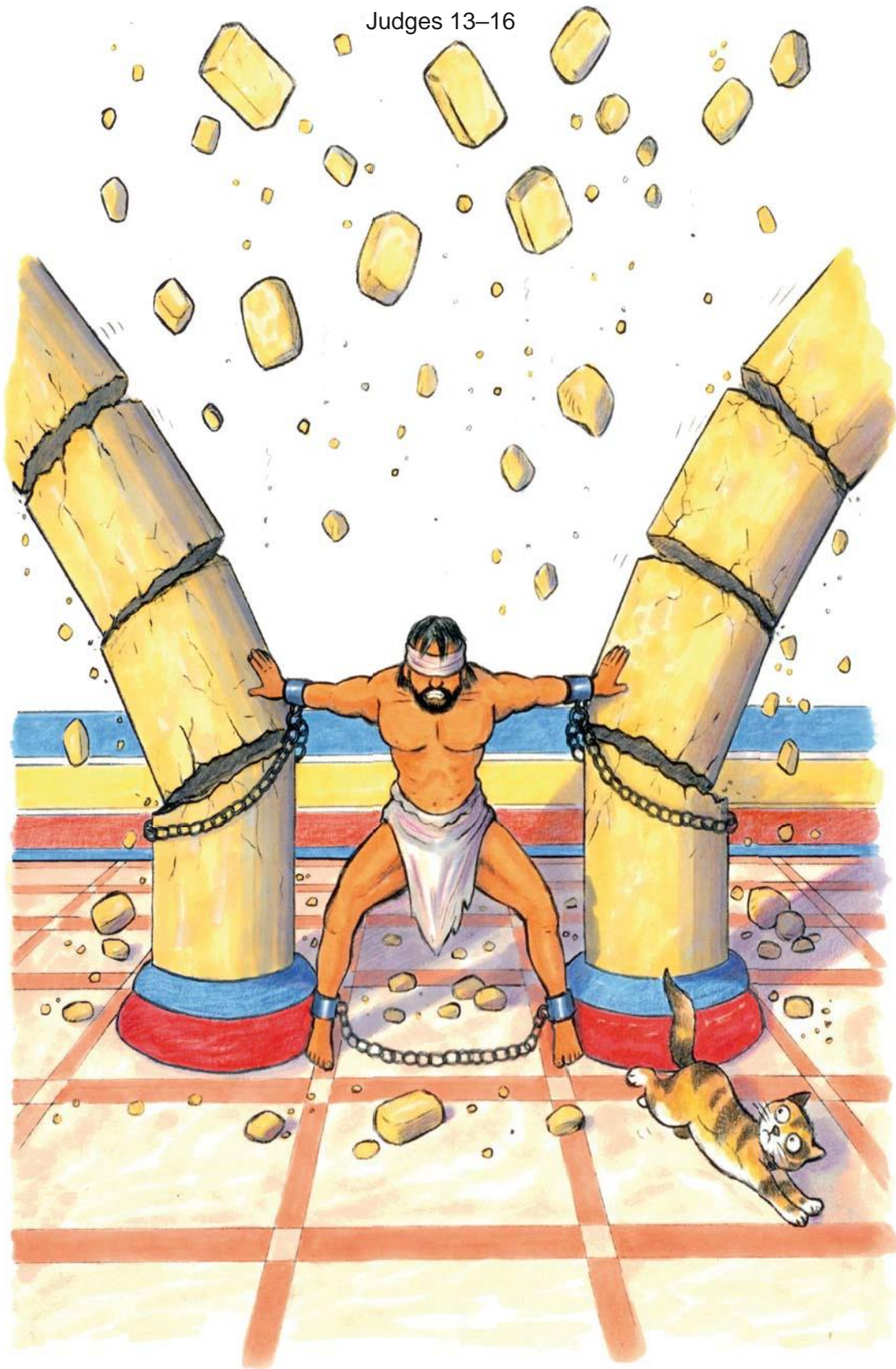


SAMSON

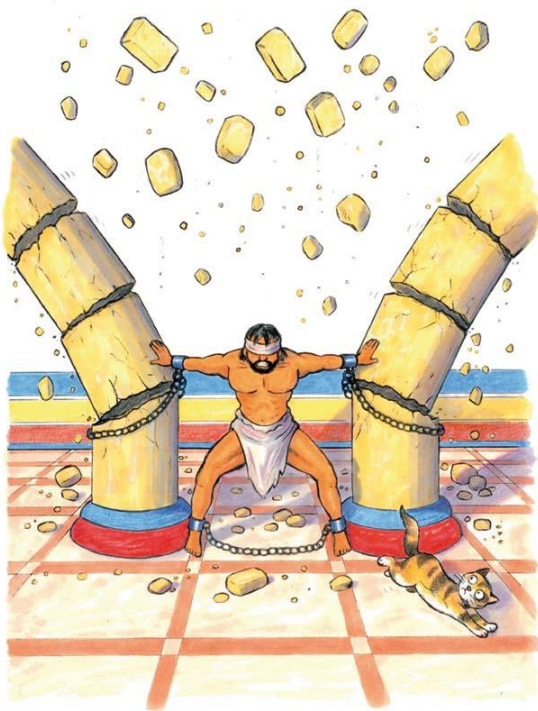
Judges 13–16



Contents

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|---------------------|---|
| Message | With God's help, we can overcome evil. |
| Learning Objectives | The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ God gave Samson physical strength to defend the Israelites.■ We should not succumb to evil. |
| Bible Text | Judges 13-16 |

Samson



The Israelites were being treated badly by the Philistines. The Angel of the Lord appeared to an Israelite woman and told her that she would have a son. He would be the one who would free the Israelites from the Philistines. When the boy was born, his mother called him Samson. Everyone who heard of Samson's strength was afraid of him. He once came face to face with a roaring lion. God made Samson so strong that he was able to kill the lion with his bare hands.

When Samson grew older, he fell in love with a woman named Delilah. She was a Philistine. The rulers of her people told her, "If you can find out where he gets his great strength from and how we can overpower him, we will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

Delilah tried to find out Samson's secret and asked him, "Where does your great strength come from? How can someone defeat you?" Samson did not tell Delilah where he got his strength or how he could be defeated. Delilah asked Samson a number of times before he finally gave in and told her the source of his strength.

Samson told Delilah, "I am dedicated to God. My hair has never been cut. If anyone cuts my hair I would lose my great strength and be as weak as everyone else."

Delilah told the Philistines the secret of Samson's strength and received her reward.

While Samson slept in Delilah's arms, a Philistine came and cut off seven locks of Samson's hair. Afterwards, God's strength deserted him. The Philistines captured him and blinded him. They chained him up and put him in prison. While in prison, Samson was forced to grind grain.

But Samson's hair began to grow again. When the Philistines were celebrating a big festival in honour of their god, they took Samson out of prison so he could entertain them. They placed him between the pillars of their temple. The building was full of people. All the lords of the Philistines were there. Samson asked God to give him strength just one more time.

He stood between the two pillars, which supported the building and pushed against them. He said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Samson pushed with all his might. The temple collapsed and he was buried along with all the Philistines.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress, a wig with long hair, scissors, a bench as the bed.

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- How do the Israelites feel about the way the Philistines were treating them?
- Does Samson resist telling Delilah what the source of his strength is? (Yes at first)
- What happens when she asks him so many times? (Finally, he gives in to her.)
- What does Deliah do next? (She cuts off seven locks of Samson's hair.)
- What do the Philistines do to Samson?
(They capture him and blind him. They chain him up and put him in prison.)
- Why does God help him in the end? (So that the Israelites can finally defeat the Philistines.)

Have the children repeat...

- God gave Samson physical strength to defend the Israelites.
- We should not succumb to evil.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- We are often approached by the evil around us - in the people around us.
- Although these people are not bad people they may try to persuade us to do something that does not align with our soul salvation.
- Give some examples of this. (Skip Sunday school, spend our offering for earthly things ...)
- If we ask, God can give us special strength to overcome evil.

Repeat the Message
With God's help, we can overcome evil.