

# City SG - June 16-17, 2018

**Bible Story:** Clip My Hair (Samson) • *Judges 13–16*

**Bottom Line:** God is stronger than anyone.

**Memory Verse:** “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” *Psalms 27:13, NIV*

## 1. Strong Samson

**What You Need:** “Samson” cutouts (1 per kid), markers, yarn ( 7 pieces per child), tape ( 1 per bin), craft sticks ( 1 per child)

### **What You Do:**

- Briefly review the story as you give each child a “Strong Samson” figure. Be sure to touch on the following key points:
  - God sent an angel to tell Samson’s mother that she would have a son. The angel told her to never to cut his hair. His long hair would be a sign that he belonged to God.
  - God’s spirit made Samson strong. He was so strong that he wrestled a lion and won. He was so strong that he fought 1,000 men in battle and won!
  - One day Samson told a woman named Delilah that the secret of his strength was that he never cut his hair.
  - Delilah had someone shave his head while he was asleep, and Samson’s strength was gone.
  - Later, Samson remembered the true source of his strength: God!
  - One day, while the Philistines were making fun of Samson and worshipping their false God, Samson asked God to make him strong one more time, and He did. Samson pushed down two pillars of the temple and everyone died, including Samson.
- Invite kids to color their figures. Ask: “What’s missing from our Samsons?” (*His long hair!*)
- Help each child count seven pieces of yarn and tape them to the back of Samson’s head. Tell kids that Samson braided his hair into seven braids (*Judges 16:13*).
- Show kids how to tape their Samson figures to craft sticks to make puppets.
- Invite kids to use the puppets to tell their favorite part of the story.

### **What You Say:**

“Samson was VERY strong. But who gave Samson his strength? Yes, God did. God was the One who made Samson so strong.

“God is stronger than anyone or anything. What are some things God has done that show how strong He is? (*He made the world; He parted the Red Sea; He healed people.*) Yes! Since God is stronger than anyone or anything, can He help you when you have troubles? (*Yes!*) Yes, He can! Whether you have a problem at school, a problem in your family, a problem with a friend, or any problem at all, God can help you. He loves you, and He is stronger than anyone. So the thing to give you confidence today is this: **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone!**”

## **2. Ping-Pong Bible Story Review**

**What You Need:** Two buckets (per group), ping-pong balls (20 per group), paper, pen

**What You Do:**

- Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a bucket and half of the ping-pong balls.
- Instruct teams to select one player from their team to hold the bucket on their head and stand about three feet away from the rest of the team.
- Ask review questions from the story below back and forth to each team.
- If answered correctly, that player earns the opportunity to toss the ball into the bucket on his teammate's head.
- The teammate with the bucket on his head may move around to try to catch the ball.
- Select one player from each team to keep score.
- Each team receives a point for every correct answer and two points for every ball that makes it into the bucket (for a potential total of three points for each turn).

Review questions:

1. The angel that appeared to Manoah's wife to tell her she would have a son or daughter? *(A son)*
2. The angel told her never to do what? *(Cut her son's hair)*
3. Manoah and his wife named their baby what? *(Samson)*
4. Samson was very what? *(Strong)*
5. Samson wrestled what to the ground with his bare hands? *(A lion)*
6. Samson punished the Philistines by capturing 300 foxes and tying what to their tails? *(Torches)*
7. This made the Philistines mad! His own people turned on him and tied Samson up. Where did they take him? *(To the Philistines)*
8. Samson broke free, grabbed the jawbone of a what and fought off 1000 Philistines. *(Donkey)*
9. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman named what? *(Delilah)*
10. Delilah begged Samson to tell her the secret of her strength. First, Samson told her to tie him up with how many strings? *(Seven)*
11. Later, while he was sleeping, Delilah tied him up with seven bow strings and then screamed, "Samson, the Philistines are coming!" What happened next? *(Samson flexed and the strings snapped instantly)*
12. Delilah begged him again to tell her the secret of his strength. Samson told her to bind his hands again. What happened this time? *(Samson broke free again)*
13. Delilah and the Philistines tried one more time, this time weaving Samson's hair into the cloth on a loom. What happened? *(Samson broke free again)*
14. Finally, Samson admitted the secret to his strength. What was it? *(His hair; he'd never cut it)*
15. What happened when they cut his hair? *(The Philistines captured Samson)*
16. Later, they brought Samson out to make fun of him and he convinced them to let him lean against what? *(The pillars/columns of the temple)*
17. Samson remembered the true source of his strength. What was it? *(He asked God to give him strength)*
18. Samson grabbed the pillars and shoved. What happened? *(Samson and the Philistines were killed beneath the rubble)*

- Total the points for each team and declare a winner.

#### **What You Say:**

“Great job, everyone! What a crazy story. The real source of Samson’s strength wasn’t his hair. What was it? *(Pause.)* Yes, it was GOD’s power in him! He would have been weak without God’s power, because **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone.** You and I can trust God and always have confidence in His strength. We won’t face an entire army, but we might need help standing up for what is right or choosing to be honest when we’d rather tell something other than the truth to get out of trouble. God will always give us the strength we need to keep going and keep doing the right thing when we choose to put our confidence in Him.”

### **3. God Is Stronger**

**What You Need:** “God is Stronger!” cards Activity Pages (2 per bin)

#### **What You Do:**

- Guide kids to play a variation of the card game “War.”
- Lead each child to find a partner.
- Give each kid a set of “God is Stronger!” cards. Guide them to place their cards facedown in front of them.
- Each player turns up a card at the same time. The child with the “strongest” card takes both cards and puts them face up in a second stack.
- If kids turn over matching cards, they each play a second card. The winner of the second draw takes all four cards.
- If a child turns over a “GOD” card, both kids say, **[Bottom Line] “God is stronger than anyone.”**
- The child who turned over the “GOD” card then takes all the cards that have been played so far.
- When kids exhaust their original deck, they can shuffle their second stack (the cards they’ve won), turn the cards face down, and begin again.
- The game ends either when one child has all the cards or time runs out.

#### **What You Say:**

**[Bottom Line] “God is stronger than anyone** or anything! Is God stronger than your mom? Is God stronger than your grandpa? Is God stronger than an elephant? Is God stronger than a whale? Yes! **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone** or anything.

“Since **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone**, can He help you when you have a problem at school? Can He help you when you have a problem in your family? Can He help you when you have a problem with a friend? Yes! God can help you no matter what, because God loves you and He is stronger than anyone. So the thing to give you confidence today is this: **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone.**”

#### **4. Strong Minds**

**What You Need:** “Strong Minds” Activity Page cards (2 per group)

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to get into teams of two or three.
- Give each team a set of cards and then guide them to put the cards in order, dominoes-style. (Cards go left to right. Place cards that have corresponding numbers of dots next card, you would put a card that has four dots on the right. And to the right of that original card, you would put a card that has one dot on the left.)
- You may want to show kids how to put the first couple of cards in order, and then let them go off of your example.
- When every team finishes, help kids say the verse together.
- After each repetition, encourage kids to strike a “strong man” pose.

**What You Say:**

“How did Samson see God’s goodness? (*God made Samson strong; when Samson remembered God, God made him strong again.*) Samson had good and bad times in his life, but when Samson chose to trust in God, God’s strength allowed him to do amazing things. Can YOU trust God? (*Pause.*) Yes! **[Bottom Line] God is stronger than anyone!**”

#### **Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Challenge the kids to stand up and show you their best strong man pose by flexing their muscles. This will probably cause lots of silly giggling, and that’s okay!
- Have the kids sit down and remind them that REAL strength—the strength it takes to do the right thing—comes from God, NOT our muscles.
- Encourage kids to go around the circle and complete the following sentence, “God help me to show strength this week by \_\_\_\_\_.”
- If a child has trouble filling the blank, he or she can tap the person next to them to skip their turn. (You can also prompt kids by asking if they have any tests at school or big games coming up this week. Ask if there’s a friend who doesn’t do the right thing all that often and if they feel tempted to follow that friend’s lead.)
- Close in prayer.

**What You Say:**

“Heavenly Father, thank You for the story of Samson and how he learned that his strength wasn’t about his hair or even his muscles. His strength came from You. Help us to remember that we can put our confidence in You because You are stronger than anyone. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.” to each other. For example: One card has four dots on the left and one dot on the right, so to the left of that