

NOTE TO PARENTS from Ps Luke Aiasecca

Thank you for the privilege of ministering to your family through Kidmania Online. Today's Kidmania Online episode was **SAMSON!**

Using this parent info sheet at home to support your Kidmania experience WITH your children will help them to get the most out of the episode. You might choose to do it in one sitting, or you might need a few sessions over the week to get through it; you can pace yourself through it. Even if you did not lead your children through the whole discussion; reading through it yourself will PREPARE YOU well to: use what you feel would be most valuable for you and your family; help you facilitate discussion; and answer some of the big questions that kids ask. 😊

The **Main ideas** section has been designed especially for you to enter into meaningful **discussion** with your children; guiding you in what you can **Say** and **Ask**, actively building faith and wisdom into them. Points and questions build one on another, so there is great value in leading your kids through it. We have added a next level which is highlighted - skip it if you feel it is too much for your child's developmental level, the lesson will still progress well without it. To help your children really share what's in their hearts and minds, when it comes to **Ask** points, take care to not rush them... give them time to think and respond. Really show them you're listening, and understanding. We've also added **Life Application** points, a **Sum Up** point, and sample **Prayer**.

We are here to support you! If you have any questions you would like to discuss please contact your location Kidmania co-ordinator or email me at luke.aiasecca@enjoy.church God bless you!



IceBreaker

Family Ice Breaker - By Strength You've Got It!

This is a fun way to introduce what you will be talking about as a family.

Today we watched as brothers Gabriel and Ezra had a 'Tug of War' competition.

You might like to do this at home.

You could do as we did and use a rope. You could also have 'Arm Wrestling', 'Thumb War', or 'Rock, Paper Scissors' Competitions. Whatever you do, have fun!



1. THIS WEEK - read through Judges 13-16 together.

In today's episode we used images from the Comic Bible **BIBLEFORCE** to help tell the story of Samson which is found in Judges 13-16. We highly recommend it. It is available in Koorong Bookstores. You might like to read the story again together from a Bible you have at home.

2. Scripture Memory Verses - to read & memorise at meal times

[use any version you like; we have used a combination of versions/translations/paraphrases to help your child best understand the meaning of the passages and apply it to their lives NOW]

John 14:15

"If you love Me, you will obey My commandments."

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

James 4:6

God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Zechariah 4:6

"It's not by might, and nor by power; but by My Spirit," says the LORD Almighty.

The Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Discussion introduction:

Ask: Who needed special STRENGTH for a special job?

Say: Samson.

Ask: Is the story of Samson (in the Bible) true?

Say: Yes, the story of Samson (in the Bible) is totally true!

Going deeper – unpacking the WORD!

Say: Here are 3 things we can learn from the life of Samson:

Say: 1. No matter how gifted you are, you still need to be OBEDIENT TO GOD.

Say: Samson was chosen by God to do amazing things.

Ask: Did that mean He could do whatever he wanted? [No!]

Scripture: John 14:15

Say: In John 14:15 it says: **“If you really love Me, you will remember and obey My commandments.”** (Jesus said this, and remember, Jesus is God.)

Ask: If we love God, what will we do? [If we love God, we will obey God’s commands.]

Say: If we love God we will happily, and fully, obey God’s commands/teachings/laws.

Ask: Did Samson love God? [Not all the time, just when he was being obedient]

Say: Samson was called and strengthened by God, and God had a great plan for him, but he still had to make good choices.

Ask: Can you remember the good choices Samson made?

Say: Samson chose to OBEY God in at least 4 ways:

- 1) he worshiped God
- 2) he never cut his hair
- 3) he became the king and protector of his people (Israel)
- 4) he asked God’s permission and help before destroying the enemy’s temple (killing them all, and himself - all life belongs to God).

Ask: What are the commands of God that you obey?

Ask: Can you remember the poor (not so good) choices Samson made?

Say: Samson chose to DISOBEY God in at least 8 ways when:

- 1) he ate unclean food that was inside a dead animal,
- 2) he used a dead animal’s jawbone as a weapon (touching dead animals),
- 3) he chose to be with 2 women who belonged to other nations (who worshipped other gods and were the enemies of his people - the Philistines),
- 4) he disobeyed his parents,
- 5) he partied with his enemies (the Philistines),
- 6) he told the secret of his strength to the enemy (his wife, who was a Philistine),
- 7) he used his sin against God (eating the unclean honey) as entertainment for his enemies - the Philistines (making the riddle),
- 8) he lost his temper and took revenge, killing many people (only God can call for revenge, not people - this caused so much trouble, and made his enemies even angrier so that they hunted him for years, and caused the Israelites to suffer more).
- 9) he made the foxes suffer by tying them together and setting their tails on fire (only read this line if you read the whole story with your kids)

Ask: Can you think of some ways you disobey God’s commands?

Ask: What can you do about that?

...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: We can repent (admit what we have done to God, feel sorry, ask God to forgive us, ask God to help us to be able to obey Him, and then choose to be obedient).

Life Application

Ask: Would you like me to help you to repent now?

If YES: lead them in a short prayer. Have them repeat after You, completing the sentences in their own words.

Say: Dear Heavenly Father,

I have sinned against you by... (admit/confess sin)

I am sorry, I really mean it.

I have decided to not do that anymore. Please help me to stop.

I know the right thing to do is.... (teaching/command/law/right thing)

Please help me to do this, because I love You and want to show You by obeying you.

Thank you that you have forgiven me, and will help me.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen!

Say: 2. Be WISE with who you are CLOSE with.

Ask: Who did Samson fall in love with? [2 Philistine women, one of them was named Delilah!]

Say: Samson fell in love with 2 Philistine women. We don't know the name of the first one, whom he married. We know the name of the second one.

Ask: Who was the second one? [Delilah.]

Ask: What is so wrong with falling in love with a Philistine woman? [The Philistines did not love God; they hated God, and worshiped other gods. God did not want His people living with people who hated Him, and would make it hard for His people to worship God and live good lives. God knew that the Philistine women would be loyal to their own people, more than to their husbands in Israel.]

Ask: But, isn't love always good? [No]

Say: Love is not good when loving a person means we love God less than we should, and it causes us to be disobedient to God's ways. God does not want His people to marry other people who will make it hard for us to worship and obey God, and live the life He planned for us.

Also, God does not want us to live with other people as if we are married to them, without actually getting married. He wants us to respect each other, and respect Him by making our families the way He has designed families to be. Sometimes when we say we love someone we are not being truthful in our heart - sometimes what we really mean is that we really enjoy being with someone and they make us feel really happy inside. Love is not just a happy feeling inside - it is 'always choosing to do the right thing with, and for, another person'. Sinning along with another person is not loving them, or God. [if you are a family without married parents do not feel condemned at this point. You can let your children know that you did not always live God's way because you did not always know God, and God's way...and now that you do you are making things right with Him and others. It can take a while, and God has been very patient and loving giving you a fresh start in life. You can be an example of repentance & grace.]

Scripture: Proverbs 4:23

Say: In Proverbs 4:23 the very wise King Solomon tells us: **Watch over your heart with all diligence, because from the heart flow the springs of life.**

Ask: What do you think **all diligence** means?

Say: All diligence means: to take as much care as possible, paying close attention.

Say: God wants us to take really good care of our hearts (where our deepest beliefs and feelings are, in the deepest part of us).



SAMSON
06.12.20

...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: In this case, when we say 'heart' we don't mean the one that beats, but our inner person where we feel our emotions most deeply - our core.

Ask: Can you point to your heart?

Ask: What do you think King Solomon meant by: **from the heart flow the springs of life?**

Say: He meant that all the other beliefs, thoughts, and feelings we have, and the actions we do, in our lives come from the deepest part of us - our heart. If our heart is right with God, then our beliefs, thoughts, feelings, and actions will be too. If our heart is not right with God then not much about our life will be right at all.

Ask: Do you think you could explain that back to me, in your own words?

Say: God wants us to take really good care of our hearts (where our deepest beliefs and feelings are in the deepest part of us).

Say: Because Samson was hanging out with Philistines, he met and fell in love with the two women who betrayed him. He loved them much more than they loved him. And the more he hung out with the Philistines, the more he became 'more like them, and less like his own people' (the Israelites) ...and less like the man God created him to be. He forgot about the plans God had for him and made his own plans. And then so much went wrong.

Ask: Have you ever noticed that friends, when they have the same values as you, help you to be good and stay out of trouble?

If YES, ask: Can you tell me something about that?

Ask: Have you ever noticed that friends, when they have different values from you, help you to get into trouble?

If YES, ask: Can you tell me something about that?

Say: God wants us to love everyone, but he doesn't want the people we love, and the people we spend time with, to change us to be less like God. Who we spend our time with really matters. Sometimes the enemy will bring people into our lives to take us away from what really matters. At first, it will be fun. But it won't stay fun. It will become uncomfortable. The only people we should let come close to our hearts are the people who love Jesus as much as we do.

Ask: But, what if they are the really cool kids?

Say: It doesn't matter... there is really nothing cool about doing things against God's ways, and every one finds that out in the end. It is really OK, and cool, to be different - good different - Godly different. God decides what is cool, not people.

Life Application

Ask: Who are the people in your life to whom you can show God's love - WITHOUT letting them come so close to you that they change you to be less like God? [help to make a list]

Ask: Who are the people in your life to whom you can show God's love - AND let them come close to you, because you know they love Jesus, and will help you to become more like God? [help to make a list]

Ask: Shall we agree that you will spend LESS time with the first group and more time with the second group?

If YES: lead them in a short prayer - say: Repeat after me:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I have made my lists of people to show your LOVE to / Please help me to guard my heart and not let those who don't love You / as close as those who do love You.

Thank You for sending into my life / people who will help me to love You more / and live well.

Thank you that you love me, and will help me.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen!



...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Say: 3. Don't let pride creep in. TRUE STRENGTH COMES FROM GOD, and not from ourselves.

Say: Samson was given great strength by God, but over time he forgot where his strength came from. He started to think that the gift of strength belonged to him. He started to think that he didn't need God. He started to think that he could use it however he wanted.

Ask: What is this called?

Say: Thinking, and living, like you don't need other people, and you don't need God, is called PRIDE.

Ask: Who else in the Bible can you think of who once served God but then became very prideful?

Say: Lucifer, who is Satan the devil. He was the worship leader in Heaven, and he was supposed to lead all the other angels in worship of God, but then he decided that his beauty and talent was his own, and he wanted the other angels to worship and follow him. It didn't work out so well for Lucifer. He was thrown out of Heaven and he has a big judgement day coming where he will be thrown into Hell, forever. He is our enemy, and he is much worse than the Philistines. BUT! Jesus is way more powerful than Satan is, so as long as we follow Jesus, and not Satan, we will go to Heaven.

Life Application

Ask: Whom do you follow? Jesus, or Satan?

Ask: How will you show Jesus that you follow Him? [by reading the word (Bible) and praying (talking with Him) and obeying Him - never forgetting that His righteousness and what He did in dying on the cross and being raised to life again is what saves us - not our own strength and effort. We love Him, so we follow Him.]

Scripture: James 4:6

Say: In James 4:6 it says: **But God gives us more and more grace through the power of the Holy Spirit - to resist sin and live an obedient life that shows both our faith and our thankfulness for our salvation. And, so the Scripture says this: God is against those who are full of pride and think they are better than everyone else, needing no one else - but He keeps giving the gift of grace to those who are humble (they know they need God and His righteousness).**

Ask: How much grace does God give to those who are humble? [More and more! No limit!]

Ask: Does God put up with prideful people? [No!]

Ask: What does God's grace help us do?

Say: God's grace helps us to: be thankful for our salvation, resist sin, have faith, and live right!

Ask: Was Samson humble or prideful?

Say: Samson was prideful for most of his life, he was humble in the end and asked God to make him strong again to have one final victory.

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6

Say: In Zechariah 4:6 it says: **'...Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD God Almighty.**

Ask: How mighty is God? [Almighty = All-Mighty = having more might than anyone else]

Ask: Can we do things for God with just our own strength (might and power)? [No!]

Ask: Where does our strength and help come from? [the Spirit of God - the Holy Spirit!]

Say: We need to join our best effort with God's strength which comes by the Holy Spirit. If we know Jesus, then the Holy Spirit is with us, and is always ready to help us.



SAMSON
06.12.20

...continued - the Main Ideas for Family Discussion

Sum up:

Say: Say after me:

- * I will ask for GIFTS FROM GOD!
- * I will live GOD'S PLAN FOR MY LIFE!
- * I still need to be OBEDIENT TO GOD!
- * I will be WISE IN WHO I AM CLOSE WITH!
- * I will NOT LET PRIDE CREEP IN!
- * My TRUE STRENGTH COMES FROM GOD!
- * My RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS MY GREATEST STRENGTH!
- * I can HAVE PEACE KNOWING GOD IS TAKING CARE OF ME!

Let's Pray!

Dear Heavenly Father... Thank You for the strength Your spirit gives us. Thank You that like Samson, You have set us apart to do great things for You. Help us to know what is right and wrong. Help us to be obedient to Your teachings and commands. Help us to always remember where our help comes from - from You God! We ask these things in the MIGHTY Name of Jesus! Amen!

A PICTURE paints a thousand words!

[You might like to ask your child to use this space to draw a picture that tells you what they have learned today]