

## Samson and Delilah (Judges 16:4 - 30)

Samson was one of the judges that God placed over the people. His life began with a great start -- foretold by God. However, he became a prideful man of the flesh, following his own desires. He flirted with sin and enjoyed it. His biggest temptation and downfall was women -- the lust of the flesh. Let's act out the final portion of Samson's life where he falls for Delilah and ultimately dies because of his sinful lusts.

## Say it! Play it! Pray it!

<b>Objectives:</b>	Play out the Role of Samson and Delilah and the killing of the Philistines. Gain insight into our own faith. Have fun with your family.
<b>Number of Players:</b>	4 or more (narrator, Samson, Delilah, lords of the Philistines, boy to lead Samson after he loses his eyes)
<b>Length:</b>	15 - 30 minutes
<b>Set up:</b>	You can get as elaborate as you like. You will need an area that will be Delilah's private chambers with a closet for the lords of the Philistines to hide in, and another area that is the Philistine temple. Props: ropes to bind, scissors, a razor (feel free to dress up as your characters) As the Narrator is reading, the separate characters should act out what is being said and dramatize how these events make them feel.

**Narrator:** Samson loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her,

**Lords of the Philistines:** Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.

*(lords of the Philistines leave and Samson comes into Delilah)*

**Narrator:** So Delilah said to Samson,

**Delilah:** Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you.

**Samson:** If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

*(Samson goes to sleep. Delilah goes to the door and whispers to someone) (a few seconds later there is a soft knock on the door. The lords of the philistines bring rope and she hides them in her closet)*

**Narrator:** So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she wakes Samson and says to him,

**Delilah:** The Philistines are upon you, Samson!



# FAMILY STUDY

**Narrator:** But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire and he chases the Philistines from the room. So the secret of his strength was not known.

**Delilah (yelling and pouting):** Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with.

**Samson (smirking and mocking):** If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

*(Samson lies down and goes to sleep. The lords of the Philistines bring her new rope and hide again in the closet)*

**Narrator:** Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and woke him and said,

**Delilah:** The Philistines are upon you, Samson!

**Narrator:** And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread and chased the Philistines from the room, throwing them out.

**Delilah (yelling and pouting):** Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with.

**Samson (smirking and mocking):** If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom

*(Samson lies down and goes back to sleep. The lords of the Philistines bring her a loom and scissors and hide again in the closet.)*

**Narrator:** So she cut his hair and wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and woke him and said to him,

**Delilah:** The Philistines are upon you, Samson!

**Narrator:** But he awoke from his sleep and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom and chased the Philistines from the room, throwing them out.

**Delilah (pouting and crying):** How can you say “I love you,” when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three time, and have not told me where your great strength lies.

**Samson (honest and open, weary of her nagging):** No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazarite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man.

*(Samson leaves her chamber.)*

**Narrator:** When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying,

**Delilah:** Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.

**Narrator:** So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their had. *(the lords of the Philistines hide in the closet. Samson comes back into Delilah)* Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. And she woke him and said,

**Delilah:** The Philistines are upon you Samson!



# FAMILY STUDY

**Narrator:** So he awoke from his sleep, and said,

**Samson:** I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!

**Narrator:** But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him. Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven. Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said,

**Lords of the Philistines:** Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!

**Narrator:** When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said:

**Lords of the Philistines:** Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy, the destroyer of our land, and the one who multiplied our dead.

**Narrator:** So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said,

**Lords of the Philistines:** Call for Samson, that he may perform for us.

**Narrator:** So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars. Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand,

**Samson:** Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them.

**Narrator:** Now the temple was full of men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed. Then Samson called to the Lord, saying,

**Samson:** O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!

**Narrator:** And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. Then Samson said,

**Samson:** Let me die with the Philistines!

**Narrator:** And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people where were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

**Discussion:** Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the people they played. Questions to consider: Why do you think Samson stayed with Delilah when he obviously knew that she was trying to destroy him? How do you think Samson's parents felt about the path that their son was on? How do you think pride played a role in Samson's downfall? Examine your heart: Are there areas of your life that you need to change based on the lessons you learned from Samson's life?

**Prayer:** Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.