

Samson & Delilah

Judges 16:1-31

Main Street



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Psalm 25:7

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.



story lesson

BIBLE STORY

Part two of the saga of Israelite's infamous Judge—Samson. One day, as he was headed into Philistine country, Samson saw a prostitute and spent the night with her. The Philistines found out that he was in town and they surrounded the place where he was staying and lay in wait for him all night. Samson got wind of what was happening and "he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron" (Judges 16:3). Thus he escaped from the Philistines.

But, as usual, Samson gets himself into harm's way again. He usually does this at the introduction of a woman. This time the woman's name is Delilah and "he fell in love with her" (Judges 16:4). The rulers of the Philistines saw another opportunity to subdue and kill the Israelite aggressor. They offered Delilah money to discover the secret to Samson's strength. So, Delilah asked Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued" (Judges 16:6). You would think that Samson would have figured out this trick by now. This is just a repeat of what happened previously with the woman that he married, but didn't marry. But, lo, Samson is love struck and does not see it coming.

He tells her the first time to tie him with "seven fresh thongs that have not been dried" (Judges 16:7), which Delilah subsequently does and then tells him that the Philistines were upon him! But Samson broke through the thongs and the secret of his strength was not discovered. Delilah pouts, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied" (Judges 16:10).

Samson tells her the second time that he will be as weak as any man if they tie him securely with new ropes that have never been used. So, Delilah does what he describes and he breaks through again! "Until now, you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied" (Judges 16:13).

Samson explains that if his “hair is woven into the fabric on a loom and is tightened with a pin, he’ll become as weak as any other man” (Judges 16:13). The Philistine woman did so when Samson was sleeping and then told him that the Philistines were upon him. He awoke as before and pulled the pin and the loom. Delilah pouted tirelessly: “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength” (Judges 16:15).

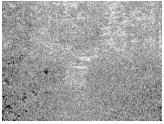
“With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. And so he told her everything. ‘No razor has ever been used on my head,’ he said, ‘because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man’” (Judges 16:16-17).

She knew then that what he told her was absolutely true. So she told her Philistine contractors what had transpired and told them to be ready. Delilah shaved Samson’s head while he was sleeping in her lap and “his strength left him” (Judges 16:19). Delilah called out: the Philistines are coming! Samson woke up to fight them off as before, but the strength had left him (literally: the Spirit of the Lord had left him). The Philistines took him, gouged out his eyes, shackled him, and forced him to grind at the mill in prison. “But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved” (Judges 16:22).

The rulers of the Philistines were having a great feast celebrating their god, Dagon. They were rejoicing that their god had delivered Samson into their hands. When they were quite drunk, they had Samson brought out to entertain them. Since he was blind, Samson asked the servant to stand him between the pillars that supported the temple.

“Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, ‘O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.’ Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived” (Judges 16:27-30).

Samson got his revenge, but died in the process. The Philistines suffered a great many losses and Israel continued on a downward spiral of sin, until the Lord acted decisively with a Judge named, Samuel.



life application

MAKING IT REAL

God Can Use Anybody, Even in Spite of Ourselves

I wonder if we learn more about God in these stories than we realize. When we see God using an overconfident bum like Samson to accomplish his divine purposes we cringe. Is that the kind of God we have? Willing to use even crackpots like Samson? And yet, then, we look at ourselves and then thank God that he uses 'crackpots' like us to accomplish his will. If he didn't, then what hope would there be? In spite of ourselves, God uses us to show the world what He is like

Be Smart

We need to use our brains when it comes to telling people stuff. Sometimes it is okay to tell people things, and other times it is not okay to tell people things. As we all grow up and experience life, we often learn the hard way. But the key word is LEARN. Don't continue to repeat the same mistakes over and over again!



questions

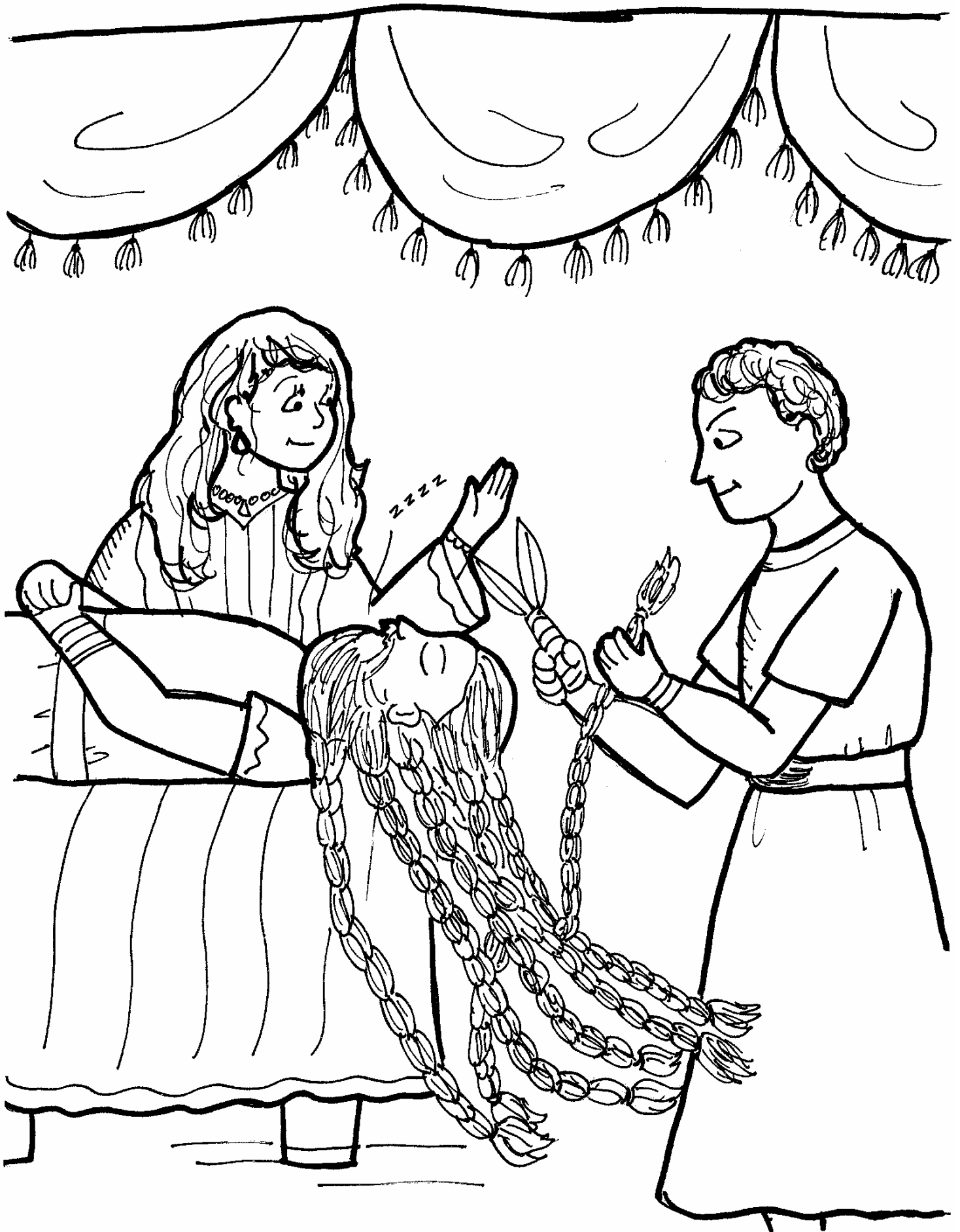
REMEMBERING

1. **Who was the woman Samson loved?** Delilah
2. **Why did she want Samson to tell her his secret?**
3. **What was the secret of Samson's strength?** His hair
4. **What did the Philistines do to Samson?** Gouged out his eyes and threw him into prison where he grinded at a mill
5. **How did Samson kill the people at the temple?** While Samson was in jail, his hair grew back and when he was brought before the Philistines he was placed beside the supports of their temple. With his last ounce of strength and power, Samson pushed over the temple columns and killed the people inside
6. **How can we lose our Christian strength?**



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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