



I Will Use My Gifts The Way God Wants!

From Big Top Lesson 2

LEADERSHIP TRAIT - PURPOSE

Great leaders understand that God has given them gifts, and He uses those gifts to fulfill His purpose in their lives.

LEADERSHIP LESSON

Your children will learn that we should use our gifts and talents for God's purpose, rather than our own.

LEADERSHIP STORY

Samson is given strength. (*Judges 13 - 16*)

WHAT DO I DO?

Have your children read the Leadership Story. Next, have your children watch the Leadership Video and complete the Child Leadership Questions. If you want to do the Optional Family Activity, have the whole family watch the Leadership Video, then lead your family through the Optional Family Activity.

OPTIONAL FAMILY ACTIVITY: MISUSE IT AND LOSE IT

God gave Samson the gift of super strength so that he could help free the Israelites. However, Samson did not use his gift in the way God wanted. Because he misused his gift, God took the gift away. God also gives each of us gifts, but we should use them in the ways He wants.

Gather some items that you might give to family members to do specific tasks. For example you might give someone a bunch of silverware to help set the table. You might give someone a book to read to a younger sibling. You might give someone a vacuum cleaner to help clean the living room. You might give someone a hammer to help hang pictures. Imagine wrong ways to use the items. Someone might use the silverware to dig in the dirt. Someone might use the book to hit someone else. Someone might use the vacuum cleaner to chase the family pet. Someone might use the hammer to bang on pots and pans. Have the family members imagine what would happen if they didn't use the things for the reason you gave them. If your family members did those things, you would punish them and take the item away. Explain that the quickest way to lose a gift is to misuse it. We can lose the gifts that God gives us just like Samson lost his gift. Don't be like Samson and use your gifts in the wrong way! Instead, remember that each gift is from God, and we need to use our gifts in ways that please Him.

MEMORY VERSE:

Help your child memorize this verse.

"When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required." Luke 12:48b (NLT)



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Main Point: I Will Use My Gifts The Way God Wants!

Read the Leadership Story about Samson in Judges 16. When you are finished, watch the Leadership Video. Then, read the items below and write your responses in the space provided.

1. Pastor Mike told a story of a father and his two sons enjoying the circus. What did the dad buy each of the sons?

2. The two sons were happy with their gifts. However, after a little while what did the older boy do?

3. After the older son misused his gift, what did the dad do?

When the son used the gift in a way he shouldn't have, the gift was taken away.

4. In the Leadership Story, Samson was born special. He was dedicated to God as a Nazarite. What does that mean?

5. What was the gift God to give Samson?



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6. Why did God give Samson this gift? Circle the correct answer.
 - A. To help him win lots of contests.
 - B. To help him live a long time.
 - C. To rescue his people the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines.
 - D. To help him defeat the giant.

7. What did Samson actually use his strength to do?

8. Was God pleased with the way Samson was using his gift?

9. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman. What was her name? Circle the correct answer.
 - A. Judy
 - B. Delilah
 - C. Mary
 - D. Ruth

10. Delilah was hired to discover the secret to Samson's strength so that the Philistines could defeat him. Delilah asked Samson to tell her what made him so strong. Eventually, Samson told her the truth. What did he say would make him lose his strength?



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11. When Samson was asleep, a Philistine came in and shaved his head. Samson's strength was gone. The Lord had left him. Samson was then captured by the Philistines. Circle all the things they did to him.
- A. Gouged out his eyes.
 - B. Broke his legs.
 - C. Forced him to grind grain in prison.
 - D. Forced him to cook for the king.
12. Eventually, Samson asked God to help him have revenge on the Philistines and then he died. Samson's story is tragic. He had a great gift, but because he did not use it right, it was taken from him. God has given each of us gifts to use for Him. We should use these gifts in a way to make God happy, not unhappy. Look at the examples below and circle ones that show someone using a gift to make God happy:
- Athlete who is working hard and inviting his team to church.
 - Athlete who is only thinking of himself and not working for the team.
 - Someone who is singing at church.
 - Person who is singing to become wealthy.
 - A girl who is very smart and always brags about her good grades.
 - Someone who is very friendly and tells others about God.
13. Write down a gift God has given you. How can you use it in a way that pleases God?

Look for ways you can use your gift to please God this week. Thank God for your gift and ask Him to help you use it in ways that please Him.

Memory Verse: Ask your parents to help you memorize this verse.

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1. A sword and a balloon.
2. Bragged about his sword and how his dad liked him better. Swung the sword and popped his brother's balloon.
3. He took the sword from the son and gave it to a child in the stands.
4. Set apart as God's servant.
5. Strength.
6. C.
7. To bully people. To get revenge. To steal from people.
8. No.
9. B.
10. If his hair was ever cut, his strength would leave him.
11. A. C.
12. Circle the following: Athlete who is working hard and inviting his team to church. Someone who is singing at church. Someone who is very friendly and tells others about God.
13. Answers may vary, but may include: Singing. Sing at church. Athletic. Help a friend learn how to play a sport.