

LESSON SEVEN

LESSON NOTES FOR STD VI

JOSHUA AND THE JUDGES. – Samson Chosen by God

AIM :**General:**

- 1) To tell the story of Samson's birth- the angel appears, his parents welcome and respond to the message- Samson is dedicated as a Nazirite.
- 2) To show how we too have been chosen by God, our parents have dedicated us (in baptism); we are commissioned to fight for God.

Personal: To help the children to value their Baptism as a sign of being chosen and commissioned by God.

Text: Judges Ch 13; Eph 1: 4

STARTER: (10mins) Game of 'The Farmer's on His Farm'

(Take the children outside and get them to form a circle. Choose a 'fanner' who stands in the middle of the circle. All go round in the circle singing-

1. 'The farmer's on his farm (2)
Hey-ho, be merry-o,
The farmer's on his farm !

2. The farmer wants a wife (2)...etc...

(All stop the farmer chooses a 'wife' [if they are afraid of being teased, you could be the wife !] They continue moving singing- 'The wife wants a child ... the child wants a nurse... the nurse wants a dog... a cat.... a mouse....some cheese.)

The last verse is- 'We all eat the cheese I' [All pretend to break off pieces from the cheese]

AFTER THE GAME: We played this game to get you all awake and alert, but also because we want to think about 'being chosen'.

- ◆ Hands up those who were chosen during this game ?
- ◆ How did you feel when you were chosen ? (Maybe a bit shy, but deep down, happy to be chosen...we get a great feeling...we all may have wished that we had been chosen.)

Today we will discover that each of us has been chosen by a very special person and for a very special position... better than wife...or dog... or cheese !

INPUT: (15mins)

But first, we'll read about someone else who was chosen, even before he was born. Pay attention as we read because I will ask you questions at the end of the passage.

Read: Judges 13: 1 - 25 (Different children could read a few verses each)

- What did the angel say Samson should be? [a Nazirite]
- What is a Nazirite ? [a person who is dedicated to God As a sign of this he does not drink liquor or cut his hair.]
- What had God chosen him for? [To begin rescuing Israel from the Philistine enemy]

- What was the husband's name? [Manoah]
- How did he respond to the angel? [He welcomed him, wanted their child to follow God's instructions]
- What special gift did Samson receive from God? [Physical strength]

APPLICATION:

(With the help of the children build up a black board sketch comparing Samson's call and ours- Write the left hand column and ask the children to try and supply the right hand side.)

Black Board Sketch:

<u>Samson 'story</u>	<u>Our Story</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samson was Chosen By God. • His Parents Accepted this and dedicated him as a Nazirite. • Samson Made the vows of a Nazirite. • Samson Received Physical Strength. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are Chosen by God. • Our parents Dedicated us by Taking us to be baptized. • We make Vows at Baptism. • We Receive The Holy Spirit.

At Point No.3 discuss a little, the vows we make at baptism - We reject Satan and sin and say we want to belong to God. Every Easter, we renew these vows publicly.

ACTIVITY: (15mins)

(Form 2 groups [or 4 if the numbers are large], Let one group plan and act the story of Samson's call and the other group act a present-day call- let them include 'God' who chooses the child, the parents who talk about baptizing the children the actual baptism...etc. Ask them to have a commentator who compares the act with Samson's story. 10 mins planning time, 2½ mins to act.)

PRAYER: (10mins)

(Let the children settle down and come into God's presence.)

Listen to a verse from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians- 'Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his...' Eph 1: 4

Let these words sink into your hearts as I read them again-

(Read it again...and then once more, slowly)

Thank God for choosing you out of the millions of people to belong to Him... to be part of his family and to fight for His kingdom..... [..Silent Prayer]

Sing Together- Thank-you, thank-you Father (3) from my heart (2)

(Ask the children to copy down the verse and reference and learn it by heart before the next class. Announce a prize for the team whose members all know it.)

YOU WILL NEED: Good News Bibles. (full bible)