

LESSON EIGHT

LESSON NOTES FOR STD VI

JOSHUA AND THE JUDGES. – Samson – Strong and Weak

AIM :**General:**

- 1) To tell the story of Samson and Delilah, his capture; death and victory.
- 2) To show that Samson had God-given strength [physical strength] but also human weakness [women and uncontrolled anger].
- 3) To compare our lives with Samson's- i) We too received strength (the Holy Spirit's power) ii) We too, have our weaknesses. iii) But with God's help, we too, will have the victory.

Personal: To help the children accept their strengths and weaknesses and believe that God can work with them as they are.

Text: Judges Ch 14; Ch 16 : 4 - 31

STARTER: (10mins)

Memory Verse Competition:

(Place slips of paper on each child's desk. Ask the children to write their name and their team name, on the top of the paper and the verse [with reference] they learnt last week. Collect the 2 teams' slips separately. They can be evaluated, [perhaps while the activity is being done] and prizes awarded at the end of the class.)

Recapitulation:

[Have a short recap of Samson's story so far, and let different children share what they learnt or experienced last week. This will also! help you to judge how effective the lesson was.]

INPUT: [20mins]

Lets read and find out something more about Samson. His story is full of action, something like the movies we see nowadays, a lot of violence as well as romance. Remember, however, that we are reading about people who lived 3000 years ago- people were much more wild and uncivilized. Nowadays, we would not like any man of God to behave like Samson did!

(Before reading ask the students to prepare a sheet of paper as Shown- Demonstrate on the black board-)

Samson	
Strength	
Weakness	

As we read, try and think what were Samson's strong points and also his weak points. Just write one or two words in the correct space. Afterwards we will try and draw sketches to illustrate them.

E.g. If you think his strong point is good-looks, you could draw a mirror or a face.

Read: Judges Ch 14 : 1 - 20 (Pause as students write words on their papers)

Read: 16 4 - 22 (Children again write and try to draw sketches or symbols)

(Let the children read out what they have written and why. Bring out:

- ✓ Samson was very powerful physically-, he was also smart (the riddle which no-one could guess)
- ✓ His weakness was uncontrolled anger (he killed 30 innocent people just because he was angry.)

- ✓ He was also weak towards women (he gave in to Delilah's pleading and also his wife's)
 - Do you think God can use a man like Samson? Or does he need holy people who have no faults?
- Let's read the last part of Samson's story.

Read: Ch 16: 23 – 31 We see that inspite of Samson's condition- a prisoner, with no sight, he was a powerful weapon in God's hands.

- Does anyone have the answer to my question- 'Can God work with people who have faults or only holy people? [God can naturally do more with holy people, but no-one in the whole world is without faults. God is so great and wonderful that he can bring good even out of our mistakes and faults. God can use you as you are, just as God used Samson with his strength and weakness.
- Does that mean we should not try to become better? [No ! We should keep trying to become better, but at the same time accept ourselves as 'weak and strong', just as God accepts us as 'weak and strong'.]

Let us now take the 2nd half of our papers and write down our own strengths in the top column and our weaknesses in the second column, Write- MYSELF on top and again the sub-headings- STRENGTH, WEAKNESS. Don't try and be modest and say 'I don't have any strengths'. God has given you many good qualities and gifts. Maybe you could first exchange papers with say, 3 good friends and write down what you feel is your friend's good points. Later, we can add some more. For our weaknesses, we will not pass our papers to anyone, but write them ourselves. (Help the children to think by writing some possible points on the black board like-

STRENGTHS- kind, clever, friendly, good at joking, good-looking, good at sports, an artist, gentle, forgiving, helpful, healthy, good talker...

WEAKNESS- lazy, selfish, hot-tempered, avoid work, shy, use bad words, bully others...

PRAYER: [10mins]

Ask the students to bring their papers with them and form a prayer circle on the ground. Let's invite God into our midst as we open our hearts as a sign of welcome and sing together-

1. Come by here O Lord, come by here (3) O Lord come by here
2. We are yours, O Lord, come by here (3) O Lord come by here

Now quietly look at your papers and offer the Lord all of yourself with your strengths and weakness.

3. With our strengths, O Lord, we are yours (3) O Lord we are yours
4. With our weakness, too, we are yours (3) O Lord come by here

If anyone would like to make a short prayer thanking God, or asking Him to use you, please feel free to do so.

ACTIVITY: [10mins]

Give each pair of children a sheet of drawing paper and ask them to make a poster giving some message that they have of got today. They must do something bold and quick using n a good caption. Draw some examples on the black board-

Display the posters outside the class for all to see. Give out prizes to team winning the verse competition.

YOU WILL NEED: Good News Bibles. (full bible) / Slips of Verses / A4 size paper sheets for input session and poster-making. --- Crayons or felt pens