

Together @ Home

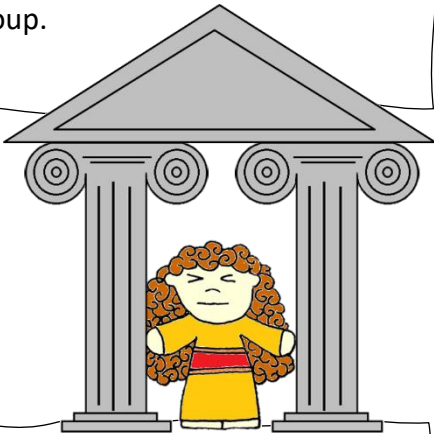
Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring the story of Samson being tricked.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Judges 16 v 4–31

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Samson which reminds us to put our trust in you above everything else.

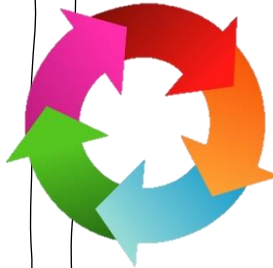
Help us to be strong and obedient to you even in difficult times. Help us to make wise choices and to live our lives for you even when others try to lead us astray.

Help us this week to commit our lives to you. Thank you that even when we make mistakes you are forgiving and we offer us the chance to start again.

Amen

Recap

The book of Judges is a story full of cycles. Over and over God’s people turn from Him to worship false gods, when their enemies attack, they call on God for help. Throughout the book of Judges God raises up individuals (judges) to lead his people and defeat their enemies.



Discussion

A question for adults to ask children.

Why do you think Samson gave up and told Delilah the secret of his strength?

Verse 16 says that “She kept bothering Samson about his secret day after day until he felt he was going to die!” He must have been under a lot of pressure to tell her the secret of his strength. Sometimes even when we know what the right thing to do is there can be pressure from others to do the wrong thing. When we face these pressures and challenges we can call on God to give us strength of our own to stand up for what we know is right and to make wise choices.

A question for children to ask adults.

Can you think of a time when you were asked to do something which you knew was wrong?

Family Activity 1

There are lots of ropes and braids in the story of Samson and of course his long hair! Use any string, wool, thin strips of paper or fabric you have around the house to do some plaiting of your own. If you want an edible alternative why not try strawberry or cola laces!

You could make a plait of friendship bracelet to share with a friend and encourage them. There are lots of great tutorials online.



A verse to remember

Psalm 118 v 6
I will not be afraid, because the Lord is with me.
People can't do anything to me.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.



Active Prayer

You will need string/wool or an alternative e.g. straws, strips of paper, strawberry laces

Cut some string into a range of lengths. One person holds all the strings in their fist with similar lengths sticking out at the top. You should not be able to tell which strings are long and which shorter.

Take it in turns to draw out a string slowly and steadily. As you pull on your string you should pray and keep praying until you reach the end of the string.

Some string prayers will be long and others will be short, it all depends on which string you pick!



Family Activity 2

Samson kept the secret of his strength from Delilah for a long time by telling her lies about where his strength came from. Play this very silly game to help you think about this part of the story.

One person acts out an activity e.g. brushing their teeth. The next person asks "What are you doing?" The first person must say "I am..." and then say a different activity from what they were doing. The second person then has to act out this activity.

Keep going round, each person must act out whatever activity the person before says!

You might want to remind children at the end that even though the game is fun in real life we should be honest and not have secrets.

Helping Older Children

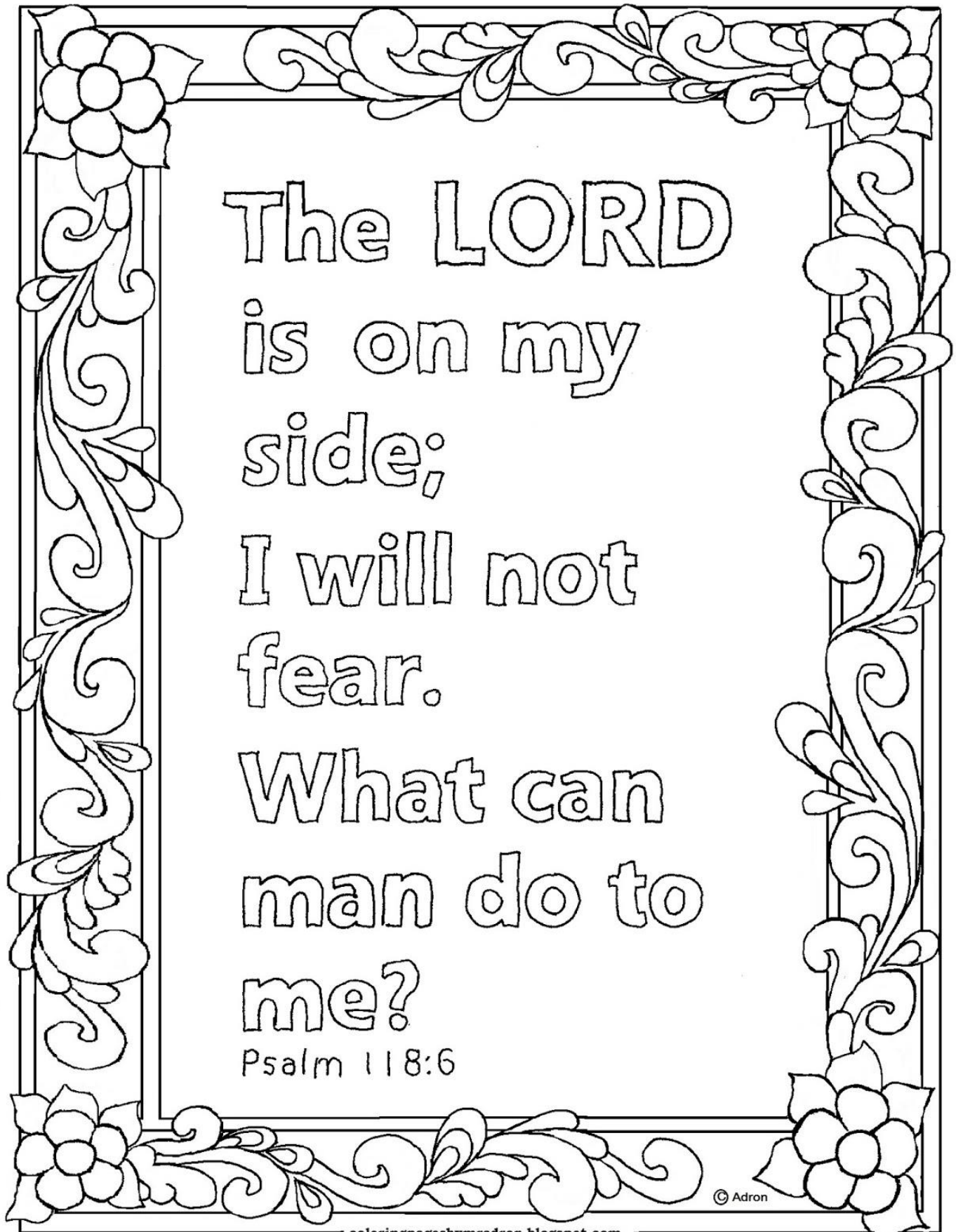
Last week we explored the example of Samson's wife who succumbed to peer pressure and shared Samson's secret. In this week's story it is Samson who gives in to pressure from Delilah.

In Samson's story his physical strength came from God but we can also rely on God to help us be mentally strong. If we are being put under pressure to do something we are not sure about we can pray and ask God to help us be strong in saying no or making wise decisions.



A colouring page you could print and colour together

Colouring page provided by Mr. Adron at www.coloringpagesbymradron.blogspot.com



The LORD
is on my
side;
I will not
fear.
What can
man do to
me?

Psalm 118:6

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PUZZLE SHEET

Some of the words from the story have been muddled up. Can you work out the words?

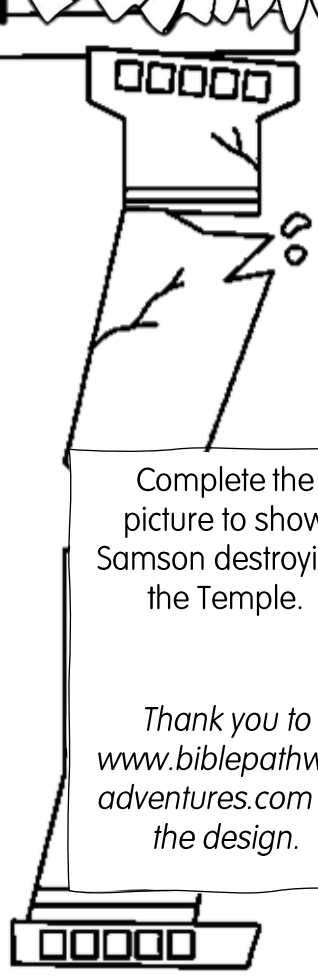
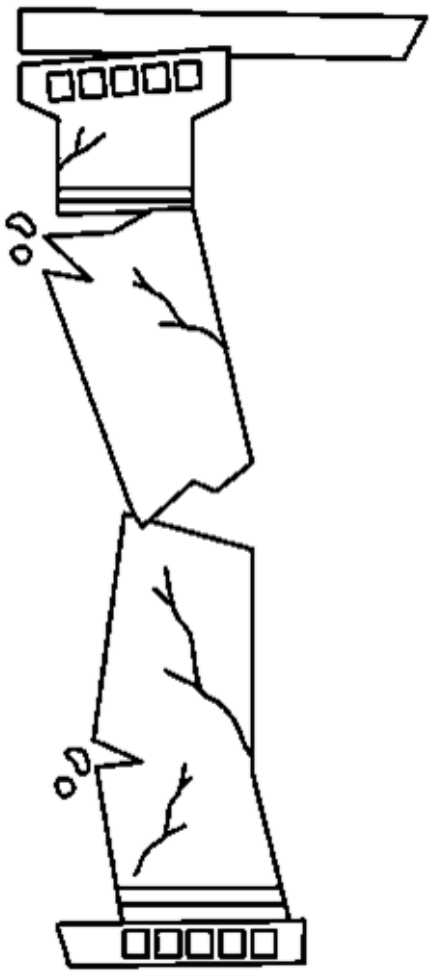
Can you find your way through the maze of Samson's hair?

smsano

ahri

hadlei

trehtnsg



Complete the picture to show Samson destroying the Temple.

Thank you to www.biblepathwayadventures.com for the design.