

GOD DOES GREAT THINGS

Preschool
Week 4

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: Judges 13-16

Samson is a great “me too” story. He screwed up his life and made bad decision after bad decision. But God chose to use Samson to carry out his plan anyway. Nothing disqualified Samson from being used by God, precisely because everything did. It’s the same with us. Samson’s story is a story of grace, undeserved favor, and one-way love. With Samson’s track record of defiant and obnoxious behavior, it’s surprising that he is mentioned in Hebrews 11 as being a man of great faith. He did conquer the Philistines, but his faith seemed to falter more than it stood strong. Samson had moments of greatness, but overall his life was a string of selfish decisions.

Eventually he found himself in jail because he became so intoxicated with love and lust for a Philistine woman that he allowed her to manipulate him into spilling the secret of his strength. He played her game too long, and eventually couldn’t resist her anymore. The next thing he knew, he was trapped in jail, blind and weaker than ever. That’s the point of Samson’s story really. It’s far less about Samson and much more about God. God comes through on his promises and stands firm on his word, no matter how we respond. In his worst moment, Samson remembered God and cried out to him to restore his strength one last time. And God did. Samson died along with all the Philistines that day, and it was the one true God whose greatness was made known. Because God is God. And God does great things.

The story of the strongest man in the world is really a story about how God does great things not because we are great, but because he is. God will never stop being great, even when we do.

Do you ever feel like your bad decisions disqualify you from God’s grace or cause him to change his mind about using you? How does the story of Samson remind you of what is true?

It’s true that Samson was used by God in great ways. It’s also true that his life was far from God’s best. Do you ever see this tension in your own life?