

Delilah

The Sneaky One

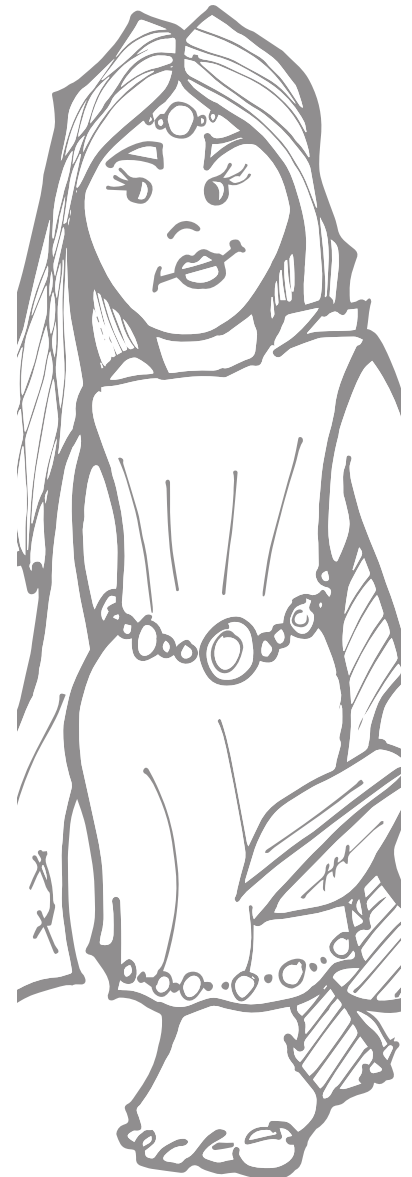
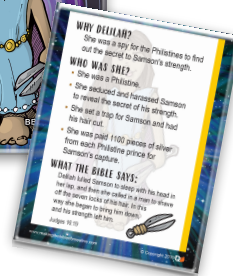
Who was this person?

- Delilah is the only woman mentioned by name in the story of Samson.
- Delilah was a Philistine woman from a place called the Valley of Sorek. “Sorek” means “empty” in Hebrew and was referred to as the “fruitless tree”. This valley is a very large and important drainage basin in the Judean hills. It was the border between the ancient Philistines and the Tribe of Dan. Sorek is where Samson met up with Delilah.
- After Samson’s first wife had died, he was lured into temptation and spent a night with a woman he should never had been with. Then some time after that, he fell in love with this woman from the Valley of Sorek – Delilah. Samson was a man whom God had special plans for. (Judges 16:17) His birth was foretold by an angel. (Judges 13:3) Samson was a Nazirite known for his exceptionally long hair and superhuman strength. He served as the final judge of Israel. Samson is mentioned in the He brews 11 “Hall of Faith”. Delilah’s story would not be found in the Scriptures if it weren’t for her relationship with Samson.
- Delilah’s name in Hebrew means “she dwindles” and in Greek her name means “faithless one”. It is also known to mean “temptress”.

What is this person known for?

- Delilah was a very deceptive woman. We would say she was “sneaky”.
- She did not come from the same culture nor religious background as Samson.
- Delilah was very persistent. She used her persistence to wear down Samson—a judge whom God had put in place to begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines. God had given Sam son incredible physical strength so he could accomplish God’s plan. Samson was dedicated to God from the time of his birth, but sadly, his encounter with Delilah, a sneaky and persistent woman, caused Samson to fall to temptation and waste his life. He lost the enormous strength God had blessed him with because of this deceitful woman.
- Delilah had a desire for money. In fact, she valued money more than she valued relationships.

Making The Bible Come Alive





- Delilah was known for betraying the secret of Samson's strength to her people, the Philistines. She lied to Samson and deceived him. He had a hard time seeing Delilah for who she really was. Her character was not one that was godly in any way.
- Delilah could be described as a “nagger”. She wanted to wear Samson down so he would tell her the secret of his mighty strength. Judges 16:16 tells us that, *“With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death.”*

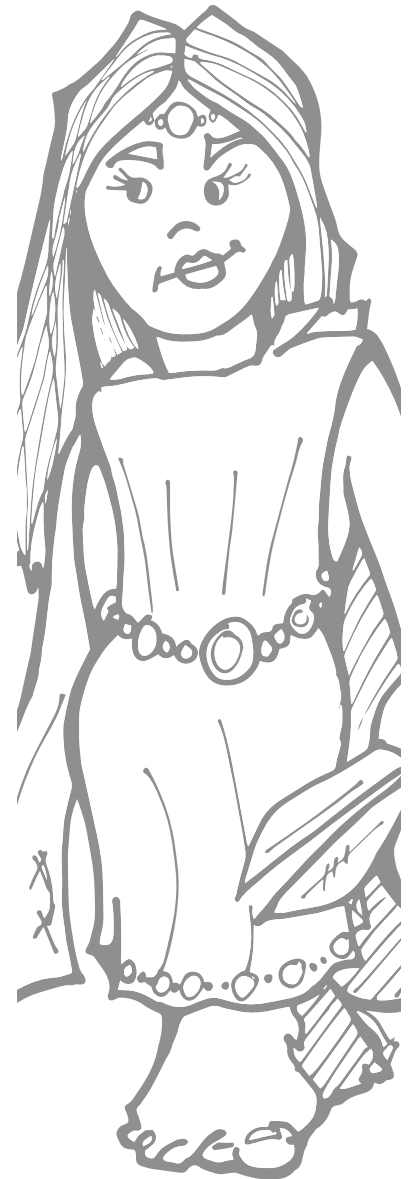
WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us to be careful who we trust.** We all want to have friends. God designed humans to be in relationship with one another. We enjoy being able to play together, to call or text someone to come over and hang out. We want to have close friends—those we can share important information with, even personal stuff ... secrets. It is important to have friends and to choose friends who are good for us. We need to be very careful who we share things with, and what or how much we tell others. Sadly, not everyone can be trusted to keep our most sensitive information safe and to themselves. These people are sometimes called *“Frienemies”*. They appear to be your friend yet behind your back they aren't sincere, nice, and can't be trusted. Have you ever walked down a hallway at school and seen other kids staring, whispering and snickering while you've walked by? Chances are they may not even be talking about you, but sometimes that can be the case. Then, you get that sinking feeling inside of you that begins to mount as you realize what is happened. As you try to ignore what's going on, someone blurts out that private information you shared with them and now everyone knows! It's not a secret any longer! Immediately, you've realized a friend has betrayed your confidence, and can't be trusted.
- After spending time with Delilah, Samson thought he could trust her with his most important secret—the reason for his superhuman strength. Unfortunately, Samson was wrong. The minute he told his wife his secret (Judges 14:17), the Philistines were waiting, and they took Samson down. We need to have a safe place to tell those important and private details of our life to. God is the first One we should always go

to. At any moment of any day God is ready and waiting. He is the faithful and trusted Friend we can always count on!

• **To show us how important it is to choose our life partner (husband or wife) very carefully and wisely.** You may think that as a child that you are way too young to be thinking about your future spouse (a husband or a wife), but it's never too early to be thinking about who could be "God's best" for you! Samson's parents were trying to have a baby but couldn't. The Angel of the Lord appeared to them (Judges 13:3) saying they would have a child and he would do great things for God, but as a man he must not drink any alcohol or eat anything unclean, and he could not get any haircuts. As a young man Samson followed those rules, however, as he grew older, he had an eye for pretty women. Since parents 'arranged the marriages' of their children, Samson asked his father to choose a certain woman. His father urged Samson to find a woman from among his own tribe, the Danites. His parents wanted him to marry a woman who believed the same as his family did. But Samson refused as his motives were not only to find a wife but to destroy the Philistines who were enemies of Israel. (Judges 14:1-20) Things didn't go so well for Samson's first wife, nor for the 30 Philistine men she was 'working with'. After his wife's death, Delilah enters the scene. Again, she is a woman from a faithless tribe. Samson loved her (Judges 16:4) however Scripture doesn't tell us if Delilah really loved him or not. It does clearly show us she was a woman who loved money, and that she schemed, lied, manipulated and eventually brought Samson to ruin. You see, Samson hated the Philistines and they wanted to destroy him. They enlisted the help of Delilah to do so. The rulers of the Philistines urged Delilah to "lure" Samson into revealing the source of his strength (Judges 16:5). They wanted her to trick him, to entice him and even seduce and deceive him. Delilah was even offered money if she would deceive Samson. The Philistines were governed by five rulers, and each one was willing to pay her 1,100 shekels of silver. 5,500 silver coins was a massive amount of money! Delilah influenced Samson to betray the special calling that God had placed on his life!

This lesson is so important to remember. Never let someone else, with wrong intent, lead you away from the plan God has for your life and what He wants you to accomplish. Also, whether it's in a business, when dating someone, or in a marriage, it is so very important that we choose a partner who upholds God-centred values. Those aren't values that we just adopt when we become an adult. They are values that we need to build into our life at a young age, so that when we get older, we can live out godly values and have a godly character as God would want us to have.





• **To remind us of the deceptive nature of sin.** It is so important to know what God says. Four times Delilah tried to find out the secret of Samson's strength, but he would lie and mislead her. At least Delilah was honest about what she wanted, but she was dishonest about who was behind it. She could not be trusted. Sadly, people can tell a half-truth if it suits their needs or helps them (so they think). Any time we stretch, reshape or keep from telling the truth, we are travelling down "Delilah's dead-end road" ... one that often leads to destruction.

Daily time with God through prayer, worship and by reading the Bible helps us to make godly decisions and act appropriately. When we know the right 'path' to take we are less likely to be tripped up by sin. The Bible reminds us that we will all 'fall short' (Romans 3:23). When we sin, we need to go to God in prayer, confess our wrong actions or words and ask for His forgiveness and help to not continue in that sin. Thankfully God loves us and will forgive us of our sins. (Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:8-10; James 4:7-8)

It is so important that we do our very best not to sin. Making choices every day that line up with the principles of God's Word will help us keep from sin and walk on the path God wants us to take.

• **To remind us God will always provide strength to do his will.** For many years the Israelites were oppressed by the Philistines. They prayed that God would save them. God provided a leader, and in Samson's case, God even supplied him with extraordinary physical strength for the task. When we go through difficult times, God is there to help us. He is our True Source of strength that will not fail us. Pray for strength to do your schoolwork. Pray for strength to choose good friends and live in godly ways. Pray for those close to you—your family, friends, and your church pastors and leaders, that God would equip and help you and those you know through the power of His Holy Spirit (Psalm 28:7-8; Zechariah 4:6; Acts 1:8)

• **To remind us holding a grudge is never a good or godly thing.** For years the Israelites had been picked on by the Philistine bullies. The Philistines had a strong army and they were ruthless and oppressive. These heathens had no belief in the One True God, as they worshiped Dagon and could care less about the Israelites' beliefs. When Samson became the judge over Israel, he felt he could make a difference. When Samson's wife was given to the person who was the

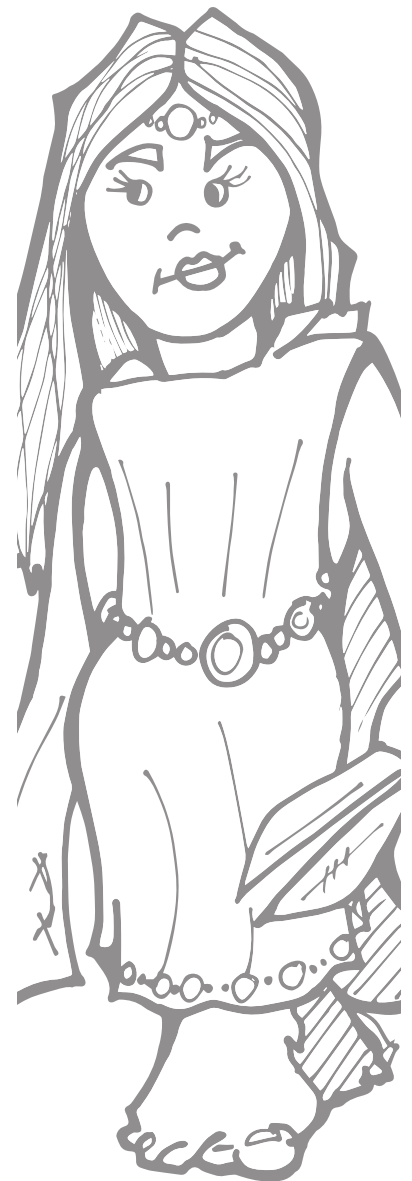
best man in his wedding (Judges 14:20), things really took a nasty turn. Samson took it upon himself to seek revenge and He killed dozens of men (Judges 15:1 to 16:31). Then sometime later, after having connected with Delilah and growing weary from her nagging to reveal the secret of his strength, Samson grew weak and finally caved. His head was shaved. His strength was gone. Delilah was left as a very wealthy woman having lots of money (Judges 16:18-21). And the Bible confirms in the second half of Judges 16:20, *“But he did not know that the LORD had left him.”* The Philistines seized Samson, gouged out his eyes, reducing his strength even further. Then they bound him with bronze shackles and threw him in a prison in Gaza to grind grain, a very menial form of work. We can see through these times leading up to Samson’s death that holding a grudge will cause things to never end well for us. Talking to people who are angry from wrongs that have been done to them can be very draining. They are never satisfied, and won’t be, until a ‘wrong has been righted’. It is not healthy for us to hold grudges. We must learn to let them go and extend forgiveness. (Romans 12:17-21; Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:26-27, 29)

- **God will not abandon us.** Over time Samson’s hair grew back (Judges 16:22) and the day came when God strengthened Samson once more, so he could destroy his enemies. During a celebration they called for Samson to be placed on display so they could mock him (Judges 16:23-31). However, the Philistines didn’t realize God had empowered Samson once again. Samson prayed, then pulled down two pillars supporting a roof with 3,000 Philistine men and women standing on it. In that moment, he died together with that gathering of Philistines (Judges 16:29-30). Buried later in his father’s tomb, Samson was given a hero’s death and a place of honour by being listed among God’s faithful in Hebrews 11:32. In difficult times God promises to never leave us or turn His back on us. When we call on Him for help, we will see that He is near. He never leaves us. (Psalm 91; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5, 9; Hebrews 13:6)

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.



MORE IN GOD'S WORD

The story of Delilah does not stand on its own in the Scriptures. Her story is part of the life story of Samson and its focus is only 22 verses in Judges 16. To unpack the entire story of Delilah, and the back story of Samson and his life, start reading at Judges 13 and continue through to the end of chapter 16. Here's what's you'll find:

Chapter 13: The Birth of Samson

Chapter 14: Samson's Marriage

Chapter 15: Samson's Vengeance (revenge) on the Philistines

Chapter 16: Samson and Delilah - Verses 1 to 22

Samson's Death – Verses 23 to 31

Lastly, focus on the first verse in Chapter 13 and then the last few verses in Chapter 16:

1. Read Judges 13:1. This verse tells us, "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years."

What a punishment for sin! No one would want to be under the Philistine enemy for 40 years! They were the major enemy in the land and were a continuous threat to Israel. The Philistines were tough warriors. They were greater than Israel in number. They knew how to make power-packed weapons out of iron and were skilled in technology. But no matter how skilled and powerful they were as an enemy force, their power did not compare to the power that is ours when God is fighting our battles. God fought for Israel then, and Israel's existence still today is proof that God is God. The Israelites are His people, and always will be.

2. Now read Judges 16:30. In this verse it states that "he (Samson) killed many more when he died than while he lived".

For some this can be a difficult verse to understand. While Samson lived in a way that cut short his full potential, the sacrificial nature of his death is reflective of how Christ died to defeat the enemies in our lives. It was in Samson's final moments of life, as he pulled those pillars together and the Philistine people fell to their death from the rooftop, that the lives of the Israelites were spared.

Think about what Jesus' death on the cross did for you. Jesus gave his life – He died so that you could be saved!



