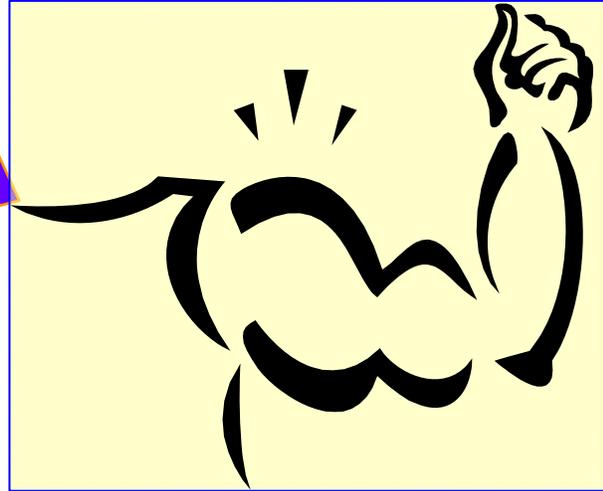


Mighty Sam



There once was a young man named **Samson**. He was **incredibly strong**.
No one – no bully or meanie – could stand up to Samson.

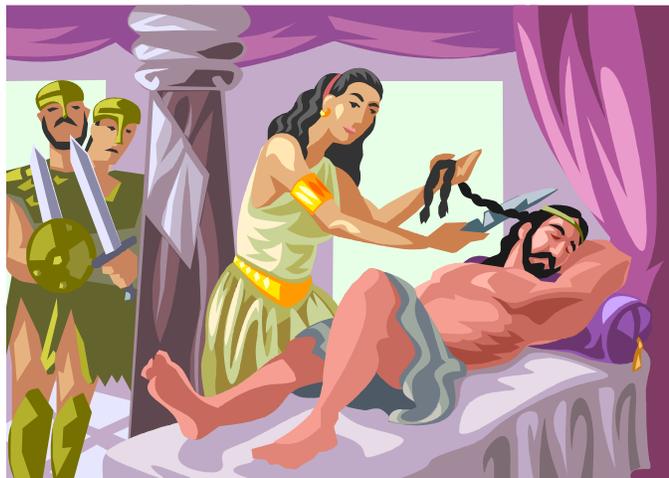
Samson didn't get his strength from lifting weights or working out at a gym.
His strength was **given by God**. But to keep it, Samson could never, ever cut **his hair**.
This was a special thing that God did for him, and it was a **secret** Samson was not allowed
to tell – especially not to his people's enemies, the **Philistines**.
Samson loved to make trouble and fight. And he especially enjoyed attacking Philistines!

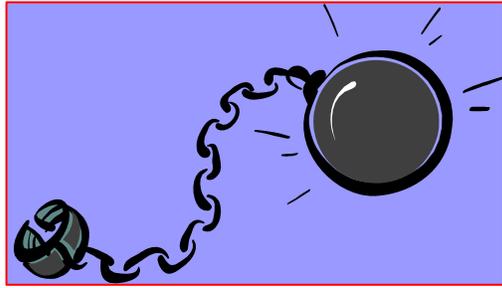
Now, God expected Samson to be wise and self-controlled. But Samson had a weakness
for fighting, and for women. He fell in love with a Philistine woman named Delilah. He was
so taken with her that he couldn't think straight. Samson was like many of us when we
see something we want. We don't ask God if it's right for us – we just go after it.

Delilah didn't love Samson. She cared more about pleasing her Philistine friends. And they wanted
to know Samson's secret. They got Delilah to fool Samson. She cried, and nagged,
and persuaded – until she wore down his resistance.

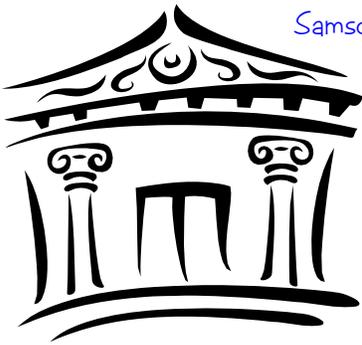
Finally, one day,
he blurted out his secret.

Then Delilah waited until Samson was
asleep, and she snipped off his hair.
With his hair went Samson's strength from
God. The Philistines, who had been
waiting, went for Samson. **Samson tried to**
fight, but he was weak. The Philistines
gouged out his **eyes** and **shackled** him in
strong bronze chains.
They made him a **prison slave**.





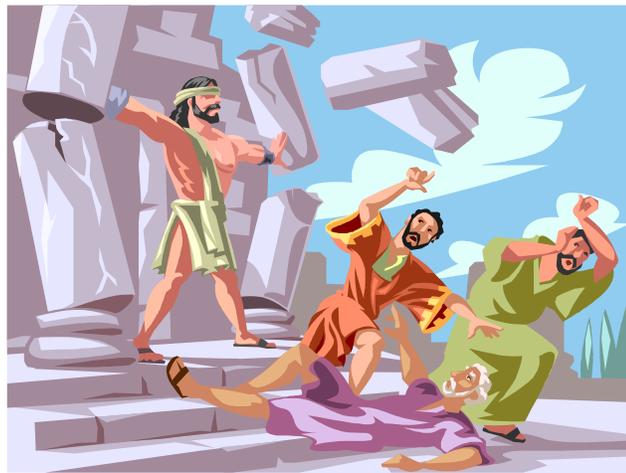
But even in that dingy prison,
God didn't forget Samson.
His hair began to grow again.
And one day, when the Philistines
were having a big celebration
to honour their false god Dagon,
they brought in Samson in his chains
so they could laugh at him.



Samson begged a servant to place him between the two huge pillars that held up the temple. And while the Philistines partied, he prayed to the Lord, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson braced his arms against the pillars, and pushed. He cried out, "Let me die with the Philistines!"

The great pillars gave way, and the whole roof of the temple came crashing down. Samson and 3,000 Philistines were crushed to death that day.

Samson, whom God had given such a great gift, was buried in rubble – all because he couldn't control himself when he was younger.



God gives us abilities and talents.

But we must use them wisely, not foolishly. It is important to ask the Lord for wisdom and self-control, so that we will use our abilities in ways that will please the Lord Jesus. That way, we won't end up sad and sorry like Samson.

"Thank you, Lord, because you're good to me and you have given me talents and abilities. Please help me to use them for your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Read the whole story of Samson in the Bible. See the book of Judges, chapters 13 to 16.