



LESSON 27

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Disobeying the authority God places over us is the same as disobeying God.

Bible Character(s): Samson

Scripture Reference: Judges 13-14



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Judges 13 and 14.

God chose Samson to be set apart for His purpose. He instructed Samson's parents to raise him as a Nazirite, giving them authority over his life. He also gave Samson incredible power and strength to use for His will. In Judges 13-14, Samson chose to disobey his parents and use his power and strength for his own purpose. By disobeying his parents, the authority God placed over him, he was disobeying God. Think about the authority God has placed over you during different times in your life. How well do you obey authority? Is it a struggle for you to submit and humble yourself in order to obey and respect the different people in authority over you? Are you whole-heartedly obeying, or do you just appear to obey? How has the authority God has placed over you provided protection and blessing for you? Spend some time in prayer asking God to reveal what keeps you from obeying a specific authority figure. Ask Him to humble your heart. Also thank Him for His provision and care in your life through the protection and blessing of authority.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

"Thank You, Lord!" Envelope

Get your "Thank You, Lord!" envelope that we used when studying Exodus 16-17. Remind students that they had written down things they were thankful for and put them in the envelope when you were learning about thankfulness and grateful hearts (should be on the clothesline). If you didn't do this before or don't have the envelope still, you can start the collection now. Spend a few minutes looking back at the different things you thanked God for in your envelope. Add any more praises and words of thanks to the envelope (especially for kids who weren't there the first time).



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will begin studying about Samson. We will look at the authority Samson had in his life. We will also examine our own lives and identify authority figures present in our lives.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group today? Those cookies sure looked good today. Should the counselor have eaten them? (No.) Why not? (Because Camp Director left a note asking no one to eat them; the counselor disobeyed the camp director by eating them.) When he disobeyed the Camp Director, who was he really disobeying? (God.) What were his consequences for disobeying? (The cookies had sleeping medicine in them to catch bears so the counselor got the medicine instead.)

Last week we learned about how God used Gideon to defeat the Midianites. Gideon was afraid and inexperienced, but he obeyed what God asked Him to do. He trusted God to fight his battle instead of relying on his own strength. God received all the glory for the victory against the Midianites.

Today, we are going to see God choose another man for His purpose. The Israelites have done evil in God's sight again, and God is going to send someone to rescue Israel.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Judges 13 [NLT].

Judges 13:2-5

2 In those days a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was unable to become pregnant, and they had no children. 3 The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. 4 So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. 5 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines."

Do you remember learning about Sarah (Abraham's wife) and Rachel (Jacob's wife) who were not able to become pregnant but then had sons? Here we read about another woman who cannot become pregnant, but God blessed her with a son. God gave her specific instructions for her son's life. She

told her husband Manoah, and they immediately worshiped God by presenting a sacrifice. Let's continue to read the Bible in Judges 13.

Judges 13:24-25

24 When her son was born, she named him Samson. And the Lord blessed him as he grew up. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he lived in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol.

Samson – Special From the Start



The purpose of this activity is to introduce Samson and recognize the specific instructions God had for his life.

Supplies:

Set of characteristics/instructions (1 set per bin)

"NO" bucket (1 per bin)

Definitions guide (2 per bin)

White board

Let the campers take turns picking a characteristic/instruction out of the pile in the middle of the table. For each one, decide if it is a true characteristic of or instruction for Samson. One camp counselor can write all of the true characteristics/instructions on the white board. For every false characteristic or instruction, put it in the "NO" bucket.

Tie It Together



God had specific instructions for Samson's life from the very start. He was to be brought up as a Nazirite. A Nazirite, which means "consecrated" or "separated," was a Jew who made a promise that he would 1) not eat or drink any wine, alcohol, vinegar, grapes, or raisins, 2) not cut his hair, and 3) stay away from any graves or dead bodies. Samson was also under the authority of his parents, and his parents were under the authority of the Lord. All of this gave Samson protection and blessing as he grew up.

We are like Samson. God has given us instructions on how to live and He has put each of us under different types of authority. Our parents are one type of authority God has provided for us. God wants us to honor our father and mother, just like Samson. One way to honor them is to obey them.

Let's look at our definitions. Obeying means to submit to the authority of someone else. Do you know what submit means? (Allow responses.) Submit means to yield or surrender to the will or authority of another. For each of you, it means to obey your parents even if you do not understand why they are asking you to do something. You might even think they are wrong, but you still need to submit to them and obey them. Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord." This is what God wants you to do because when you submit to the authority God has placed over you, you are submitting to God. Can you think of anyone else God has placed in authority over you? (Ex. teachers, babysitters, coaches, etc.)

Let's continue reading the Bible to see if Samson follows God's instructions.

Judges 14:1-3

1 One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. 2 When he returned home, he told his father and mother, "A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me."

3 His father and mother objected. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?"

But Samson told his father, "Get her for me! She looks good to me."

Do you think Samson was honoring his parents in this passage? Why or why not? (Allow responses.)
Samson ignored what his parents wanted for him and did what he wanted instead.

On their way to the woman's city, God showed His strength and power in Samson when a lion attacked him. Samson killed the lion with his bare hands, but he did not tell his parents. Was it a wise choice for Samson to not tell his parents? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible in Judges 14 to see what happens.

Judges 14:8-9

8 Later, when he returned to Timnah for the wedding, he turned off the path to look at the carcass of the lion. And he found that a swarm of bees had made some honey in the carcass. 9 He scooped some of the honey into his hands and ate it along the way. He also gave some to his father and mother, and they ate it. But he didn't tell them he had taken the honey from the carcass of the lion.

Samson not only killed a lion, but then he ate honey out of the lion's carcass, or dead body. Remember, we learned that Samson was to be brought up as a Nazirite, which meant he could not eat or drink any wine, alcohol, vinegar, grapes or raisins; he could not cut his hair; and he had to stay away from any graves or dead bodies. When Samson ate something unclean, he disobeyed his parents and disobeyed the Lord. If Samson had told his parents about the lion, they could have protected him from disobeying God. God instructs our parents, who are our authority, and we should submit to them and to God in everything that we do.

Authority Umbrella



The purpose is to see how our authority figures provide protection for us.

Supplies:

Umbrella labeled with the word "Authority" (1 per bin)

Paper raindrops (1 per bin)

Cabin items

Put different items in the classroom underneath and outside the cover of the cabin umbrella. One camp counselor can hold the umbrella and the other camp counselor can sprinkle the raindrops over the top of the umbrella and around the outside of the umbrella.

Tie It Together



What happened when the raindrops were sprinkled on and around the umbrella? Did the raindrops touch the things around the umbrella? How about the things around, but not under the umbrella? (Allow responses.) The items underneath the umbrella are protected from the raindrops, but the items around it are not. When we submit to the authority placed over us (parents, teachers, policeman, lifeguards, coaches, etc), we are under the umbrella of protection. We do not get “wet” by the rain that comes into our life. We stay out of trouble. When we choose not to listen to and obey the authority placed over us, we are outside the umbrella. We are not under their protection, and so we get soaked. We get in trouble and we have consequences. How did Samson step outside of the umbrella? He stepped outside of the protection of his parents by choosing to marry a woman who his parents did not want him to marry. He also ate something unclean. He disobeyed his parents and the Lord, and so he stepped outside of the umbrella that God placed over him.

Obeying Authority



The purpose is to remind them that God places authority over us for our protection and that we need to obey that authority

Supplies:

Umbrella card (1 per camper)

Let the campers decorate an umbrella card. Go over the Colossians 3:20 verse with them and have them write other types of authority God has placed in their life on the picture.

Tie It Together



God has placed many types of authority over each of us. Your parents are probably the first type of authority you would think of. God gives our parents the responsibility to raise us in the ways of His Word. He wants us to choose to obey our parents, because by obeying them, we are obeying Him. He also wants us to obey other people in our lives who are placed in authority over us. Teachers, coaches, lifeguards, principals, librarians, babysitters, policemen, firemen, your Camp Grace teachers, the Big Group and worship volunteers. There are lots of different people who are placed in authority over us. Everyone who is in authority over you was put there by God to protect you through spiritual guidance and leadership. If you choose not to obey or respect these people, then you are choosing not to obey or respect God. Can you think of examples when you chose not to obey? What were the consequences? What would have been different if you had obeyed? (Allow responses.) Keep this umbrella card as a reminder that God wants you to obey and respect everyone He has placed in authority over you.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time, thanking God for protecting and guiding us by providing authority.



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