

Part 1 - telling the story

- Samson was different from all the other boys...
 - his hair was never cut!
 - long!
 - and the other thing that made Samson different - he was **strong!**
- It was God who made Samson strong
 - God had been specially involved in Samson's birth
 - and his parents had promised to devote the boy to God
 - as a sign of which they never cut his hair
 - and it was because he was **God's** person that Samson was strong!
- One day when Samson was out he heard a great roar
 - it was a lion!
 - a fierce, wild lion - not trained like the ones in the circus
 - when Samson found the lion, he killed it with his own two hands!
 - God had made him **so strong!**
- At the time Samson lived, God's people were in trouble
 - the Philistines were making God's people very unhappy
 - they were good fighters, and came and took things from God's people
 - so God's people said to God, **"HELP!"**
 - now God's people hadn't been very good at following God
 - they'd been ignoring him...
 - so God said to them: "What about your promise to live me and live as I want? You've broken that promise. Yet now you are in trouble, you want me to come and help?"
 - but God also said, **"Even though you don't deserve it, because I love you, I will come and help!"**
- And this is where Samson came in!
 - he was all grown up now, and **very** strong
 - and his hair had still never been cut - it was very long
 - God used him to make trouble for the Philistines - he wasn't a bit afraid of them!
- Samson was so strong that when they tied him up, he broke the ropes
 - when they shut him in, he tore down the doors and carried them off!
 - Samson made **BIG** trouble for the Philistines
- "What makes you so strong?" asked beautiful Delilah one day
 - she was a Philistine, but Samson really liked her...
 - she said she wouldn't tell anyone
 - at first Samson didn't tell her....

Judges 13-16 Samson: Family Service Fintry, 21/11/2004, am

- but she kept asking and asking and nagging...
- until Samson eventually said, "I won't be strong if my hair is cut"
- (and the promise to God was broken)
- But Delilah told the Philistines, and they came and cut off Samson's hair and took him a prisoner
 - he was not strong any more... and he'd forgotten about being God's man
- But Samson told God how sorry he was
 - and God made Samson strong again as his hair grew long again while he was in prison
 - one last time Samson made trouble for the Philistines!
 - **BIG, BIG** trouble!
 - he pulled a huge temple down on top of himself and on top of all the people inside
 - and the Philistines didn't give God's people so much trouble again

Part 2 - So what?

- Colouring
- God can take a not very positive character and make of them someone
 - strong
 - useful
 - kingdom serving
- He can redeem them even when they fail!