Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

A BABY PROMISED BY GOD / SAMSON FIGHTS THE PHILISTINES

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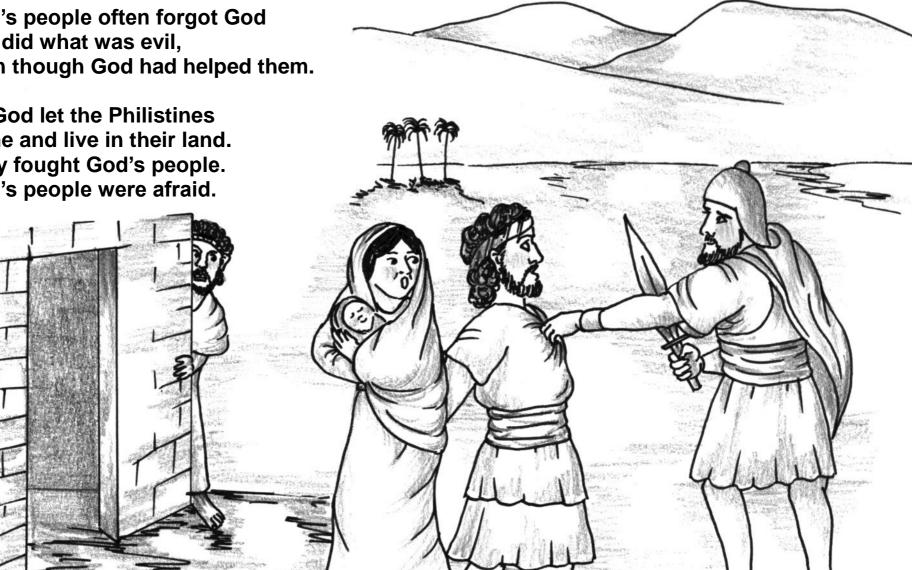
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JUDGES 13:1 – 14:7,20; 15:9–20 A BABY PROMISED BY GOD / SAMSON FIGHTS THE PHILISTINES File no. 47

God's people often forgot God and did what was evil, even though God had helped them.

So God let the Philistines come and live in their land. They fought God's people. God's people were afraid.



Manoah, one of God's people, and his wife lived in Israel.

One day the angel of the Lord came to Manoah's wife and said, 'You have not been able to have a baby. But now you are going to have a baby son.

'Your baby son will be for God. He will be set apart for God from the day he is born. He will begin to save God's people from the Philistines. So you should not drink wine or eat food that is unclean. You must never cut your son's hair.'



When the angel had gone Manoah's wife found her husband and said, 'A man of God came to me.

I don't know who he was but he looked like an angel from God. He told me that I was going to have a baby son.

This son will be a Nazirite.'

Manoah prayed, 'O Lord, let the man who spoke to my wife, come again to tell us what we should do for our son.'



Manoah's wife was in the field, and the angel came to her again. She ran to get her husband and they went back to the angel.

'Are you the man who told my wife that she will have a baby son?' asked Manoah.

'I am,' said the angel.

Manoah said, 'What do we teach our son?'

The angel said, 'He will be a Nazirite, a child especially prepared for God's will. He will save God's people from the Philistines. His hair is not to be cut.'

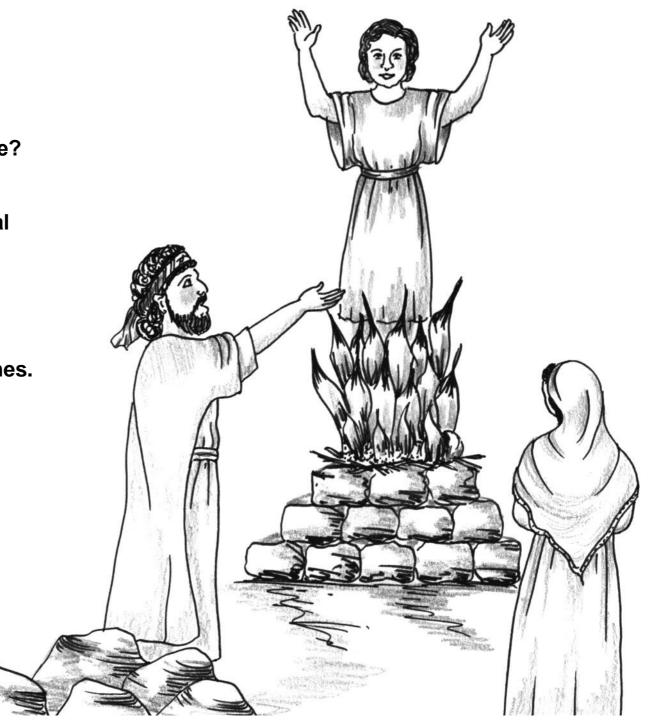


Manoah asked the angel, 'What is your name?'

The angel said, 'Why do you ask me my name? It is too wonderful.'

So Manoah got a small animal and some grain and he offered it on the altar to the Lord. Fire went up from the altar and the angel went up to heaven in the flames.

Manoah and his wife knew that it was God who had spoken to them.



When the baby was born they called him Samson.

Samson grew and God gave him amazing strength. One day he killed a lion. Another time the Philistines came to get him and God gave him strength to defeat them.

So the Lord gave His people Samson to be a judge and to defeat their enemies.



