

Israel. We see from this that the judge's authority was not necessarily very far-reaching. Samson scarcely left his own tribe.

Berean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Read carefully the story of Samson's life, and talk it over in brief with the class. Show how great were his opportunities, and how near he came to complete failure. . . . The causes of Samson's failure are given in note on verse 21. Notice how these four elements were manifested in his life; and notice how many lives came to naught through them. . . . Show in Samson the prisoner the condition of God's servant when he backslides into sin—weak, blind, enslaved, burdened, despised. . . . Notice the Scripture texts in first part of Analytical and Biblical Outline. . . . Illustration of this condition. Bunyan's pilgrims in Castle Doubting, under the power of Giant Despair. . . . Relate the closing scene and show in it Samson's return to God. See the texts in latter part of Analytical and Biblical Outline. . . . Or we may take up, 1. The warnings of Samson's life. 2. The encouragements of Samson's life. . . . Show the parallel and contrast between Samson and Christ: one died to destroy his enemies, the other to save them. . . . Illustration of fabled wrestler Anteus, who was strong while he touched the earth, but helpless when lifted up from the ground. Samson's power was in his consecration as a Nazirite, of which his hair was a token.

References. FREEMAN. Ver. 21: Grinding as a punishment, 235; prisoners blinded, 260; fetters, 260. Ver. 23: Dagon, 236. Ver. 27: Sports witnessed from the roof, 237. Ver. 29: The middle pillars, 238.

Abide with me.
There's a wideness in God's mercy.
Father, I stretch my hands to thee.
There is a fountain filled with blood,
I'm poor, and blind, and wretched.
Depth of mercy, can there be.
Come, come to Jesus.
Weeping will not save me.
Take me as I am.
Tell it to Jesus. [gather.
Come unto me, when shadows darkly
What a Friend we have in Jesus!
I was a wandering sheep.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. All for Jesus.

Another remarkable story which cannot fail to interest the children. Recall the story of the hero, Gideon. Tell that to-day we have a story of another hero. Print "Samson" in large letters. Some child will tell that he was "the strongest man." Where did he get his great strength? Show a small statue, or a doll. Call attention to the hands, feet, eyes, etc. Why can't he not walk and talk as we do? Children will say it is not alive. Teach simply and clearly that God put some of his own life into each one of us. Without it our hands and feet and eyes and ears would be of no more use than are these in the lifeless image. Let children name as many of God's gifts to us as they can, such as sight, hearing, etc. Print them, placing above them "God's Gifts to Me." Over "Samson" print "God's Friend." Print "Philistines," and over this, "God's Enemies." What had God given to Samson? Yes, great strength.

He wanted him to use it in doing good work for him. What kind of people are God's enemies, and what must always be done with sin? Now God gave Samson great strength to use in subduing these bad people, the Philistines.

Ask children to hold up their hands. Let us see how many can move—so? who can clap them—so? who can move the fingers—so? Very well; they are all good little hands. What are they for? Who gave them to you? Now tell story of little boy who used his hands to strike, to snatch, to tease other children. Was this right? Why not? Because he used them to please self and not to please God. This is just what Samson did after a while. Tell the story. It will interest greatly to tell some of the stories showing how great Samson's strength was before his downfall. Make it clear that Samson lost his strength because he forgot God and used his gifts to please himself.

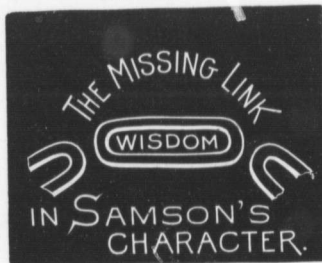


Bring out the truth clearly that Samson's strength did not come back until he had seen his sin and told God how sorry he was. Then he was willing to forget self and work for God.

What can children give to Jesus? Yes, pennies. But he wants more. Will he take our pennies if the hands with which we give them are used for Satan? Print "All for Jesus" above "God's Gifts to me," and enforce lesson of responsibility in use of gifts.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



Samson's character may be likened to a chain with one weak link. A chain is only as strong as each link is strong. This blackboard design is for the purpose of bringing out that missing link. If you have a blackboard with two sides, you can draw the link as is represented in the cut; then turn the board over. Have the school name the other links of the chain that were elements of his strength, such as courage, wit, self-reliance, etc. At the last state that the chain is incomplete, and by turning over the board show that the missing link was wisdom. Great bodily strength united with wisdom would have made him a power for good, but great strength governed by folly made him morally weak. Strength without wisdom is like a great tree without deep roots.

Lesson Word Pictures.

Who is this down in the dusky old prison-house? Poor fellow, his eyes are out. Fetters of brass are on his limbs, and he sullenly grinds and grinds and grinds.