



Everyone remembers story time as a young child. Some can remember going to the library in elementary school, sitting in a circle, and listening to the teacher read a book. Maybe you can remember climbing up into the lap of your grandma or grandpa as they told stories of when they were younger. We loved hearing these stories, and most of us can still remember them to this day.

[AUTHOR NOTE – I set up an oversized recliner on stage, and I sat in it while giving the intro. I also gave the first part of the intro with the tone of a kindergarten teacher. When I got to the next part of the intro, I stood up and resumed my normal speaking tone to emphasize the transition from “kid stuff” to a more grown up approach.]

This week we are beginning a new series called Grown Up Children's Stories. For the next few weeks, we are going to look at some of the stories you probably heard as little kids, but we are going to dive a little deeper into the heart of the Scripture.

1 Corinthians 13:11 ESV *“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”*

As junior high and high school students, you are past the childish ways of thinking, and tonight we are going to take a deeper look at the story of Samson.

## Story Time

[AUTHOR NOTE –Give as much energy as you can to reading the story like you would to a group of children. Tell the story as if your group was hearing it for the first time.]

The story of Samson is recounted for us in the Old Testament book of Judges. So, just a quick background on the book: it tells how the Israelites went through a cycle which was repeated over and over.

1. They followed the Lord
2. They did evil in the sight of the Lord

3. They faced the consequences of their disobedience
4. They cried out to the Lord
5. The Lord sent a judge to save/rule over them
6. They lived in peace.

In the first verse of Judges 13, we can see where they were in the cycle.

*Judges 13:1-5 ESV “And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.*

*2 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”*

Here we get the back story of the main character. Samson's birth was foretold by an angel. He was called to be a Nazirite to God from the day he was born. Being a Nazirite just meant he could not cut his hair or beard, could not touch anything deemed “unclean,” and could not partake in wine or any form of the fruit of the vine. Also, like any good Disney movie, there is a good bit of foreshadowing here.

Let's keep going.

*Judges 13:6-18 ESV*

*6 Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, 7 but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”*

*8 Then Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.” 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her. 10 So the woman ran quickly and*

told her husband, "Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me." 11 And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am." 12 And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?" 13 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. 14 She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe." 15 Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you." 16 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord." (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord.)

So, this angel visited both of Samson's parents, told them the same thing, and Samson's dad didn't quite get it. However, he did one of the most "dad" things you would expect. He told the angel to wait and invited him to a cookout!

Then we see a very consistent theme throughout all Scripture. The angel's story came true, and Samson was born.

*Judges 13:24 ESV "And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the Lord blessed him."*

Now we get to see some of Samson's crazy life. Everyone knows Samson was the really strong guy with long hair. Everyone knows he lost his strength when he told Delilah the secret of his strength, and she cut his hair. Let's take a look at how Samson got to that point.

*Judges 14:1-3 ESV "Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 Then he came up and told his father and mother, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife." 3 But his father and mother said to him, "Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from*

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

**[downloadyouthministry.com](http://downloadyouthministry.com)**