



## October 27, 2019

# Space Ninjas vs. Pirate Squirrels

### The Judges: Samson

**BIG IDEA:** God desires righteousness and wants us to control our anger.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Judges 13–16

**KEY VERSE:** “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” James 1:19-20 (NIV)

 **SCHEDULE**  
SMALL GROUP  
CONNECT 

7–15 minutes

 **LARGE GROUP  
LESSON**

30–40 minutes

**REFLECT AND RESPOND  
STATIONS**

7–15 minutes

 **SMALL GROUP  
ACTIVITIES**  
15–25 minutes

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# 3.3 Small Group Lesson | Elementary



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## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

When you study the life of Samson, one of the last people to rule as judge over Israel, it's clear that he's one of the most tragic figures in the Bible. From birth, Samson was a man of incredible potential. His birth was orchestrated from heaven above and announced by an angel, he was set apart for God since day one, he was chosen from the beginning to lead Israel out of the hands of the Philistines, and he was endowed with a Herculean amount of physical strength. Yet at the end of his life, he was held captive with his head shaved, his eyes plucked out, and displayed like a trophy by the very people he had been chosen to defeat. So what went wrong?

If you spend some time reading the account of Samson in Judges 13–16, you begin to see a troubling pattern. With all of his strength, Samson sought what was right in his own eyes, rather than the life of righteousness that God had called him to. From an early age, Samson showed contempt for his parents and refused to listen to their wise counsel or obey their instructions. Not once, but twice he yoked himself in marriage to Philistine women who worshipped foreign gods. He gave into his lustful desires and slept with prostitutes. And on many occasions, Samson let his anger rule over him.

Not many of us can say that we were born with quite the same potential as Samson. Nevertheless, God has bestowed upon every one of us unique gifts, abilities, and passions along with a calling to use them for the benefit and glory of His kingdom. How many of us, though, like Samson, have wasted those gifts, abilities, and passions in pursuit of what is right in our own eyes? Samson's life, as tragic as it is, serves as a warning to each of us as to what can become of our life when we use our God-given potential for the pursuit of our own unrighteous pleasure. Consider for a minute how you're using the gifts that God has given you. Is He being glorified through them?

Fortunately, for as long as we have breath, it's never too late to make adjustments. Through His divine wisdom, God knows that no one can be completely righteous on their own. And through His divine grace, He has given us Jesus, who took *our* sins and gave us *His* righteousness to call our own. What an incredible Savior we serve! Let's seek to serve *Him* rather than ourselves.

*David Rausch*  
Mooblio President





## SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

### *Helping Kids Reflect and Respond to God*

At the end of every GO! large group lesson is an opportunity for kids to reflect and respond to God through prayer, journaling, scripture reading, or art. It's what we refer to as the Reflect and Respond Stations. This time is especially important because it allows kids to interact with God on a deep and personal level through various age-appropriate spiritual disciplines. You've probably already noticed what an incredible experience this can be for kids, but did you know that you can help to make the experience even more rich and meaningful? It's true! Here are a few ways you can help:

**Establish a quiet atmosphere:** Creating a quiet atmosphere helps kids focus on God instead of the other kids around them. Before dismissing the kids, remind them that this is a time for them to talk to God, not their friends. Right before dismissing kids to move about the stations, give your final instructions in a whisper. Consider telling kids they can begin moving on the count of three. By the time you get to one, mouth the number silently and motion for the kids to get up.

**Help out at a station:** Most kids will eventually know exactly what to do and how to do it, but some kids (especially young and new kids) might need a little bit of direction. Pick a station and be available to help kids who need it. At the prayer and journaling station, quietly help kids who need assistance with spelling. Help organize the materials at the art station. Be available at the reading station to help kids find the selected Bible passage or to quietly read to kids who need assistance.

**Provide prayer support:** Sometimes it might become evident that a kid could use some prayer (especially at the prayer station). Make yourself available to quietly pray with kids. When you're not praying with a specific kid, pray silently that God would move in the hearts and minds of all the kids during this time.

**Follow up afterwards:** From time to time, ask the kids after the Reflect and Respond Stations if they heard anything special from the Holy Spirit or if they said anything special to God. Processing the experience out loud sometimes helps kids make the most of their time with God. It also gives you a window into the hearts and minds of the kids.



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### ★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

#### PREPARE FOR BATTLE

**Say:** Are you ready for another week of “Space Ninjas vs. Pirate Squirrels?” This week we get to have another battle for the Wig of Walamazoo. I think we should do something to get ready for the battle, though. Today we’ll be hearing about the ultimate muscle man, so I think we should practice the ultimate muscle man (or woman) pose to intimidate the other team.

**Directions:** Determine ahead of time which team your group is in. Encourage the kids to practice making muscle man (or woman) poses together. Later, at the appropriate time during the large group lesson, encourage your group to pose for the other team.

**Question:** If you were the strongest person in the world, what would you do with your incredible strength?

#### ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

### ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

#### STORY QUESTIONS

**Directions:** During the Large Group program, kids will be asked to turn briefly to their small group and answer the following questions:

##### For Younger Kids:

1. What was your favorite part of this story?
2. How do you think Samson’s life would have been different if he didn’t get so angry?

##### For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. How do you think Samson’s life might have been different if he had obeyed God and controlled his temper?



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### ★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

#### **ANGRY BALLOON BOUNCE** (Application Activity)

**Set up:** Blow a round balloon up and tie it off. Draw an angry face on the balloon.

**Say:** Today we learned that God desires for us to be righteous and wants us to control our anger. We all get angry sometimes, but we have to learn how to be angry without blowing up and sinning. We're going to play a game right now that will help us think about the things that make us angry and what we can do to control our anger.

**Directions:** Instruct the kids in your group to stand in a circle shoulder to shoulder. Tell your group that the object of the game is to keep the balloon in the air for as many hits as possible. They can only use their hands to hit the balloon and they may not move their feet at all. Have the kids count aloud for each hit on the balloon. For each round, have the kids see if they can beat their previous high score. When the balloon hits the ground or if someone moves their feet in order to reach the balloon, the round comes to an end. At the end of the round, ask the last kid to touch the balloon (or the kid who moved their feet) the following question:

**Question:** What is something that makes you really angry?

**Directions:** After each round, have the kids take a small step backwards so the group grows larger and larger. This will make it more difficult to keep the balloon in the air. After 5 or 6 rounds (or when interest has faded) have the kids take a seat. Allow anyone who hasn't answered the above question to do so. When finished, discuss this final question with the group:

**Question:** When you're angry, what can you do to keep from blowing up and sinning?

**Pray:** At the end, gather together as a group and pray that God would forgive you all for the times you lost your temper and that He would help you control your anger and live in the way that He says is right.

#### **RING-A-VERSE** (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Set up:** For each small group, cut the middle circle out of 8 paper plates. The end result should be 8 paper rings. On each ring, use a marker to write the 1/8<sup>th</sup> portion of today's Bible verse.

| "Everyone should be quick to listen, | slow to speak | and slow to become angry.  
| Because human anger | does not produce | the righteousness | that God desires."  
| James 1:19-20 (NIV) |

Next, for each group, use tape to create a "throw line" on the floor. Place a full water bottle (or something similar) on the floor approximately 5 feet beyond the line. Depending on the age and abilities of the kids, you may want to move the bottle further from or closer to the line.

**Directions:** Put the rings in order, practice reading and reciting the verse as a group. Line the kids up and hand first in line the first ring, next kid next ring, etc. Take turns tossing them in the correct order over the water bottle. The kids may not step over the tape line. If they miss the bottle, they can quickly retrieve the ring, return to the line and try again. Time the kids to see how quickly they can toss all of the rings



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over the bottle in the correct order. When finished, have the group recite the verse. Repeat several times to see if the group can beat their previous time.

**Question:** Are you slow to get angry or do you get angry pretty quickly? What do you think you can do to help control your anger?

### **DRAWING CLOSE TO GOD** (Group Prayer Activity)

**Directions:** Place a poster board or piece of butcher block paper in the middle of the group along with a box of markers. In the middle of the poster board or paper, write the words “HELP ME” in large letters. Tell the kids to think about specific things the Devil tempts them to do wrong. When ready, have them draw a picture of it on the poster board or paper. When the kids are finished, allow them to talk about their drawing and share how the other kids can be praying for them. When everyone has finished sharing, lead the kids in a closing prayer. Encourage the kids to pray that Jesus would help them say “no” to their temptations. When the prayer is over, have the kids draw a big “X” through their temptation.

