

Joseph's Trust

Key Verse:
"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."
Romans 8:28

Level 3 lesson 29

Extra: What are some things the Bible tells us about God that help you to trust Him?

Read Genesis 37:11-36 and Genesis 45:1-15

The Lord is in Control! Why do we often panic and worry about things? It is because we forget about God. We should remember that He is always in control – no matter how bad things look. We should ask His help to do what is obedient to His Word, and simply live our lives trusting Him.

If you look at your Bible, you'll see that it's in two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. When we read the Old Testament, it sometimes seems like another world! People did not have cars or bikes; there was no radio, TV, or DVD's, and no computer games. In fact, they didn't even have electricity! They ate funny sounding things and often lived in tents – it all just seems so different!

Some things never really change though. People are still the same, and what God wants people to be like has never changed. We can look back at people who lived thousands of years ago and still learn lessons about how to please the Lord today.

Joseph, for example, came from a large family and had ten older brothers. He was his father Jacob's favourite son, which made his brothers very jealous. They grew to hate their little brother. One day, their hatred got so bad that they put Joseph into a deep pit, and

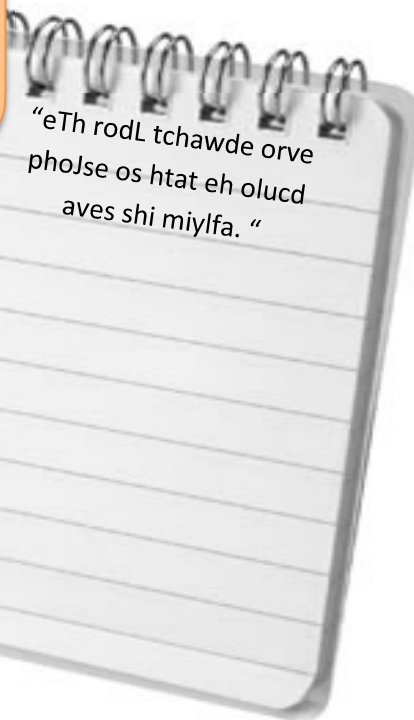


Joseph spoke kindly to his brothers

later sold him to some passing traders. We must not let our thoughts and feelings become bad and grow strong, or they will lead to very bad actions, too!

Joseph was soon sold as a slave in Egypt, and later, was put in prison for something he didn't do. How would you feel if all this happened to you? Would you be angry with God for letting it happen? Would you worry and get upset? Joseph didn't do any of these things. He was patient and trusted in God to make things work out.

Every day, he behaved himself and always did what was right. Joseph ended up being made Prime Minister of Egypt, and became very wealthy. When there was a famine in the land, Joseph met his brothers again and instead of being angry at them for what they had done, he realized that God had let all this happen so that he could save his family when they most needed him. We can't always see why God lets some things happen to us. But like Joseph, we can remind ourselves that God is in control and we can trust Him 100%, no matter what happens to us!



Un-jumble these words



1. What are some of the bad things that happened to Joseph?

2. Why didn't Joseph complain and worry about all that happened to him?

3. What good things do you learn from this story?

Samson's Strength

Key Verse:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil’s schemes.”

Ephesians 6:10-11

Level 3 lesson 30

Extra: What are some good lessons we can learn from Samson?

Read Judges 13:1-5 and 16:4-5, 15-31

Muscleman! We might not be very strong physically, but we can be strong spiritually! The Bible shows us how we can be spiritual super-heroes and even stand against the Devil! So today, we'll learn some important lessons about being strong in the Lord!

Long before there were made-up comics and movies about Superman, Batman, Spiderman, and the X-Men, there was a true super-hero named Samson. In the Bible passage today you can read about his awesome strength. He once fought 1000 of God's enemies with only the jawbone of a donkey and won!! Another time, he snapped huge city gates off their hinges and carried them away!

Samson had such great strength because the Almighty God was with him. When Samson was born, his parents made a solemn promise to God that his life would be dedicated to Him. As a sign of this, they vowed never to cut his hair, or let him drink alcohol. God blessed Samson with incredible strength, and he used it against the Philistines, Israel's enemies.

One day Samson made a bad choice. He became friends with a Philistine woman named Delilah and told her why he was so strong. "If someone cuts off the braids of my hair," he said, "I'll be as weak as any other man!" As soon as Samson was asleep, Delilah told his enemies the secret! Then, she cut off his hair. When Samson woke up and tried to

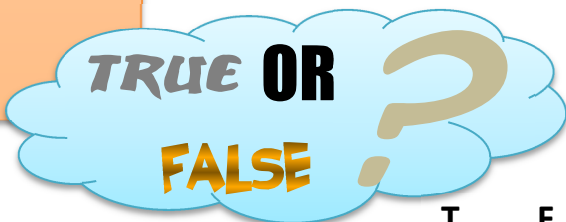


Samson's strength returned!

fight his enemies, he found his God-given strength was gone. He was beaten up, blinded, and thrown into a Philistine prison!

Samson was sorry for having wandered so far away from the Lord. One day, after he had been a prisoner for a long time, the Philistines were all gathered at a huge party in honour of their idol, Dagon. They brought out poor, blind Samson to make fun of him. Samson prayed to God, asking Him to give him back his strength, one more time. God granted his request and Samson used all his strength to push the pillars down and squash God's enemies flat! Even though Samson had been a failure, once he repented of his sin, God enabled him to once again do great things! He even ended up being mentioned in Hebrews 11:32-34, which tells us about some 'heroes of faith' in the Bible.

Ephesians 6:10 tells us to "be strong in the Lord", and if we stay close to Him, we can be spiritual super-heroes! We can even stand against the Devil's attacks (Ephesians 6:10-18)! But if we wander away from the Lord like Samson and forget about Him, we'll be defeated. Let's learn from what happened to Samson: always obey God and be a true 'hero of faith' and 'strong in the Lord!'



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|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Samson fought God's enemies | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The Lord gave Samson his strength | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Delilah helped Samson fight his enemies | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Shaving his beard made Samson weak | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The Lord forgave Samson | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Growing long hair makes us strong | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

1. Why was Samson so strong?

2. What are some ways that we can wander away from the Lord?

Nehemiah's Devotion

Key Verse:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Deuteronomy 6:5

Level 3 lesson 32

Extra: What are some things that the Lord wants us to care about?

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11 and 2:1-6

The ‘Lord’s Things’: To be devoted to the Lord means to put Him first and to love Him more than anything. We know that we love the Lord when we love the things that HE loves. Someone who cares about the Lord’s things is truly devoted to Him!

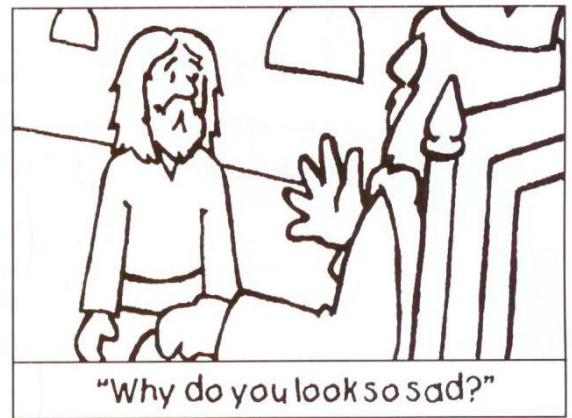
What are the things that you really care about? Is it family, or friends, or sports, or TV, or video games? Some people care about silly things and don’t care about important things, but being devoted to the Lord means caring about the things that really matter. Today, we’ll learn about a man who cared very much for the Lord and the most important things in life.

Talk about SAD! God’s people, Israel, had disobeyed God and so He let their enemies come and take them as prisoners. For many years, God’s people stayed under the rule of their enemies. One day, a good man named Nehemiah heard about the city of Jerusalem, which was Israel’s capital city, the ‘city of David.’ It was special to God.

Nehemiah was told, “The people who were left in Jerusalem are in big trouble, and the city is in ruins. The wall is broken down and the gates have been burned.” Nehemiah cried! He was sad because God’s people were scattered everywhere and the beautiful city of Jerusalem was in ruins. Nehemiah knew that all of this would make God sad, and because he loved the Lord, it made him sad, too!

Spot the Difference!

Check the picture above and then circle 10 changes in this picture!



Nehemiah decided to do something about it. He prayed to God for strength and then went to see the king. The king noticed that he was looking sad and asked him what was wrong. This was dangerous for Nehemiah, because in those days, just looking sad around the king could get you thrown into prison, or worse! Nehemiah explained what had happened and prayed to God again. He then asked to be allowed to go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The king said he could, and sent him on his way.

Nehemiah could have been selfish or not even cared about rebuilding the city walls. At least he would have been safe. Instead, Nehemiah risked his life to go and rebuild them. Why? He did this because he loved the Lord, and cared about ‘the Lord’s things.’ What things do you care about? Is it only silly things like your favourite TV programme or selfish things like getting all the ‘coolest’ new gear? Someone who is devoted to the Lord loves the Lord, and cares about doing the things that God wants!

1. Why were God’s people prisoners in Nehemiah’s day?

2. Why was it risky for Nehemiah to show sadness before the king?

3. Why did Nehemiah risk rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?

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1-2A (G2) 93 Dominion Rd, Mt Eden, Auckland 1024
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