

Strong in the Lord

Summer Key Passage: "Put on the full armor of God... so that you can stand firm." Ephesians 6:13
(paraphrased)

Today's Story Point: We can be strong because our power comes from God.

Today's Bible Passage: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10 (NIV)

BEFORE THE SERVICE:

- Be sure the music is playing as kids arrive.
 - Set out today's Coloring Page and some crayons at the tables.
 - Review the activities to make sure you're prepared for the day.
-

LEADER PREP:

When asked to describe strength, most people think of powerful muscles and physical stamina. To be strong is equated with having bodily strength and self-reliance. But the Bible describes another kind of strength - spiritual strength that comes through faith in God. Paul's call to be strong in Ephesians 6:10 is not a cry to go into battle with physical weapons, but to rely on God's strength. The armor of God is strong because GOD IS STRONG, and we are to put our trust in His invincible power instead of our own.

Trusting in God's strength rather than our own can be hard to do. We usually try to solve our problems through our own means instead of turning to God. Use this lesson to guide children to the true source of strength for every crisis - GOD.

WELCOME:

- Greet kids at the door, take their temperature, and then add their names to the Check-in Sheet.
- Have a few bins of toys out for kids to play as they enter the room
- Feel free to play music on the TV as kids are playing if you'd like.

Coloring Page:

Invite children to color today's page, which is a picture of Samson from the Bible.

SAY • Today we will learn about Samson and how he was SO strong in his body, but also in the Lord.

LARGE GROUP TIME

WORSHIP TIME:

Choose 2-3 songs to play on the TV. Invite the kids to stand and sing, and if you know the motions you can do them with the kids. When worship is done, have them sit back down on their circle dot.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the children to sit cross-legged and listen quietly as you read today's story.

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Open your Bible and tell the story.

SAY • Today we will learn about Samson and his strength. Samson was a man who lived a long time ago, he was incredibly strong, stronger than many men put together. God made Samson strong so that he could defend the people of Judah against the Philistines.

Samson Judges 15:9-17

A man named Samson lived in Judah, he was very strong. Samson did as God commanded. He only ate the food God allowed and never cut his hair because God wanted him to show others that he was special - a Nazarite.

The Philistines were enemies of God's people and the people of Judah were afraid the Philistine army would attack and they did not want to fight.

So they decided to hand Samson over to the enemies. Samson let them tie him up with a rope and bring him to the Philistine army. But the Bible says that "the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power". Samson broke off the ropes, grabbed the jawbone of a donkey and fought the Philistines. God gave him the strength to beat them all. Samson was strong, but not strong enough to beat the Philistines at war. He was strong because his power came from the Lord.

REPEAT THE KEY PASSAGE:

If you would like, create simple hand motions for words of the summer key passage. Invite the children to repeat the motions as you say the key passage.

PRAYER:

SAY • Let's close our eyes to pray. Why do we pray?
(Answer: To open our hearts to God and talk to Him!)

Remind the children that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere because He cares for us. Invite them to take turns talking to God. Ask the children to close their eyes, fold their hands and bow their heads and then lead your group in prayer.



ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to do with the class for the rest of the service.

So strong! NO PREP	Strength from God EASY-NO PREP
<p>Have children form pairs, one should form fists and press these together. The second child in each pair should try and pull the fists apart. After some tries have children switch roles.</p> <p>SAY • This game makes us feel strong, but in reality, our power comes from god. Our strength is nothing compared to God's. God can do remarkable things and He can make us strong to do remarkable things too.</p>	<p>Give each child a copy of the "Souvenir handout" and show them how to fold the two sides of the page in along the marked line so that the child's arm stops where the blank area begins. Have children draw arms on the child so that the arms hang down. Tell them to draw something heavy in the child's hands, such as a barbell.</p> <p>SAY • On the weight that the child is carrying, write a word that describes something you need strength for in your own life.</p> <p>When they have finished writing, have children open the flaps and show that Jesus is now helping the child carry the weight. Show them how to open and close the flaps to create an animated effect. It looks as if Jesus is helping the child lift the problem of his or her life.</p> <p>SAY • The Bible tells us that we can be strong in the Lord and in his power. God's power is greater than our own.</p>

DISMISSAL

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just inside the classroom door with the attendance sheet.
- Take the parent's security sticker and call for their child to be brought to the door.
- Check to make sure the security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's back.
- Carefully hand the child to their parents, along with their diaper bags if they brought one, and thank them for coming to Loop Kids today!

Note: If a parent lost their security sticker, send them to the check-in desk for approval. Never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security stickers.

LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, please do the following:

- Please spray and wipe down the following areas.
 - Door knobs (both sides), Light switches, Hand Sanitizer Dispenser, Remote Controls,
 - Tables and Chairs (spray and let air dry)
 - Large Stationary items like Play Structures, Train Tables, Baby Swings or Changing Tables (spray and let air dry)
 - Any other surfaces touched during the service.
- Please put all toys that were used in your service in the same bin that you got them from (9am service toys back in 9am service bins, etc). If you noticed a child with a toy in their mouth during the service, please place it in the dirty bin for extra cleaning.