



## You will need...

- 6 shopping bags filled
- Woman costume
- Deliah costume
- Bible
- PPT

## The story

Character/Actions	Lines
	Good morning, it is great to be here for this Assembly. My name is X, I'm here from X Church
Helper demonstrates – Pick three Children	Now, to kick off our assembly today – we need 3 strong people.  To find the people we need – we need you all to quietly, without touching anybody else, show us one of your muscles. Just like this.
Helper Demonstrates again Children do the challenge	Now to see how strong you really are – we have a simple task for you to do – you have to stand with your arms outstretched like this holding two shopping bags for as long as you can.
Children sit down	Wow! I'm impressed! You guys are pretty strong! Well done!



	<p>Well today in our assembly we are going to hear all about a real man called Samson who was really strong.</p> <p>Not just strong enough to open jam jar lids, or to lift heavy shopping like our friends just now did - strong enough to do whatever he wanted.</p> <p>The book of Judges in the Bible, which teaches us about the history of God's people - Israel, tells us all about Super, Strong Samson's life.</p>
<p>Open the Bible</p>	<p>It tells us about his special birth, his amazing strength and his rescuing death.</p>
	<p>It also tells us that things were not looking so great for God's people at this point in their history.</p> <p>You see, by the time that Samson was born, the Philistines, God's enemies, had ruled over them for 40 years. But God had a plan to save his people from the Philistines - and his plan would begin with Samson.</p> <p>Samson's mother knew this even before he was born.</p>
<p>Helper dressed up as a woman:</p>	<p>That's true I did! You see one day an incredible thing happened to me! It sounds nuts I know, but an Angel of the Lord appeared to me! And the Angel said this: "You will bear a son"</p> <p>Well that in itself was incredible news because I thought that I couldn't have children, but what the angel went on to say was even more amazing!</p> <p>He said "No razor shall touch his head, because he has been chosen by God from birth to do a special job. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines."</p>



Narrator -

And so it was that this Israelite woman and her husband gave birth to Samson.

No one cut Samson's hair and as Samson grew up, God gave him incredible strength so that he could begin to rescue his people from the Philistines.

And the older Super Strong Samson got, the more of a pain he was for the Philistines. You see, his strength meant that every time they had him cornered, he wouldn't just escape, he would cause chaos.

Check out some of his best super strong moments

Well, he once killed and tore to pieces a lion with his bare hands (Click)

Another time the Philistines made him angry so, he tied together loads of foxes in pairs, tied a flaming torch to each pair and then hurled the burning foxes into the Philistine fields and set their crops on fire (Click)

Then there was the time when the Philistine army attacked him but he escaped and using a bone from a donkey killed 1000 Philistine men

And don't forget the time when the Philistines thought they had Samson cornered and waited for Him at the city gate, but Samson got up in the middle of the night and tore the gates of their hinges and lifted them on to his shoulders and took them to the top of a nearby hill.

As you can imagine the Philistines were desperate to know what made Samson so strong – they were desperate to stop him and kill him.

And a nasty woman called Delilah helped them to get very close.



Helper dressed as Deliah:

I knew that Samson loved me so I asked him again and again what it was that made him so strong. And one night he told me.

He said

“If someone shaved off my hair, my strength would go and I would be as weak as any other man”.

So one night I did it! I shaved off all his hair!

Then I called in some Philistine men to come and capture him and they did! It was easy! He was so weak!

Then they gouged his eyes out, chained him in shackles and threw him into prison!

And I got the money from the Philistines for helping them!

Ha Ha ha!

And so, thinking that they'd won and that it was all over, the Philistine rulers and around 3000 other Philistine men and women gathered at the Temple to celebrate their victory (click)

And blind Samson was led out by a servant for them all to have a good laugh at. But they wouldn't laugh long.

Samson asked the servant to lead him to the pillars that supported the Temple.

Standing in between two of the pillars he prayed to God and asked that God would strengthen him one more time.

Then with one hand on one pillar and one hand on the other pillar he pushed with all his might. (click)

The great big temple collapsed killing all the Philistine rulers and all the people who'd been watching. (click)

And killing Samson who died to rescue his people.

So there it is - we've heard Samson's life story!



	<p>And I think that all this helps us to understand one simple point:</p> <p>God used Samson to save his people just as he said he would (Click)</p> <p>He had a special birth - God chose him from before he was born to rescue Israel from their enemies.</p> <p>God gave him amazing strength – he could wrestle and kill lions bare handed and defeat thousands of men single-handed.</p>
	<p>And His was a rescuing death - when Samson looked defeated and beaten and people just laughed at him, God gave him one last blast of strength to defeat his enemies and rescue his people</p> <p>All through Samson’s life, in all the highs and lows, in all the good things and bad – God was at work to save his people.</p>
	<p>And do you know what... many years after Samson, God chose to use someone else, someone who was perfect, to save his people once and for all. A man who had a similar life to Samson in many ways.</p>
	<p>His mother was also visited by an Angel before he was born He too had incredible power that came from God. Many people laughed at him and thought he’d lost, but in the end He won when he stretched out his arms. He too saved people by dying</p> <p>I wonder if you have any idea who that other someone is?</p>
	<p>Pray</p>