

Three easy steps for an at-home experience!



BIG IDEA: MAKE WISE CHOICES

Samson fell in love with a woman belonging to a group of people from which he wasn't supposed to marry. Because he didn't listen to God's commands, or his parents' instructions, his life was ruined. God's commands are here for our own good. They help us make good choices.



STEP ONE: READ THE BIBLE STORY

Judges 16:4-31 from the NIV
Pages 156-163 in the Read with Me Bible.



STEP TWO: WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO

Available at youtube.com/eastviewkids
God's Game Plan - Week 3



STEP THREE: CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY

FOR ALL KIDS: Tumbling Pillars

Materials: Paper, tape, ball

Preparation: Roll the paper to form a tube and tape it in place. You need two tubes.

At the end of our story today, we know that God gave Samson his strength back. What did Samson knock over? Two big pillars! Play a game with your kids and let them knock over some pillars!

Stand the pillars up and have your family members stand about 10 feet away from the pillars. Give each one a chance to try to knock down both pillars using the ball. They could toss it or roll it. You could choose to divide into teams and make this a competition, or you could just give each person a chance.

FOR OLDER KIDS: Bent Out of Shape

Materials: A wire hanger

In our story today, we learn how Samson's choices led him away from God and toward destruction. Our choices can do the same thing if we are not careful. Making a choice to disobey God is sin. The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned. Romans 3:23 says, "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory."

Take a look at this wire clothes hanger. Right now, it is in perfect shape. But what happens when we add sin into the mix? Remember a sin is anything that goes against what God teaches us or who God is. When I tell a lie, even a little one, that is a sin.

I am going to bend this hanger to represent that sin.

Pass the hanger to another family member and ask them to think of another sin as they bend or twist the hanger again. Continue until everyone has had a chance to participate.

eastview kids family worship

Whoa, this hanger is pretty out-of-shape. No problem—can someone try to untwist this hanger and get it back to its original shape?

Give the hanger to a family member and have them work on straightening out the hanger, using their hands only. You could even let several people give it a try. Tell them to be very careful of any sharp ends.

After a little while, it will become obvious that getting the hanger back to its original state is impossible.

This clothes hanger is impossible to fix using just our hands. We would need some tools or a machine to return it to its original condition.

It's the same with us. We can try to do good things and make all the right decisions, but no matter how good we are, we will never measure up to God's perfection. And because of that we are separated from God. That's the bad news. But the good news is: JESUS! God knew we couldn't erase our sin on our own, so he sent Jesus to die for us and take all that sin onto himself. When we put our trust in Jesus and make him the Lord of our lives, we are made new! And our relationship with God is completely fixed! So today as we are learning about making good choices, we should remember that the MOST IMPORTANT choice we can ever make is to follow Jesus!