

# SAMSON

FAMILY DEVOS



# The Birth of Samson

**Scripture:** Judges 13

**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 13:1

“A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.”

## For My Family

Remember our cycle of sin in Judges? Where the people do evil in the eyes of the Lord and their enemies rise up and conquer them? Well, you guessed it, it happened again! This time in our story, we don’t immediately start to look at the Judge that God raised up (Samson) and learn things about his life. Instead, we look at his parents.

In a time when every person was doing what was right in their own eyes, we meet a husband and wife who were unable to have a child. The Angel of Lord appeared to them and told them that the wife would in fact become pregnant and have a son, and then He gave Samson’s mom two instructions: don’t drink any wine or alcoholic drink, and don’t eat anything that God has forbidden, because the Lord wanted their son to be a Nazirite.

A Nazirite was someone who made a special kind of promise to God. They would vow (or promise) not to drink any wine or eat any grapes, not to ever cut the hair on their head, and not to make themselves unclean by touching anything that was dead, or even going to any grave sites. This was to show that they were set apart unto God. Their lives were supposed to be different, not just on the outside, but on the inside as well, completely devoted to the Lord.

This is what the Lord wanted from Samson. He was preparing His Judge from birth to be set apart and different, to be devoted to the Lord as an example to all the people of how we can follow God and keep His commandments. The Lord gave Samson the best possible start that He could. Samson had parents who heard from and obeyed the Lord, who raised Him in the statutes of the Lord even when the rest of the country had turned away from God.

If you are reading this today, it means you probably have people in your life like Samson’s parents, people whom God has given you to raise you up so that you can know His Word and His Love. What an incredible gift that is! The Lord wants you to be set apart and different as well. He doesn’t want you to follow a promise or a set of instructions. He wants you to follow a person, Jesus. The Lord wants you to be an example to the world around you, showing them how we can know Jesus and walk with Him all our lives. Thankfully, we don’t have to promise anything to God in order to do it. In fact, all we need to do is trust in the promises that He has already given to us.

## Questions for Young Children:

What promise did the Angel of the Lord make to Samson's parents?

What were some of the promises that a Nazirite would make to God?

Who has God put in your life to teach you about Jesus? Try to think of as many different people as possible.

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What do you think it means to be "set apart" for the Lord? How should Christians be different from other people?

Read Matthew 6:1-7. How is what Jesus instructed here different from the Nazirite vow? Think of some ways that taking a vow like the Nazirite vow might lead to sinful thoughts like pride.

Have you been given the gift of people who taught you about Jesus from a young age? How do you feel about that? Do you feel like you have a responsibility to use that gift wisely?