

Lutheran Foundations: A Confirmation Curriculum[©]

It Starts Here! Stories of the Old Testament

The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish

Year 1, Lesson 16: Samson

Tonight, we continue to talk about the time of the Judges. After Gideon, there was a brief interlude in which a man named Abimelech tried to be the King of Israel, but neither God nor most of Israel recognized his kingship and his reign was short. After that, back to a series of Judges. You can find their stories in Judges 9 – 12. When we get to Judges 13, the Philistines have conquered Israel and have ruled Israel for 40 years. Israel remembers their responsibilities before God and God sends a very unlikely hero: Samson. Samson's stories are found in Judges 13 – 16.

Samson is the closest the Bible comes to a superhero. His life is a reminder to us that God can (and does!) work through flawed people. It is also a cautionary tale about standing strong against temptation. God was still able to work through Samson in spite of all Samson's dumbness, but the consequences of Samson's sins were profound and painful.

You should know these stories cold!

The Birth of Samson

Judges 13

Samson's Marriage

Judges 14

Samson Defeats the Philistines

Judges 15:1-16:3

Samson and Delilah

Judges 16:4-22

Samson's Death

Judges 16:23-31