FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: ***"But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone." 1 Peter 2:9a***

Big Idea: ***God calls His people because He loves.***

Bible Story: A Judge named Samson | Judges 13-16

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – "Strong Pose" Freeze

What you'll need: music is optional
How to Play:

- Kids walk or dance around the room.
- When you say: **"STRENGTH!"** they freeze and flex. 💪
- Continue with the next verse.
- *Connect it:* "God gave Samson strength—God helps us too!"

**Verses to use:*

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalms 46:1
"So do not fear, for I am with you…I will strengthen you and help you…" Isaiah 41:10
"It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure." Psalms 18:32
"I can do all things through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13
"The Lord is my strength and my defense…" Exodus 15:2

Get-To-Know-You Game – You Belong Here

What you'll need: puzzle piece print outs, tape
How to Play: Have kids decorate and personalize their own puzzle piece. Using tape, begin to put the puzzle together on a classroom wall.

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: "*Hey KXP! Welcome back! Are you ready to hear about the last judge of the month? Me too! I can't wait to share his story with you. You may have heard of this judge before- his name is Samson. We can find Samson's story in the book of Judges. That's where we learned about Deborah and Gideon, right?!"*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

A Judge named Samson | Judges 13-16

Samson was known for his strength, but what you may not know is that he chosen by God before he was even born. He was chosen to help protect the people of Israel from their enemies, the Philistines. Samson's story starts with a miracle! His parents couldn't have children, but an angel told them they would have a son. This son would be a **Nazirite**, which meant he would be dedicated to God and that he would never cut his hair. God promised Samson would have great strength to help Israel.

As Samson grew up, God gave him amazing strength! He was so strong that he tore apart a lion with his bare hands. **What?!** I think I would be too afraid to even get close to a lion. But not Samson! He defeated many enemies using a bone from a donkey as a weapon. Kinda weird, huh? He fought with a bone instead of a sword. He also picked up huge gates that surrounded a city and carried them away.

But Samson didn't always make good choices. He often acted on anger and didn't always listen to God. When he got older, Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The Philistines were the enemies of God's people the Israelites. The Philistines paid Deliah to find out the secret of Samson's strength. After tricking him a few times, Samson finally told Deliah his secret. ***Judges chapter 16, verse 17 says "So he told her everything. 'No razor has ever been used on my head,' he said, 'because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.'"*** His strength came from his promise to God, symbolized by his **uncut hair**.

So, the enemy used Deliah to help defeat Samson. While he slept, Deliah cut his hair. Samson lost his strength, and the Philistines captured him. They even took away his sight and made him work like a slave.

At the end of his life, Samson was brought into a big temple where many people gathered to insult him and make fun of him. But his hair had already begun to grow back. Samson prayed to God one last time for strength. Then he pushed against the pillars that were holding up the temple. The temple collapsed, crushing the Philistines and defeating many enemies. Sadly, Samson died too when the temple fell.

Samson's story teaches some important lessons. God gives gifts for a reason, and we should use them wisely. Our daily choices matter. They can lead us closer to God or separate us from Him. God listens to prayers, even when we've made mistakes.

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: *"The judges we have learned about this month all had different stories but were all called by God. He called them to lead His people. He gave them messages to share and plans to put into action. The judges weren't perfect before or after God called them. But they were people who prayed, asked God for His presence to be with them, and obeyed Him. We have opportunities every day to pray, ask God to be with us, and obey Him. I'm thankful that the Bible shows us the real lives of people who faithfully followed God. Hope you have enjoyed this month's lessons as much as I have. In May, we'll be learning about a new family that God calls to lead. So come back next week and bring a friend with you."*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | **Samson Scenes**

What you'll need: activity pages, crayons, markers, glue, tape

What to do: Kids can choose a scene from Samson's story to create. **Activity pages included below**

What to ask Scouts (K-2):

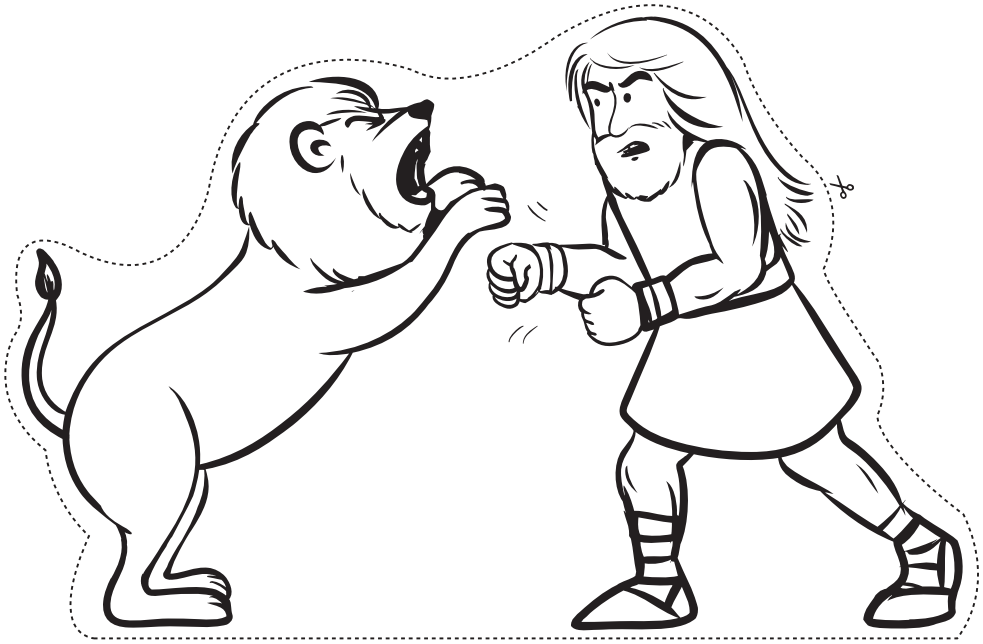
 Who gave Samson his strength?
 What made Samson special from birth?
 What animal did Samson fight?
 What happened to Samson's hair?
 Who tricked Samson?

What to ask Navigators (3-5):

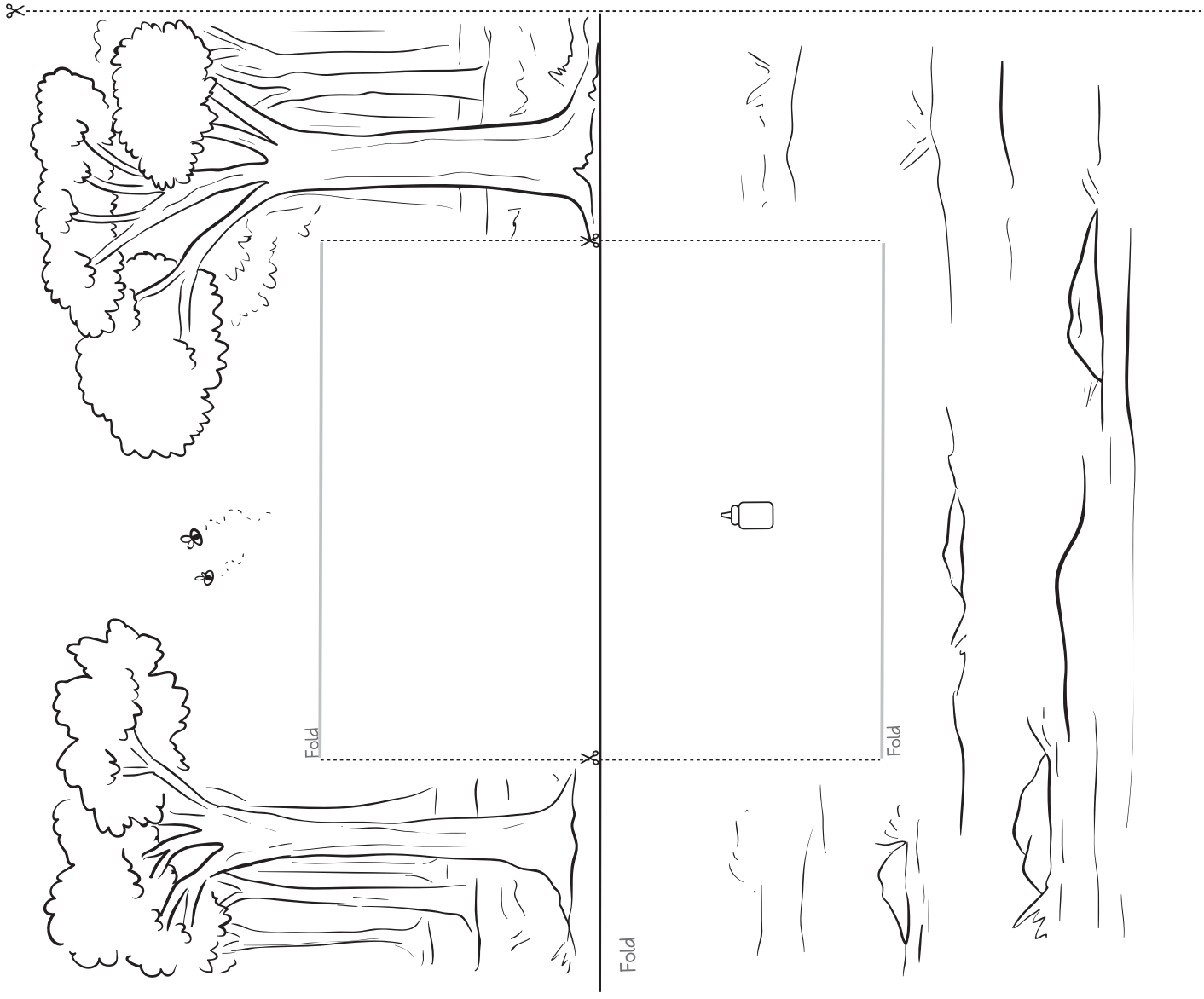
 Why do you think Samson was strong?
 Did Samson always make good choices?
 What happened when Samson made a bad choice?
 How did God help Samson at the end?
 Do you think God still listened to Samson? Why?

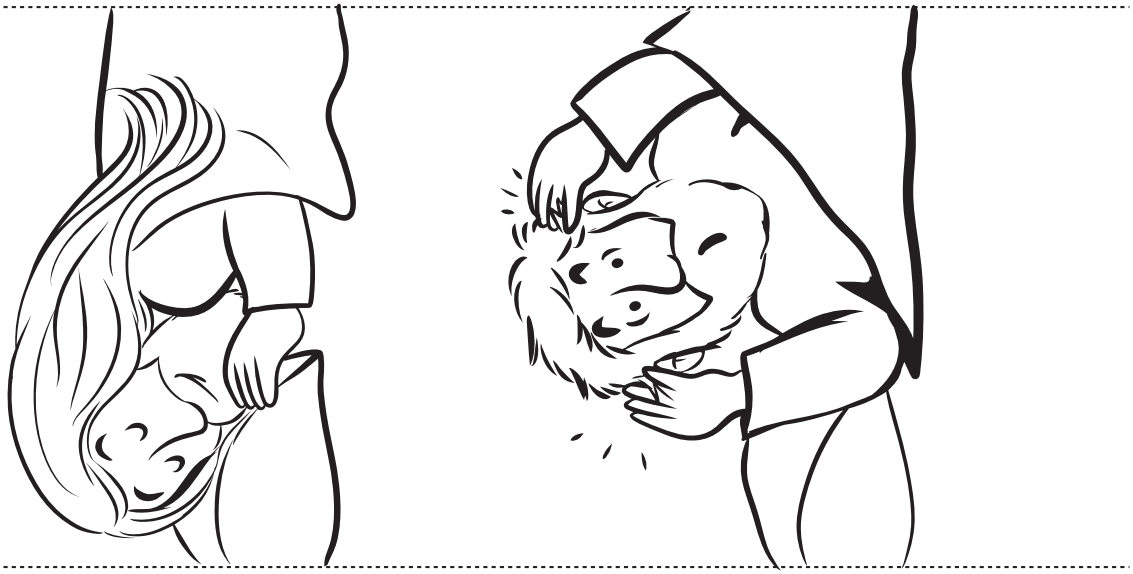
Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

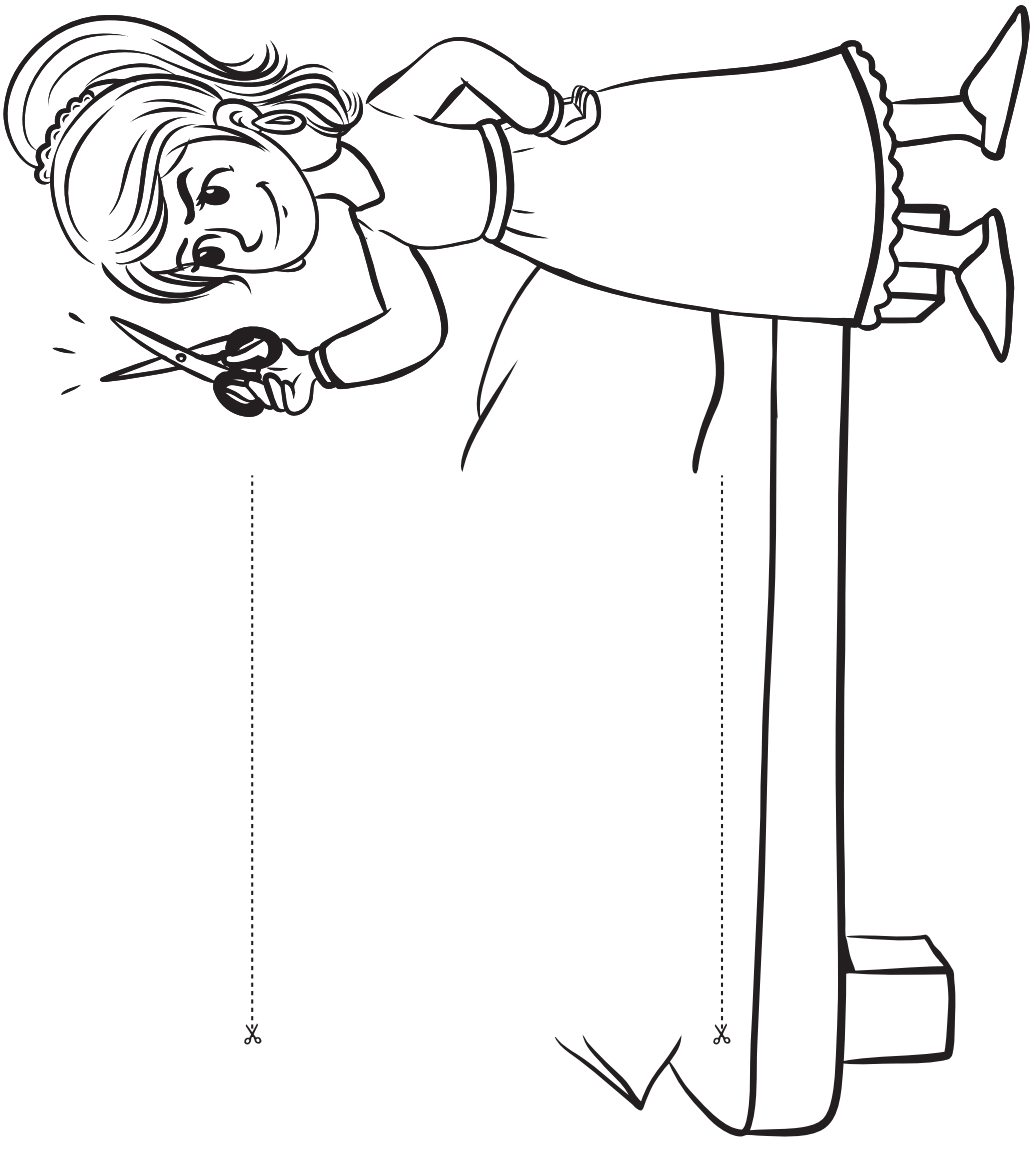
- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.

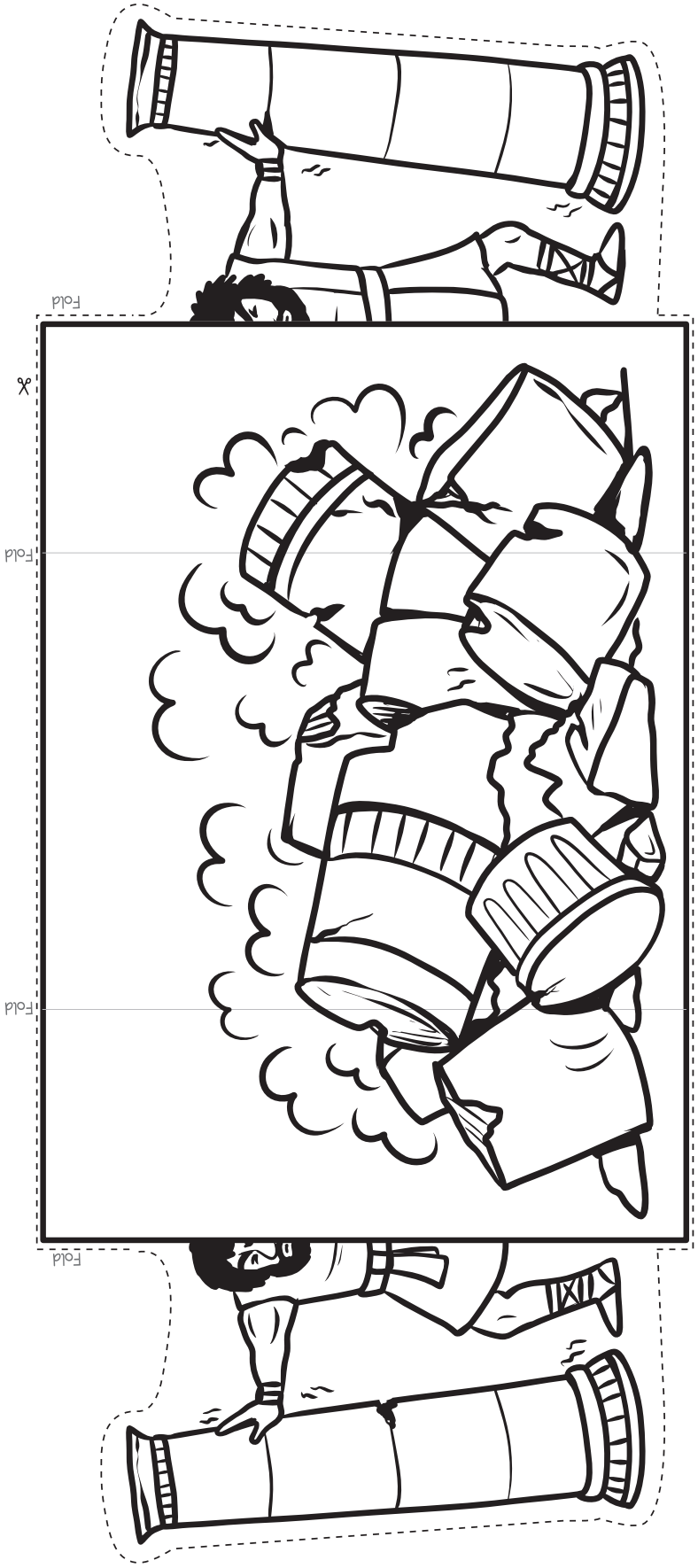


10 MINUTES OF QUALITY TIME








Fold
Fold
Fold
Fold