



## TODAY YOUR PRETEEN LEARNED

### JUDGES: MUSCLES, MORALS, AND MIRACLES

#### Samson, the Strong Man

Preteens learned from Samson's colorful story that God is always at work, even behind the scenes, in what humans may see as chaos. Much was expected of Samson when he was born. He was to follow the Nazirite code and lead the Israelites as God's chosen judge. But Samson made one bad choice after another, handicapping his ability to live out God's calling.

Preteens learned today that their choices affect their ability to fulfill God's desires for their lives. They were given an opportunity to evaluate the choices they are making. God calls people to do special tasks, but they have to choose to live out this calling.



Does your preteen seem not to want to follow the rules of your house? Does he or she want to test the limits? Make it a point to sit down with your preteen for a heart-to-heart talk. Remind him or her of Samson's story, and pray together about your relationship.

# PARENT CONNECTIONS

*for families of Preteens*

## PARENT POINTERS

**Letting go.** It is something you must start thinking about now if you haven't already. Your children will be leaving your home in a few short years. And if you are prepared, you'll let go gracefully and healthily. When your children head out on their own, they need to know that you believe in them and are excited for the new life they are beginning.

Parents usually end up underestimating their child's decision-making ability. Most children are capable of making important decisions from how they will organize their room to how they will dress and what they will eat much sooner than we are willing to let them make those decisions on their own.

It is important that you encourage your children to begin making their own decisions if you haven't already. Within the safe environment of your home, help your kids learn how to make good decisions.

Good guidelines are still important. But if preteens never get to make decisions on their own, they will not learn about conse-

quences, good or bad, until it is already too late. Instead of telling them what to do, ask them what they think they should do in this situation. Help them figure out what their options are and talk about the possible consequences of the decision they are trying to make. Help them to be prepared.

Ask God for good judgment as you try to determine which decisions they are ready to make on their own. It's not easy, but your children will be better equipped to face life's many challenges as you let go of them, just a little.

—by Katherine Hendrixson

*Many parents tend either to repeat patterns thoughtlessly, or else to strongly react against the way they were raised and end up overcompensating. . . . Why not take charge by determining what worked, what didn't, and what you want for your own family?*

—H. Norman Wright

(*Family Is Still a Great Idea* [Ann Arbor, Mich.: Servant Publications, 1992], 64.)



In every other issue of Family Fun this quarter we will be discussing specific books and some of the benefits of reading aloud with your preteen or with your entire family. These books are only suggestions. Don't feel pressured to finish a book every two weeks. Take your time and **enjoy** reading. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis is a great place to start if you have not done much reading aloud.

Not only is *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* a wonderful story, but also Lewis

paints for us in words a beautiful picture of Christ in his character of Aslan. You may choose to read the whole book or have your preteen read every other chapter. Reading out loud will increase your preteen's vocabulary as well as his or her ability to pronounce difficult words and be expressive in his or her speech. It may be difficult for you and your preteen if reading aloud is not something you are used to. But if you are persistent, you and your preteen will find great joy in hearing a story told instead of reading it silently. Enjoy your reading time together!

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