



## TODAY YOUR PRETEEN LEARNED

### JUDGES: MUSCLES, MORALS, AND MIRACLES

#### "And His Strength Left Him"

Samson fell in love with the wrong kind of woman. Delilah asked Samson over and over again what the source of his strength was. He toyed with her and lied repeatedly. Finally he admitted that if he shaved his head, he'd be as helpless as an ordinary man.

Sure enough, Delilah arranges for his head to be shaved, and Samson is taken captive by the Philistines.

Preteens were reminded that God's people suffer the consequences of sinful choices. They were given an opportunity to repent of any sinful choices they have been making. They were encouraged to strengthen their commitment to live God's way.



Read Judges 16:22: "But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved." This is a message of hope. Even when we've done wrong, God forgives us and restores us. We keep growing in Him. The next time your preteen gets a haircut, remind him or her of the hope we have in God.

# PARENT CONNECTIONS

*for families of Preteens*

## PARENT POINTERS

Do your children have the survival skills they'll need when they leave your home in a few short years? Maybe you've been so busy trying to cope with life and raising your family that

you haven't thought about teaching your children practical everyday skills.

It's probably easier just to say, "Here, let me do it," than to take the time to patiently show your child how to peel an orange, do the laundry, or bake peanut-butter cookies. It might sound old-fashioned, but your kids should know how to cook, clean, and organize their belongings before they leave home. They need to know how to do laundry on their own, handle money responsibly, use a map, and manage their time. They should be able to use their resources creatively and have a respect and desire for work of some sort.

They can learn many of these things by your example. But it is vital that you spend time actually teaching them. The trick is to not make it seem as if you are teaching. Make the teaching of these things part of your daily life.

Here are some important things to remember:

1. Make things like cooking and cleaning practical but fun at the same time.

2. Make sure your tone of voice and body language are patient as you "teach." Preteens can be very sensitive and will not want to continue a project if they sense that you are impatient or bored.

3. If you ask them to do a job, let *them* do it. If they ask for help, then give it. Don't patronize them; let them know you have confidence in their ability to get the job well done.

4. Compliment them when they have done a job well, and encourage them when you or they are disappointed with the results. Always give positive reinforcement.

These cleaning, cooking, washing, working things are basic to life and just have to be done. If your children are confident in these areas when they leave your home, they can get on with the business of living instead of wasting time and energy learning for the first time a bunch of things they should already know.

—by Katherine Hendrixson

*At the base of everything is the family. . . . The family is where the soul grows tall and where the real meaning of life is found and possessed.*

—Hazen G. Werner

(*The Bible and the Family* [Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1966], 61.)



God created a diverse and beautiful world for us to live in. As Christians it is important for us to know about and understand our world so that we can better pray and serve in it.

Take some time this week to learn about another country. Agree on a country that sounds interesting to everyone. Assign each child to a different aspect of the country, such

as history, food, and language. Get on the Internet if you have access to it, and look for information. Find a recipe book or find a recipe on the Web, and experiment with your taste buds by making that country's food together.