Sunday School Lesson

SAMSON: STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS.

Judges, Chapters 13-16.

Printed text, Judg. 14:5, 6; 15: 11-14; 16:15-21.

Golden Text.—Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Eph. 6:10.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—The dates for Samson's life cannot be ascertained with absolute accuracy. He lived between 1150 B.C. and 1110 B.C.

Place.—The three principal cities of our lesson are Zorah, fourteen miles west of Jerusalem; Timnah, on the north-west border of Judah; and the Philistine city of Gaza, in the southern end of the province of Judah, on the high road between Egypt and Mesopotamia.

The name "Samson" means "little sun" or "sunlike."

During the time while Israel was in subjection to the Philistines the angel of the Lord appeared to the wife of Manoah of the tribe of Dan, living at that time in the town of Zorah, about fourteen miles directly west of Jerusalem, a woman who up to this time had borne no child to her husband. The angel told the wife of Manoah not only that she would conceive and bear a son, but the angel also told her how the boy was to be brought up, that he should be a Nazarite unto God from the day of his birth, and that he would "begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

A Fearless Heart

5. Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnah, and came to the vineyards of Timnah: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. 6. And the Spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid; and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done. Of this daring deed he spoke not a word to his parents, revealing at once a spirit of humility and lack of all boastfulness.

11. Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what then is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them. 12. And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not fall upon me yourselves. 13. And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new ropes, and brought him up from the rock. 14. When he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him: and the Spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon him and the ropes that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and the bands dropped from off his hands.

His Judgship

The judgship of Samson is summarized in one brief verse (15:20). This period of twenty years, at least in part, is contemporary with the judgeship of Eli. Nothing is said of Samson's councils, nor of any improvement in government, nor of a general strengthening of the tribes of Israel: Samson played a lone hand; whatever was done he did, and many things that could be done only by united council and effort were never undertaken. The twentieth verse of the fifteenth chapter would have made a fine concluding sentence to Samson's life; but no, this is not the end.

Judg. 16:4-22. In the valley of Sorek, near Samson's native town of Zorah, he fell in love with a woman by the name of Delilah. When they heard it, she was approached by the lords of the Philistines, who each offered her eleven hundred pieces of silver, an amount equal to about thirty-three hundred dollars, if she would obtain from Samson a statement revealing the secret of his strength. The fact that Delilah allowed herself to be bribed, and constantly sought to obtain information for the Philistines, which she knew would mean the ultimate death of Samson, is an absolute proof that Delilah did not really love this man.

A Vow Broken

15. And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thy heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth. 16. And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, that his soul was vexed unto death. 17. And he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon my head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: If I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man. 18. And when Delilah saw, that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath told me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought the made him sleep upon her knees; made his sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and shaved off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. We are not compelled to believe that Samson's actual power resided in his long hair. The power which he had came from God. Cutting off his hair was a deliberate breaking of his Nazirite vow, and that at the hands of a woman with whom he should never have had association. Samson did not lose his power simply because his hair was shorn, but God took away his power because he allowed this woman to take from him the tokens of such power. In other words, his long hair was a mark of separation, and his yieldings to Delilah were a series of deliberate violations of his vow of separation.

20. And she said, The Philistines are upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times, and shake myself free. But he knew not that Jehovah was departed from him. For a little time he failed to realize the spiritual disaster that had come upon him. But for a little time only.

Eyeless in Gaza

21. And the Philistines laid hold on him, and put out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison-house. John Milton has packed a whole book into one line referring to this verse, "Eyeless in Gaza, at the mill with slaves." The saddest tragedy in all the world is a man who once knew the power of the Holy Spirit, and who now walks the streets of some great city, or is buried in the cottage of an unknown countryside, without power, without work, without joy, without the leading of God. He knows a weariness that labor never gives, for he wakens every morning more tired and weary than when he went to sleep the night before.

Travel books are supplanting autobiographies in popularity in Ireland.

Two Expeditions Visiting Lonely Arctic Outposts

Missionaries, Policemen, Traders, Scientists, Sail From Montreal for Three Months Of Voyaging In Canada's Far North.

MONTREAL. — Bound for the lonely outposts of Canada's far north, two expeditions headed out of Montreal last week carrying missionaries, policemen, traders, scientists, supplies for the isolated people around the Arctic's rim.

Three months of voyaging were in store for the Hudson's Bay Company ship Nascopie, on the company's 269th trip into the north with the yearly cargo of human and inanimate miscellany, and Bishop Arsene Turquetil's tiny schooner Marie Therese, visiting the Roman Catholic missions in the land of ice.

Lord Tweedsmuir's Son Aboard

On board the Nascopie were the brides, and she carried, too, the eldest son of Canada's governor-general, now a Hudson's Bay Company employee, on the way to his first assignment, and Anglican Bishop A. L. Fleming, on the way up to visit his far-flung diocese.

Bishop Turquetil did not sail north with his expedition. The veteran missionary of the Arctic is leaving soon for Rome to see Pope Pius.

Eskimos Taken Home

Headed north also, and glad of it, were three Eskimos ending their first venture into white men's civilization. The two men and the seven-year-old boy, educated by the Oblate Order of Priests at Chesterfield Inlet, had been brought down to Quebec for the recent Eucharistic Congress, where the youngster was confirmed.

The piercing toot of the Therese's farewell whistle almost tumbled young Simon Ayarwark off the vessel's rail, but he regained enough composure to utter a delighted "Very hot here—glad to get back." Beside him, beaming and stroking a flowing moustache, stood his father, Jean, and Alphonse Koliierk, the other Eskimo.

Before the voyage is over the Nascopie will have added a bride-to-be to her complement, Miss Irene Wallace of Peterhead, Scotland, received her proposal via radio, telegraph and cable from Hudson's Bay post manager A. R. Scott at Bleak Arctic Bay, and she accepted the same way.

Thoughtful Thief

How to steal and yet not be troubled by pangs of conscience? That was the problem of a Pasadena, California, thief—and this is how he solved it. He stole a valuable camera from a student of the California School of Technology, pawned it for a fraction of its value, and sent the pawn ticket to the student. His problem was solved, his conscience salved. He had "shared" the prize.

Expensive Water

The severe drought in Bermuda has caused an acute water shortage, and the local Parliament has voted $2500 towards meeting the emergency.

Water supplies will have to be shipped from New York, a distance of nearly 700 miles. The Farmers Shipping Line has already started taking water to Berumda at $1 a ton.

Bermudans rely for their drinking supply on rain water which they collect in tubs.

$3,500 IN 238 CASH PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE $1,500

For Winning Players in

The Globe and Mail

"CROSSCARDS" CONTEST

HOW TO PLAY TO WIN

EXAMPLE GAME ONLY

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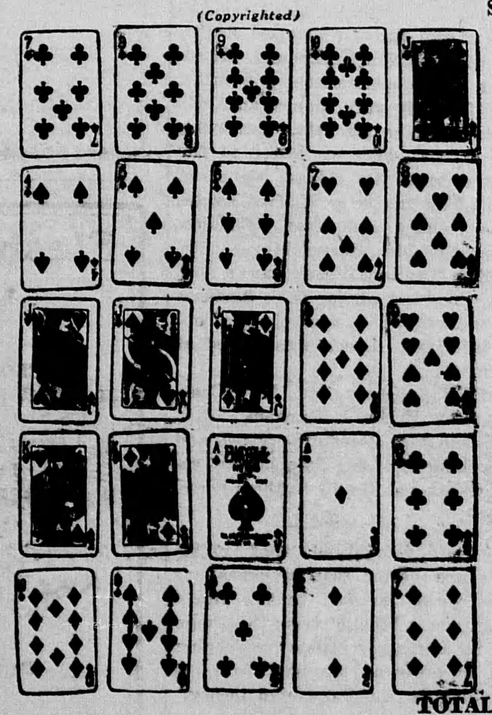

	SCORE
	475
	490
	265
	150
	10
TOTAL	1320

First, study the example game. If you will now refer to the table of points, you will find the method of scoring which is employed.

You will note that certain points are allowed for each combination of five cards which can be formed with the twenty-five cards appearing in this example game.

The object is to rearrange these cards in five horizontal rows in such a way as to attain as high a score as you can based on the table of points.

While the cards do not appear in red and black, you should have no doubt as to the suits. All you require to play the game is a knowledge of the table of points and a little foresight in rearranging the cards. Referring back to the example game, you will note that the score is 1320. Now to better the score, for example, you could move the jack of clubs from the top row to the third row for four jacks, giving you a score of 440 for this row. Now take the six of clubs from the fourth row and place it in the top row, and you have a run of all clubs to the ten. You lose five points in this row by taking away the jack, but you gain 175 points in the third row for a total of 1490, a nice increase over 1320. Simple, isn't it?

NOW SEE HOW MUCH BETTER YOU CAN DO.

TABLE OF POINTS

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	To the 10 or Under.	To the Jack.	To the Queen.	To the King.
HEARTS: Run of Five Consecutive Hearts	480	485	490	495
HEARTS: Any Five Hearts, Not Consecutive	350	355	360	365
DIAMONDS: Run of Five Consecutive Diamonds	475	480	485	490
DIAMONDS: Any Five Diamonds, Not Consecutive	330	335	340	345
CLUBS: Run of Five Consecutive Clubs	470	475	480	485
CLUBS: Any Five Clubs, Not Consecutive	310	315	320	325
SPADES: Run of Five Consecutive Spades	465	470	475	480
SPADES: Any Five Spades, Not Consecutive	290	295	300	305
RUN of Five Consecutive Cards of Two or More Mixed Suits	420	425	430	435

FOUR CARDS of same Numerical Value and One Odd Card—440. Add 10 points if Odd Card is 10 or Higher.

THREE CARDS of Same Numerical Value and One Pair—265 only.

THREE CARDS of Same Numerical Value and Two Odd Cards—220. Add 10 Points for Each Odd Card if 10 or Higher.

TWO PAIRS and One Odd Card—150. Add 10 Points if Odd Card is 10 or Higher.

ONE PAIR and Three Odd Cards—100. Add 10 Points for Each Odd Card of 10 or Higher.

FIVE ODD CARDS—No Value Except When Row Includes Cards of 10 or Higher, in Which Event Add 10 Points for Each Card of 10 or Higher.

NOTE: The Ace is Low in Consecutive Runs and as an Odd Card. It is the Game's Lowest Card. No Card Can be Used More than Once in a Game.

EXPLANATION OF POINTS

FIRST—A Consecutive run means five cards in numerical order. For example, Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King, or 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, etc. It will be noted by the schedule of points that the values vary according to the suits. In forming a consecutive run the Ace of any suit is always low and counts as ONE (1) only.

SECOND—Four cards of the same numerical value means a combination such as four Aces, four 5's, four Queens, etc. The same applies where reference is made to Three Cards of the same numerical value.

THIRD—Two pairs, for example, means: Two 6's and two 10's, etc.

FOURTH—One pair, for example, means: Two Jacks or two 10's, etc.

FIFTH—A run of "Mixed Suits" means when two or more suits comprise a run.

SIXTH—"To the King" means that the King is the highest card in the row. "To the Queen" means that the Queen is the highest card in the row, etc.

SEVENTH—Odd Cards mean any card or cards which you cannot use to form combinations as outlined in schedule of points. As an "odd" card the Ace is also low.

All back games published to date will be republished in The Globe and Mail of next Saturday, July 30, and Monday, August 1. Order your copy in advance from your carrier boy or dealer, or use the coupon below:

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NAME .....

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