

TAKE THE LEAD

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

God helps me learn from my mistakes.

BIBLE

Samson: Judges 16:4-30; (Psalm 9:1-10)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

POLL | Made by Mistake

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Name or show images of the following items. Tell the kids to stand and wave their hands in the air if they think the item was made by mistake. If they don't think it was a mistake, tell them to remain seated. By the way, all of these things were made by mistake! Toss a [bead necklace](#) to everyone who answers correctly after every question.
 - Slinky
 - X-ray
 - Chocolate chip cookies
 - Safety pins
 - Microwave oven
 - Super glue
 - Fireworks
 - Potato chips
 - Ink-jet printers
 - Ice cream cone
 - Post-it notes
 - Chewing gum
 - Bubble wrap
- **Which of these "made by mistake" items surprised you the most?**
- At the time, the people who created these things thought they had failed at their original project, but they found ways to fix their mistake and turn them into something new!

SO WHAT?

SCRIPTURE | Judges 16:4-30

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids this [video](#) to introduce today's Bible story in Judges 16:4-30. Recruit a couple volunteers to help you with today's Bible story skit. For an added touch of drama, play a slow instrumental track in the background.
- Today's grand marshal is the last famous judge of Israel: Samson! We have members of his family here to accept the honor on his behalf.
 - **Manoah:** Hey, kids! My name is Manoah and this is my wife.
 - **Wife:** We are Samson's parents.
 - **Manoah:** Do you remember when he was born?
 - **Wife:** Of course, like it was yesterday. My Sammy was a real special baby. God gave us Samson when I thought I would never be able to have a baby.
 - **Manoah:** Yes, God had special plans for Samson. Samson never cut his hair. . .you know, everyone thinks it was his hair that made him so strong, but really, his long hair was his way of showing people that he would serve God his whole life.
 - **Wife:** And by telling Delilah about his hair, it was almost like he had forgotten his strength came from God and not from his hair. That's why his strength left him. But you know, when the enemy captured my Samson after cutting off his hair, God gave him one last push of strength and Samson put those Philistine bullies in their place!
 - **Manoah:** That's right. Look kids, my son made mistakes in his life. We did not always approve of his decisions or the people he hung out with.
 - **Wife:** What Manoah is trying to say is, Samson realized his mistakes and in the end, he did the right thing. We all make mistakes from time to time. But if you can learn anything from Samson's story, it's that it's never too late to do the right thing because God gives us all second chances.
 - **Manoah:** Exactly. Well, kids, thanks for listening to a story from a couple of old folks – (*Stops and looks at one of the kids.*) Hey, you look just like my Samson! Have you ever thought about growing your hair longer?

THE BIG IDEA | God helps me learn from my mistakes.

- : **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

VIDEO | Take the Lead, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

Fathers Day Craft

Files Saved

NOW WHAT?

RESPONSE | "Beautiful Oops"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Grab a copy of [Beautiful Oops](#) by Barney Saltzberg and read it to the group, or show [this read aloud video](#). Then, distribute a copy of the Beautiful Oops printable to each kid. Encourage them to spend time transforming some of these "mistakes" into something new.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask students about their own experiences with making mistakes and times where it actually was used for good!
- Mistakes happen. But instead of wallowing in our failures and missteps, it's important we remember what caused the mistake, and avoid it in the future. And instead of letting our mistakes get us down, we can find ways to repurpose them and turn them into good things!
- **Who can help do that in our own lives?** That's right, it's God. We can pray to God and ask how we can learn from this experience, and seek out help from loved ones!
- **God helps me learn from my mistakes.**

MEMORY VERSE | Parade Parody

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into small groups and instruct them to work together to say the memory verse to the tune of an existing melody. It can be a lullaby, pop song, or even a commercial jingle. When everyone is ready, line up the groups and have one group at a time march around the room while singing their new memory verse song.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for understanding that we all slip up and mess up from time to time. But we ask for Samson-like strength to learn from our mistakes and avoid making the same ones again. Thank you for helping us and for turning our mistakes into beautiful opportunities to grow. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What question did Delilah keep asking Samson?**
- **Why was giving Delilah the right answer a mistake?**
- **How did God help Samson one last time?**
- **Read Judges 16:24 and Psalm 9:3-5. In what ways are those prayers similar? Which prayer is the one made to the one true God who helps us?**
- **Are mistakes a good thing or a bad thing? Why do you say that?**
- **What is one mistake you made recently?**
- **What has God helped you learn from making that mistake?**