

SAMSON

Judges 13-16

1. Take a moment to get to know each other at your table. Share your name and tell us about one of your favorite hobbies.

2. Read Judges 13:1. Who is ruling the Israelites now and what brought it about?

When you and I sin, we won't necessarily have nations ruling over us. But what are some of the issues that we may find ruling over us when we turn our backs on God and His ways?

3. Read about the announcement of the coming 12th judge of Israel in Judges 13:2-5. What is God's plan for this judge?

4. In Judges 13:24-25 we see God fulfilling His promise. In what ways do we see God already involved in Samson's life?

5. In the Old Testament God's Spirit moved in men's and women's lives, but people were not permanently sealed with the Holy Spirit until the New Testament. Read the following passages of God's Spirit empowering Samson and briefly list what he accomplished through the Spirit.

Judges 14:5-6

Judges 14:10-13,19

Judges 15:14-15

6. We can learn much about Samson's strengths and weaknesses in Judges 14-16. Read some of these stories and record the insights into Samson you glean from these passages. Read Judges 14:1-3, Judges 15:1-8, Judges 15:14-20, and Judges 16:4-5, 15-21.

7. Our final look at Samson finds him being used by the Philistines as amusement in their temple. Read Judges 16:23-25, 28-30. After reading this final sacrificial story of Samson, explain why his name is included in the heroes of faith from Hebrews 11:32-34.

8. God's grace is available to all broken people. What are some things God has accomplished in your life when you have submitted to His Spirit?

Samson
SPIRIT AND FLESH

Judges 13-16

SAMSON'S GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY

13:1-5

Samson's birth was miraculous and ordained by God to save Israel from the Philistines. A Nazarite was to drink no wine, cut no hair, and touch no dead body in devotion to God. Nazarite vows were for a limited time, but Samson was to stay consecrated his entire life. The Spirit of the Lord would become the source of Samson's strength.

**Before our birth, God chose us to live each day in the _____ of His Spirit.
This is our daily glorious opportunity.**

SAMSON'S MARRIAGE

14:1-20

Samson's exploits with the Philistines began with his desire for a Philistine woman. Samson's fleshly purposes for his marriage were overruled by God's own purposes. Because of his sins of anger and pride, Samson lost his new bride to his best man.

We may ignore our sins, but our sins will not ignore us. We will _____ what we sow.

SAMSON'S PHILISTINE BATTLES

15:1-20

The Philistines were weakened by cycles of offense and retaliation in Samson's life. The Israelites were willing to betray their judge to maintain peace with their enemy. Samson recognized that it was God who overcame 1,000 enemies and revived him.

In dark times, we _____ that no power of man can prevent the purposes of God.

SAMSON'S PERSONAL BATTLES

16:1-22

Samson's physical strength was unmatched except by his moral weaknesses. Samson's flesh led him further down a path of destruction in the hands of wicked Delilah. When Delilah became more important to Samson than God, his strength was removed.

Our strength to _____ temptation comes from the faithful Spirit of God.

SAMSON'S SACRIFICE

16:23-31

The Philistines gave their false god Dagon glory for delivering Samson into their hands. When Samson cried out to God, God restored his strength and 3,000 Philistines died. Samson's death brought a victory for Israel and a witness to the power of Israel's God.

God will always _____ us when we call on Him and will strengthen us for His glory.

Amazing Grace – Samson Judges 13-16

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ROMANS 7:18-20 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

GALATIANS 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

GALATIANS 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1 JOHN 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eye and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

EPHESIANS 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

PROVERBS 13:21 Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good.

ROMANS 8:35, 37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 PETER 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.