

MEATHEAD

JUDGES 13-15

AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AGAIN DID
WHAT WAS EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF
THE LORD, SO THE LORD GAVE
THEM INTO THE HAND OF THE
PHILISTINES FOR FORTY YEARS.

JUDGES 13:1



Judges **13**:2-5, 24-25; **14**:1-9, 19-20; **15**:1-5, 14-17

13:2 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." [...] 24 And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the Lord blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14:1 Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 Then he came up and told his father and mother, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife." 3 But his father and mother said to him, "Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes." 4 His father and mother did not know that it was from the Lord, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel. 5 Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring. 6 Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. 7 Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she was right in Samson's eyes. 8 After some days he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and behold, there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. 9 He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion. [...]

Samson makes up a riddle about this event to test the Philistines, but they find out the answer by convincing his wife to betray him.

19 And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house. 20 And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

15:1 After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat. And he said, "I will go in to my wife in the chamber." But her father would not allow him to go in. 2 And her father said, "I really thought that you utterly hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please take her instead." 3 And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm." 4 So Samson went and caught 300 foxes and took torches. And he turned them tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails. 5 And when he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines and set fire to the stacked grain and the standing grain, as well as the olive orchards. [...]

The Philistines killed Samson's wife in response and convinced the Israelites to bind Samson and hand him over. Samson lets himself be bound.

14 When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. 15 And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men. 16 And Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey have I struck down a thousand men." 17 As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called Ramath-lehi.



Break into 3 small groups and complete the following tasks:



1. Read the passage carefully once more.



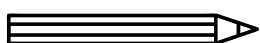
2. Identify the 4R cycle in the story and write down the verses and a short description.

• Rebellion (*verses:*)

• Ripples (*verses:*)

• Redemption (*verses:*)

• Restoration (*verses:*)



ANALYZE

1. LIST WORDS FROM THE TEXT THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

• Nazirite (13:5)

One consecrated to God, put aside for God's work. Numbers 6 explains that a Nazirite was not to drink wine, cut his hair, or touch any dead body.

•

-

•

-

2. WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THIS PASSAGE?

3. WHAT ETHNICITY WAS SAMSON'S WIFE AND WHY DID HE WANT TO MARRY HER?

4. WHAT DID SAMSON USE TO KILL THE 1000 MEN?



3. Find verses that prove or disprove the following statements in regards with Samson. Explain.

• Samson is keeping his call to be a Nazirite, at least in as much as we can know from the text. (Group 1).

• Samson acts like a judge raised by God to deliver Israel from the Philistines. He fights for God and for His people. (Group 2).

• Samson's power is due to his physical strength, impulsiveness, and charisma. (Group 3).



DISCUSS

1. How was Samson called to be a judge? Was God mistaken thinking that Samson could be a good tool in His hands?

2. What are Samson's most visible character flaws? How do they compare to your character flaws?

3. Is the enemy the one initiating conflict in the story of Samson? How so?

4. What does the story tell us about God? Does God still work the same today?

NOTES



APPLICATION

WHAT TRUTHS ABOUT GOD AND US CAN YOU APPLY TO YOUR LIFE FROM JUDGES 12?

1. *God accomplishes whatever He desires to, regardless of our obedience, but we will get our retribution.*

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



LEARN THE TEXT

A GIFTED Christian who is a DISOBEDIENT Christian is a DANGEROUS Christian. Samson was called by God even before He was born. In fact, the very reason he was born was for God to do his work through him. However, His calling and his strength were not bonded with obedience, but with a rebellious spirit. Instead of fighting the enemy, he wants to marry it, because it appeared good to him (14:1-3). He dishonors his parents by dragging them into immorality (14:3,9). He is a murderer for his own vengeance (15:3, 7, 11). He dishonors his calling to be a Nazirite by touching dead bodies twice (14:9; 15:15, 17). His physical strength is directly proportional with his spiritual weakness and his life becomes a disaster for him and those around him. The man called by God to deliver Israel from evil is a bigger evil in this text than the enemy. This is what happens when a man called and gifted by God becomes disobedient and autonomous.

We are clearly distinct from Samson in our physical strength, but we all are called and gifted by God for a specific work of His. Also, just like Samson, we face the same temptation to use what God put in us for His glory for our own desires instead. Certain sins will always look good to us. Certain opportunities will always tempt us to abandon God's calling. Thus, obedience is an indispensable virtue of any man or woman called by God.



MIDWEEK

HIGHSCHOOLERS & MIDDLESCHOOLERS



READ THE TEXT

18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?” 20 He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

Mark 14:18-21



DISCUSS

1. What makes one a good tool in God's hand? How much do your skills, intelligence, social and physical condition matter in God's calling?

2. What is the difference between Samson's calling to fight for God and your calling ?
Consult John 15:16.

3. What went wrong in Samson's calling to be a judge? What do we know about God all throughout Samson's rebellious attitude?

4. What was the motivation behind all of Samson's fights in Judges 13-15? Who is the most important person for Samson?

5. Who is the most important person in your life right now? Does your life prove your answer? Through what instances from the past 10 days?

6. How could God still work through Samson? Did God set him up for failure just to do His plans? Compare Samson with Judas Iscariot.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

READ THE PASSAGE OF JUDGES FOR THE NEXT LESSON



READ JUDGES 16

DAY 1 - JUDGES __: __ - __



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. ?

NOTES

DAY 2 - JUDGES __: __ - __



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

1. ?
2. ?
3. ?
4. ?

NOTES



THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM THE TEXT



QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE FROM THE TEXT

- 1.?
- 2.?
- 3.?
- 4.?

NOTES

PRAYER REQUESTS

ANSWERED PRAYERS

THIS WEEK I PRAYED FOR (PEOPLE THAT GOD HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE):

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

