

CHEMICAL ROMANCE

JUDGES 16

AFTER THIS HE LOVED A WOMAN IN THE
VALLEY OF SOREK, WHOSE NAME WAS
DELILAH.

JUDGES 16:4



4 After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver." 6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you." 7 Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." 8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. 9 Now she had men lying in ambush in an inner chamber. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he snapped the bowstrings, as a thread of flax snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known. 10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be bound." 11 And he said to her, "If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." 12 So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And the men lying in ambush were in an inner chamber. But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread. 13 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." 14 So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web. And she made them tight with the pin and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web. 15 And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies." 16 And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. 17 And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man." 18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. 19 She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." **But he did not know that the Lord had left him.** 21 And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. 22 But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

23 Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand." [...] 28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes." 29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. 30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life. 31 Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.



Break into 3 small groups and answer the following tasks:



1. Read carefully the passage 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:*)

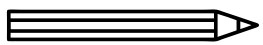
- Restoration (*verses:*)



3. Considering the whole story of Samson, make his physical and moral portrait and divide it between the two following questions.

- What are Samson's qualities that you would like to see in your own life?

- What are Samson's weaknesses that you would like to never have?



ANALYZE

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

- fresh bowstrings (v. 8)
- Strings made out of fresh twisted gut,

- - _____
- - _____

2. WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THIS PASSAGE?

3. WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SAMSON'S HAIR WAS SHAVED?

4. DID DAGON WIN OVER GOD IN THIS STORY?



DISCUSS

1. How could Samson not realize that Delilah was trying to weaken him?

2. Is Samson broken down suddenly or does he give away his secret gradually? How can sin make us lose our determination to obey God gradually?

3. Why was it significant that Samson killed more enemies in his last attempt than during the rest of his life?

4. Samson's secret is being decoded, but all throughout the story there is a bigger secret taking place. What is the real secret of Samson's story?



LEARN THE TEXT

Romance and dishonor. Every chapter in Samson's adult life is marked by an immoral romantic relationship. On one hand they were immoral because the women were Philistines, while God commanded his people not to marry outside of Israel. On the other hand, each of the three women were immoral in themselves, as two of them betrayed him to his enemies and the other was a prostitute. In fact the whole drama around Samson's life is created by his misguided romance.

Similarly, you may be tempted today to consider that love is blind, and because you love someone, you don't have to consider God's commandments in regards with romance or be wise in choosing the right person. However, misguided romance is one of the most devastating mistakes that people make today. Be obedient and honor God first, then choose a person who loves God and brings you closer to Him.

NOTES



TOOLS

MAKE A HABIT OF LEARNING YOUR WEAKNESSES AND PASSIONS AND PERSEVERE IN CONTROLLING THEM. SAMSON IGNORED THEM, AND THAT MADE HIM COMPROMISE GRADUALLY UNTIL HE GAVE AWAY HIS LAST COMMITMENT TO GOD.

NATURALLY, WE DON'T PASSIVELY MATURE OUT OF SINS, BUT OUR SINS MATURE AND WE GRADUALLY DEEPEN IN WORSE SINS. THUS, WE MUST SUBMIT TO GOD AND ALLOW HIM TO TAKE CONTROL OF OUR LIVES. WE MUST CONSTANTLY PRAY THAT GOD WILL REVEAL THROUGH HIS SPIRIT THE WEAKNESSES AND PASSIONS OF OUR HEARTS AND HELP US OVERCOME THEM.



APPLICATION

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

1. Know your weaknesses, control your passions.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



MIDWEEK

HIGHSCHOOLERS & MIDDLESCHOOLERS



READ THE TEXT

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Peter 5:6-9



DISCUSS

1. Look all throughout the story of Samson and find his three romantic relationships? What is the moral state of each relationship and what did each bring to Samson?

2. How can your romantic relationships lead you to dishonoring God, those around you, or even your parents? How should your relationships be different than Samson's?

3. How can good qualities bring terrible results in one's life? What should we do then? Should we stay away from good qualities?

4. Why was it significant that Samson died by sacrificing himself in order to kill the enemies of Israel? Did Samson's previous fights imply self-sacrifice or self-centeredness?

5. The story of Samson takes cosmic dimensions in the last episode of his life. How is that being presented and what does it tell you about your own life?

6. What does humility have to do with learning your weaknesses and controlling your passions? How do you actively seek to humble yourself for this purposes? What can you do better?

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

READ THE PASSAGE OF JUDGES FOR THE NEXT LESSON



READ JUDGES 17-21

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