

Family Theme | **Lessons From the Life of Samson** Date | **January 19, 2025**

Study Text | **Judges 13-16**

Read the Word: Judges 13-16

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how to put life lessons from Samson into action.

Discuss the following Key Events and Life Lessons. Use the questions to spark discussion.

- *How are many in our culture living like Israel did in the time of the judges, doing whatever seems right to them without regard for God's Word?*

 **Key Event: God Gifted Samson for a Purpose (Judges 13)**

LIFE LESSON: God has a purpose for every life.

- *God had a purpose for Samson's life. What purposes does God have for all believers? (Follow the commands of God's Word.) What special purpose does He have for you? (Follow the Holy Spirit's direction.)*
- *How can parents help their children discover God's purpose for them?*

 **Key Event: God Used Samson's Ruined Marriage to Engage the Philistines (Judges 14-15)**

LIFE LESSON: God is at work to accomplish His purposes even when we do not recognize it.

- *How have you seen God work through a heartbreaking situation?*
- *What should we do if we feel like God is silent and not at work in our situation?*

 **Key Event: God Used Samson's Capture to Destroy the Philistines (Judges 16)**

LIFE LESSON: Sexual sin is especially harmful.

- *How does our culture view sexual matters?*
- *How might giving in to sexual temptation start a downward spiral for a believer?*

LIFE LESSON: Walk with God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- *What role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives? (Convicts of sin; helps us overcome temptation; empowers us to live like Jesus; etc.)*
- *Why is it vital for us to live under the control of the Holy Spirit?*

LIFE LESSON: Our sinful and unwise decisions cause us to miss God's best for us, but God can still use them to accomplish His purposes.

- *Why is it best for us to live in obedience to God's Word?*
- *How would you respond to someone who says he or she is beyond forgiveness and beyond God's grace?*
- *Is obedience a complex concept or as simple as just doing the next right thing? Explain.*

LIFE LESSON: God sometimes uses deeply flawed people for His greater purposes.

- *In what ways did Samson demonstrate he was deeply flawed spiritually? How did God use him anyway?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How did Delilah get Samson to tell her the secret to his strength?
- What happened when he did?
- How did God still use Samson to accomplish His plan?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: *Psalm 46:1*



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

The Nazirite vow indicated consecration for special service to God. It included separation from any fruit of the grapevine, avoiding anything dead, and not cutting one's hair.

Everyday Extras:

Place a kitchen utensil in an opaque bag (one item/bag) so every family member has a bag. Allow everyone to choose a bag without touching it. Each person must use only that utensil to eat a meal. Talk about what would have made their choice easier (knowing what the utensil or the meal was). Discuss what happens when a wrong choice is made and talk about the different wrong choices Samson made in his life. But make sure to point out how God still loved Samson and was still able to use him to accomplish His plan.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned that reading the Bible, coming to church, and talking to Jesus helps him or her know about God's love for each person. The Bible teaches Jesus loves us very much and He wants us to love others too. We are to be more like Jesus in the words we say and the things we do. **I Can Be More Like Jesus** and love others.