

Old Testament Superhero *Judges 13-16*

I. Background on Judges

II. Samson's Birth (chapter 13)

- **God's Purpose for Samson:** "The child shall be a _____ to God from the womb, and he shall _____ to _____ Israel from the hand of the _____." (Judges 13:5)

III. Samson's Marriage & What Follows (chapter 14 & 15)

- **Samson's Desire:** "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes." (Judges 14:3; 17:6; 21:25)
- **God's Plan:** "it was _____ the Lord, for he was _____ an opportunity _____ the Philistines." (Judges 14:4)
- **Who's Strength?** "The _____ of the _____ upon him" (Judges 14:6; 14:19; 15:14)

IV. Samson's Downfall (chapter 16)

- **Sin's Result:** "But he did not _____ that the _____ had _____ him." (Judges 16:20)
- **God's Mercy:** "But the _____ of his _____ began to _____ again." (Judges 16:22)
- **God Remembers:** "O Lord God, please _____ me and please _____ me only this once" (Judges 16:28)

So What?

Discussion Questions:

1. What was God's purpose for Samson? (Judges 13:5)
2. Who was it that appeared to Manoah and his wife? (Judges 13:3, 8, 16-22)
3. What did God require of Samson? (Judges 13:5; Numbers 6:1-6)
4. How did Samson do at fulfilling his Nazirite vows? Did he maintain any of the vows?
5. What was Samson's desire (Judges 14:1-3) and what was God's? (Judges 14:4)
6. How does Judges 14:4 match up with the biblical teaching about God's sovereignty? (Genesis 50:20; Proverbs 16:9)
7. Judges 14 and 15 present a series of chain events that God purposed to bring about his plan for deliverance for Israel from the Philistines. How is God still working out things for your good? (Romans 8:28)
8. List some of the ways that you can see God's faithfulness to his people in this story? In what ways has God been faithful to you despite your unfaithfulness to Him?
9. List some of the obvious sins and shortcomings of Samson. What can we learn from this story about the reality of sin and the consequences that will follow? What are some sinful habits and temptations that you are prone to fall into? List some of the consequences that could come if you continue to indulge those temptations.
10. Do you think Samson repented at the end of his life? Why or why not? (Heb 11) What kind of repentance does God require from us? What should that look like in our daily lives?
11. What part of this story is most fascinating/interesting to you, and why?
12. In what ways can you see God in this story? How will you remember those things this week?
13. How will this story help you have a greater trust in God's faithfulness, a greater hatred for sin, and a greater sense of God's purpose for your life?