

The Judges: Samson Defeats the Philistines

Preview: Samson, Samson, Samson . . .

Hebrews 11:1, 32-33: 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. . . . 32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions

Lesson outline: What Samson had, what Samson did, what Samson lost, and what Samson learned

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Judges 13-16 (Author = Samuel?)

Judges 13

Samson: The Early Years (from the [International Standard Bible Encyclopedia](#))

Nazarite: a consecrated one

- (1) the strictest abstinence from wine and from every product of the vine;
- (2) the keeping of the hair uncut and the beard untouched by a razor;
- (3) the prohibition to touch a dead body; and
- (4) prohibition of unclean food ([Judges 13:5-7](#); [Numbers 6](#), [1 Samuel 1:11](#))

What Samson Had

Samson had a _____ mother with faith ([Judges 13:6](#)). Samson had a _____ father with fear or respect ([Judges 13:19](#)). Gideon's father built altars to Baal. Samson's environment was a godly environment.

Judges 14-15

Samson: The crazy teenage years

- He married a _____ - _____
- He touched a dead body
- He ate unclean food
- He chose the _____ _____
- He gambled
- He murdered
- He stole

Samson: The angry middle-aged man

- He was betrayed
- He took _____
- He murdered
- He hid
- Touched another dead body
- Killed some more
- Took credit
- Kind of _____
- All this and he still led Israel

What Samson Did

Strayed from his walk. Married a Philistine, a non-believer. Partied, alcohol involved. Touch dead bodies and ate unclean food. Gambled, killed, and stole. At least he still has his hair.

Judges 16

Samson: The Golden Years

- A prostitute
- Delilah
- He was _____
- He was captured and blinded
- He prayed
- He died

What Samson Lost

Samson throughout his life did not appear ever to lead the life you would expect from one specially chosen by God to lead Israel. The Lord focused on Samson continually blessed and strengthened him. Sampson continually lost his focus on God. In the end, Samson did not even realize that he lost the presence of the LORD ([Judges 16:20](#)).

What Samson Learned

He realized that he had misused the blessings of the Lord. He realized that he was a sinner ([Judges 16:28](#)). He saw that he must repent and asked for forgiveness. He learned that God can and will forgive and restore.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Samson took advantage of and wasted so many blessings
2. He had a "I can do it alone" attitude
3. His best was not good enough
4. God is the hero

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Understand we are all sinners
2. Never "handle" things alone (recognize God's presence)
3. It is never too late for forgiveness

When finishing the lesson, my thoughts kept going back to Samson's parents: his mother and her faith in the Lord and his father who wanted a logical answer to the angel's message. I was trying to apply this to parents of today and what our children gain from mothers and fathers. Even though I feel that Samson personally succeeded through most of his life, it was covered in his personal failures. However, in the end, he came to understand his spiritual loss. With that thought, I kept going back to [Proverbs 22:6](#): **Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.**