

# DEVOTIONAL

## SAMSON

Eye Did It My Way: Of Honey and Lions // February 13, 2022

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

**This is the first of four lessons in a series about Samson in the Book of Judges.**

**Discussion Starter:** How would you advise a new Christian to find, follow, and fulfill God's will for his/her life?

**Key Text:** Read Judges 13:1-14:20

Judges 13:1 begins with the phrase that appears six times in the Book of Judges: *"the people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord"* (the phrase also appears in Judges 3:7, 12, 4:1-2; 6:1; 10:6-7). As a result, God allowed Israel to be oppressed by their enemy, the Philistines, for forty years (v.1). In the midst of this difficult time, a baby named Samson was born to an Israelite couple. Samson would grow up to become one of the judges tasked with leading his nation out of the hands of the enemies and back to God.

### 1. The Announcement of Samson's Birth (13:1-3)

Manoah's wife was barren, yet the angel of the Lord appeared to her and announced she would give birth to a baby boy. It is interesting to note how many times it is recorded in Scripture that God notified a couple that they would have a baby that would influence the world: God gave Isaac to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17), He gave Moses to Amram and Jochebed (Exodus 6), He gave Samuel to Hannah (1 Samuel 1), and He gave Jesus to Mary (Matthew 1).

**Discuss:** How should we view every child—both born and in the womb? Why?

### 2. Samson's Birth and Unique Upbringing (13:4-25)

God told Manoah's wife (since she would have the most influence over the child) to raise Samson as a Nazirite. Nazirites would consecrate themselves to the Lord by abstaining from strong drink, they would avoid touching dead bodies, and they would allow their hair to grow as a symbol of their dedication. Manoah's wife had to be careful about what she ate and drank so as to not influence Samson negatively.

**Discuss:** How can a mother's faith (or lack of faith) influence her children? Who is a mom that you respect and honor for her faith?

Manoah and his wife asked the messenger angel for clarity regarding God's purpose for Samson, and the angel gave it (13:8-24). Manoah's wife gave birth to Samson (his name means "sunny" or "brightness"), and Samson was blessed by God (13:24-25).

**Discuss:** What do you observe about Manoah and his wife's faith in 13:12, 17, 20, 22-23? How can you make application to parents today from this?

**Discuss:** What advice would you give to a mom and dad who are new Christians about raising kids in the Christian faith?

### 3. From Hero to Zero (14:1-20)

Tragically, Samson was supposed to rescue Israel from the oppressive Philistines, but he allowed himself to be controlled by his lusts instead. He was not faithful to God, his parents, or to his Nazirite vow.

As you read Judges 14, note Samson's poor choices that led to great failures:

- **Samson disobeyed his parents and ignored their warning not to marry a Philistine woman (14:1-4).**

God used Samson's bad decision in His fight against the Philistines. God will accomplish His purposes—when He is not allowed to rule (like Samson going against him by marrying a Philistine), God will overrule (Proverbs 16:33).

**Discuss:** Samson seemed interested only in what was right in his own eyes (14:3). How would you advise a new Christian to yield his/her will to God's will?

- **Samson disrespected his Nazirite vow by going into a vineyard (part of his Nazirite vow was to not eat grapes) and eating honey from the lion's carcass (part of his Nazirite vow was to never touch a carcass) (14:5-9).**

After killing the lion, he defiled his parents by giving them the honey from the lion's carcass without telling them where the honey came from.

**Discuss:** What steps do you take to avoid tempting situations?

- **Samson made a joke out of his disobedience of touching the lion's carcass (14:10-18).**

**Discuss:** Why do you think so few people seem to take sin seriously?

- **Samson lost his self-control, resulting in the death of thirty men (14:19-20).**

There are a number of Scriptures that, taken alone, would indicate that a Christian should never get angry about anything (Ephesians 4:31). Yet, Jesus indicated only that anger without a cause was wrong and invited judgment (Matthew 5:22). If anger were never permitted for a believer, it would contradict even the occasional example of Jesus Himself. For example, in Mark 5:3, Jesus was angered by hypocrites among the Pharisees who were ready to condemn Him for healing a disabled man on the Sabbath. Ephesians 4:26 tells us, "*Be angry, and do not sin.*"

**Discuss:** Was Samson's anger (14:19-20) different from righteous anger? Why?

#### For Further Study:

*All the Men of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer

"God Used Samson, the 'Player'" article at [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)

"Who Was Samson in the Bible?" article at [www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com)