

# DEVOTIONAL SAMSON

Hey There, Delilah // February 27, 2022

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

**Discussion Starter:** What do you think it means to be strong in the Lord?

**Key Text:** Read Judges 16:1-22.

## 1. A Quick Overview of the Book of Judges

The judges were a group of leaders given by God to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of their enemies. Israel's oppression was the result of their disobedience toward God. Each time they disobeyed God, God judged them by allowing them to experience suffering at the hands of their enemies. When the Israelites prayed for deliverance, God would raise up a leader (a judge) to deliver them from their enemy. This cycle occurs seven times in the Book of Judges over a period of about 350 years, from the time of Joshua's conquest of the Promised Land to the time of Samuel, the last judge. Samson was one of these judges – he lived in Judah from about 1095-1075 BC and ruled toward the end of the 350 years period.

**Discuss:** What do we learn about God from His response to Israel's disobedience?

**Discuss:** What do we learn about God from His provision of judges for Israel?

## 2. A Quick Overview of Samson

Samson had great gifts, but his flaws were greater—he was captive to his own pride and passions. God had a great plan for Samson's life. He gave Samson great strength for the purpose of protecting and defending God's people, and Samson's godly parents had great expectations for Samson. But Samson's strong-willed temperament drove him to pursue his own pleasures—He used His God-given abilities for his own purposes. Samson led the Israelites for twenty years, but he never lived up to his potential. He didn't stay close to God. He was not the kind of leader the previous judges like Deborah, Gideon, etc., were. Samson was a great fighter, but he was not the kind of leader anyone would want to imitate, and he could not inspire others to join him in battle. During Samson's time as a judge, the enemy Philistines continued to oppress God's people. But, even with his many flaws and selfish motives, God served His purpose through Samson in foiling the Philistines' attempts for total conquest of Israel, and Samson is listed among God's faithful in Hebrews 11:32.

**Discuss:** Do you agree with the statement “giftedness does not equate to godliness”? Why or why not? How does the statement apply to Samson?

**Discuss:** How would you advise a new Christian to be a wise steward of his/her God-given strengths and abilities?

**Discuss:** What do we learn about God from his use of Samson despite Samson's numerous flaws and failures?

### 3. A Quick Overview of Delilah

Samson spent his time visiting prostitutes. Samson's most notorious relationship is with a prostitute named Delilah, who was loyal to the Philistines. The name Delilah means "delicate," but because of Delilah's wicked deeds against Samson, no other female in Scripture appears with such a tarnished name. Delilah's entire story is told in only 18 verses (Judges 16:4-22), but the description of her deceit and betrayal of Samson is one of the most graphic in all of the Bible. Delilah tricked Samson into revealing the secret of his strength: his long hair. Actually, his strength was not in his long hair but in his unique relationship with God, symbolized by his pledge to not cut his hair. So, Delilah had Samson's hair cut, and Samson lost his strength. The Philistines captured Samson, put out his eyes, and bound him. Samson spent the final days of his life grinding grain in a Philistine prison.

Samson's final prayer was that God would give him strength to pull down the pillars of a temple crowded with Philistines. God granted Samson's request, and Samson's final act for God killed more Philistines than all those he had killed during his life.

**Discuss:** Do you agree with the statement, "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future"? Why or why not? How does this saying apply to Samson's life?

#### Lessons from today's text: Judges 16:1-22

##### 1. Be aware that you have blind spots. (16:1-4)

Samson's blind spot was his lust for women, and he fell time and again because of it. Samson's unawareness of his blind spot cost himself and others dearly.

**Discuss:** How can you become more aware of your blind spots?

##### 2. If you play games with temptation and sin, you'll lose. (16:5-21)

Samson made riddles about God's gift to him. The joke turned out to be on Samson. He deceived himself into thinking he had everything under control. Yet he wasn't even aware that God was not with him (16:20).

**Discuss:** In what ways do people play games with temptation and sin today?

##### 3. God is willing to forgive and restore us to use when we turn to Him in sincere repentance. (16:22)

Samson's hair—thus his strength—began to grow back in prison (16:22). In a future lesson, we'll see how Samson turned to God, and God used him mightily (16:23-31).

#### For Further Study:

*Judges & Ruth: Holman Old Testament Commentary* by W. Gary Phillips

"What is the Nazarite Vow?" article at [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)