

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Judges 13-16

Lesson 6

The story of Samson is a Sunday school favorite. Many have admired his strength as he tore apart a lion with his bare hands and killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey. Although Samson used his strength against God's enemies, he did not look to the Source of his strength to rule his life. Sadly, Samson's life ended as a man experiencing a great victory over his enemy, but failing to experience victory over his own passions. There is much to learn from this story. May this study create in you a hunger to experience all of the victories God has planned for you.

DAY ONE: Judges 13

1. *Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years (Judges 13:1). Again Israel finds herself in bondage to the enemy. Again God will send them a deliverer. What does Judges 13:5 reveal about the timing of God's calling on Samson's life?*

a. What does this say to you about God?

2. What does chapter 13 tell us about:

Manoah?

Manoah's wife?

The Angel of the LORD?

Samson? (verses 24,25)

3. What can we learn from Manoah's and his wife's examples?

4. Samson was to be a *Nazirite to God from the womb* (Judges 13:5). List all that you learn regarding the Nazirite from the following scriptures: Note: A Nazirite vow could be for a specific amount of time. Samson was to be a Nazirite all of his life.

Numbers 6:2-8

Amos 2:11-12

Judges 13:7,13

5. Although, as believers, we do not take the vow of the Nazirite, we too have been set apart for God's purposes. Record this truth from Hebrews 10:10. Note: *Sanctified* means set apart.
 - a. List some of the things you, as a believer, have been set apart for.

DAY TWO: Judges 14

1. Summarize the events of Judges 14.

2. How would you characterize Samson?
 - a. Which of Samson's characteristics would you like to have and which would you like to avoid?

3. Samson asked for a wife from the Philistines. According to Judges 14:3,7, what was Samson's motive?
 - a. According to 2 Corinthians 5:14,15 what should our motive be?

4. Although Samson's motive and actions were wrong, what does verse 4 tell us?
 - a. When God isn't permitted to rule in our lives, He overrules and works out His will in spite of our decisions. However, we are the losers for rebelling against Him. What are your thoughts when you consider God working His will in spite of you?
5. How did the Lord show His faithfulness to Samson?
6. Share your impressions as you contemplate the events of Judges 14.

DAY THREE: Judges 15

1. Record the events of Judges 15 by answering the following questions:

What happened when Samson went to visit his wife? (1-2)

What deal did Samson's father-in-law try to make with Samson? (2)

Why did Samson believe he had a right to get even with the Philistines? (3)

What did Samson do to the Philistines to get revenge? (4-5)

What had the Philistines done that made Samson attack them so viciously? (6-7)

Why did the Israelites turn Samson over to the Philistines? (9-13)

What happened when Samson was turned over to the Philistines? (14-17)

What was God's response to Samson's thirst? (18-19)

How long did Samson judge Israel? (20)

2. Record the last sentence of Judges 15:11.
 - a. What do the following verses say that counters Samson's thinking?
Romans 12:19

1 Thessalonians 5:15
 - b. What should Samson have done?
3. Samson's victory celebration was short lived. God reminded Samson that he was only a man and had to have water to stay alive. So often in Scripture, testing follows triumph. Why do you think God tests us after we have experienced a victory?
 - a. Rather than limiting his prayers to alleviating his thirst, what are some other prayers that Samson should have prayed?
4. Share your impressions as you contemplate the events of Judges 15.

DAY FOUR: Judges 16

1. *Now Samson went to Gaza...* (Judges 16:1). Summarize the events of verses 1-3
2. Summarize the story of Samson and Delilah from verses 1-20.

3. Record the sad words at the end of Judges 16:20.
 - a. Summarize what happened after *the LORD departed* from Samson (verses 21-31).

4. What were the consequences of Samson's sin?

5. What are the dangers of taking our relationship with the Lord for granted?

6. What does Judges 16 reveal about:
 Samson

 God

DAY FIVE: Review Judges 13-16

1. Samson was called to live the life of a Nazirite. In what ways did he fail to do this?

2. Samson began life with parents who loved God; Samson was called by God to be a Nazirite and deliver his people from the Philistines; Samson experienced the power of the Spirit of the Lord. In spite of these blessings, Samson made wrong choices. As you look back at Samson's life, what counsel would you have given to him?
 - a. What do you do when you are faced with temptation?

 - b. Samson had specific weaknesses. What practical steps can you take to limit or avoid a temptation you often face?

3. What can we learn from Samson's mistakes?

4. On your observation worksheet, mark the references to the *Spirit of the LORD* (Judges 13:25; 14:6,19; 15:14). Make a list of what the *Spirit of the LORD* enabled Samson to do.
 - a. From Judges 13:5b, what did God call Samson to do?
 - 1.) Reflect on God's performance through Samson and God's purpose for Samson. In what way was God's purpose accomplished?
 - a.) In what ways was God's perfect purpose for Samson not accomplished?

 - b.) What can you learn from this?

5. Hebrews 11 lists names of many men and women who performed great deeds through faith. Whose name is mentioned in Hebrews 11:32?
 - a. What does this say to you about how God views our lives?

*Whoever has no rule over his own spirit
Is like a city broken down, without walls.
- Proverbs 25:28*

Chapter Thirteen

¹Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. ²Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name *was* Manoah; and his wife *was* barren and had no children. ³And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or *similar* drink, and not to eat anything unclean. ⁵For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." ⁶So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance *was* like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He *was* from, and He did not tell me His name. ⁷And He said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'" ⁸Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born." ⁹And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband *was* not with her. ¹⁰Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the *other* day has just now appeared to me!" ¹¹So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?" And He said, "I *am*." ¹²Manoah said, "Now let Your words come *to pass*! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?" ¹³So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. ¹⁴She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe." ¹⁵Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You." ¹⁶And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know He *was* the Angel of the LORD.) ¹⁷Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "What *is* Your name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?" ¹⁸And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it *is* wonderful?" ¹⁹So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on-- ²⁰it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar--the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He *was* the Angel of the LORD. ²²And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" ²³But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time." ²⁴So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. ²⁵And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Chapter Fourteen

¹Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. ²So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife." ³Then his father and mother said to him, "*Is there* no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well." ⁴But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD--that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel. ⁵So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now *to his* surprise, a young lion *came* roaring against him. ⁶And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though *he had* nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. ⁷Then he went down and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well. ⁸After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey *were* in the carcass of the lion. ⁹He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave *some* to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion. ¹⁰So his father went down to the woman. And Samson gave a feast there, for young men used to do so. ¹¹And it happened, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. ¹²Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing. ¹³But if you cannot explain *it* to me, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing." And they said to him, "Pose your riddle, that we may hear it." ¹⁴So he said to them: "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." Now for three days they could not explain the riddle. ¹⁵But it came to pass on the seventh day that they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, that he may explain the riddle to us, or else we will burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us in order to take what is ours? *Is that* not so?" ¹⁶Then Samson's wife wept on him, and said, "You only hate me! You do not love me! You have posed a riddle to the sons of my people, but you have not explained *it* to me." And he said to her, "Look, I have not explained *it* to my father or my mother; so should I explain *it* to you?" ¹⁷Now she had wept on him the seven days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people. ¹⁸So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down: "What *is* sweeter than honey? And what *is* stronger than a lion?" And he said to them: "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle!" ¹⁹Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes *of clothing* to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house. ²⁰And Samson's wife was *given* to his companion, who had been his best man.

Chapter Fifteen

¹After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into *her* room." But her father would not permit him to go in. ²Her father said, "I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. *Is* not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead." ³And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!" ⁴Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned *the foxes* tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails. ⁵When he had set the torches on fire, he let *the foxes* go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards *and* olive groves. ⁶Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. ⁷Samson said to them, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease." ⁸So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam. ⁹Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi. ¹⁰And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So they answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us." ¹¹Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What *is* this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them." ¹²But they said to him, "We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." Then Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves." ¹³So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. ¹⁴When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him; and the ropes that *were* on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. ¹⁵He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it. ¹⁶Then Samson said: "With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!" ¹⁷And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi. ¹⁸Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?" ¹⁹So God split the hollow place that *is* in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day. ²⁰And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

Chapter Sixteen

¹Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. ²When the Gazites were told, "Samson has come here!" they surrounded *the place* and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, "In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him." ³And Samson lay *low* till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put *them* on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. ⁴Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah. ⁵And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength *lies*, and by what *means* we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred *pieces* of silver." ⁶So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength *lies*, and with what you may be bound to afflict you." ⁷And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man." ⁸So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. ⁹Now *men were* lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known. ¹⁰Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with." ¹¹So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man." ¹²Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" And *men were* lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread. ¹³Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom"-- ¹⁴So she wove *it* tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom. ¹⁵Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart *is* not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength *lies*." ¹⁶And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, *so* that his soul was vexed to death, ¹⁷that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I *have been* a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man." ¹⁸When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. ¹⁹Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. ²⁰And she said, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. ²¹Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. ²²However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven. ²³Now

the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!" ²⁴When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy, the destroyer of our land, and the one who multiplied our dead." ²⁵So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may perform for us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars. ²⁶Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them." ²⁷Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines *were* there--about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed. ²⁸Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one *blow* take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!" ²⁹And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁰Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with *all his* might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who *were* in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life. ³¹And his brothers and all his father's household came down and took him, and brought *him* up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years.