LifeGroup Questions

Judges
Based On: Judges 13-16
June 22, 2014

Overview
Probably one of the best known stories in the Bible is that of Samson. Even non-believers at some point have probably heard the story of Samson and Delilah. Samson was set apart and had a very specific purpose even before he was born. God had chosen him to be one of the Judges in Israel and liberate them from the rule of the Philistines. God told his parents to set him apart as a Nazirite. A typical Nazirite vow would usually last either days or weeks, but Samson’s was for a lifetime. He was not to have any fermented drink, touch anything dead or cut his hair. As you go through the story of Samson you can see him breaking each one of these vows, with the cutting of his hair being the last one. Here Samson was supposed to be Israel’s liberator and he goes to marry a Philistine woman. He tells his parents to get this woman for him to marry. This part of his story goes to show that Samson was very self-centered. He was defying his parents by marrying someone from outside Israel. Samson was meant to be against the Philistines, not marry one of them. We all know that God is bigger than our mistakes and this is true with Samson. God used Samson’s poor decisions to fulfill His greater purpose. Even though Samson was dedicated to God and set apart for a larger purpose he still ended up a blind slave of the very people he was supposed to conquer. Despite all his failings God still used him.

Bible Study:

1. If you could rewrite Samson’s story what would his life look like if he truly lived to honor God? What great impact could he have had?

2. As you read over the life of Samson it is easy to say, “I would never waste opportunities like he did”. If you were able to talk with Samson at a young age what life lessons would you like for him to learn?

3. We all know people who seem to have every opportunity to succeed placed right in front of them and yet they make self-destructive decisions. In what ways can the blessing of great potential and success be a downfall for some?

4. If life were like golf we could just claim a mulligan and redo lost opportunities. Discuss some decisions or opportunities you would like to redo.

5. Throughout his life Samson broke his Nazirite vows. Why do you believe Samson had such little regard for his vows and the way his parents were trying to raise him? How were Samson’s decisions self-centered?

6. Read Judges 14:4. Even though Samson was making poor decisions God was still using him. How has God used some of your mistakes and bad choices for His greater purpose?

7. Samson had a weakness for women. This eventually led to his downfall. What steps can believers take to protect themselves against areas where they are weak?

8. Read Judges 16:20-22. Samson took for granted that God would always be with him no matter how he acted. Read Romans 6:1. How can believers gauge if they are truly seeking forgiveness or just using God’s grace to live how they want?

9. Read Judges 16:28. Finally, at the end of Samson’s life he cried out to God. Read Hebrews 11:32. Samson is mentioned for his faith. What can you learn about God and His desire to use you despite your mistakes?