

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Are there temptations and sins in your life that continually get the best of you? What can you do this week to resist them and surrender them to God?
- Are you living your life for God? What steps can you take to address the areas of your life that are not completely honoring to God and surrender them to him?
- Have you learned something new about God's character or your character? What can you do this week to apply what you've learned about your self and God to your life?

PRAYER

- Ask God to reveal his purpose for you. Pray that he would give you the heart to fully trust and obey that purpose.
- Is there an area in your life where you are constantly dealing with sin and temptation? Ask God to help you surrender that area and for him to give you the freedom to live out your life the way he wants you to.
- Pray for God to guide and use you so that others will also know of his mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

NOTES



Week 4: Samson

CONNECT

- Do you know your purpose in life? How are you living it out?
- What is your greatest weakness and greatest strength? How does it affect the way you live out your life?

WORD

Judges 13: 2-5, Judges 16: 23- 30 (NIV)

²A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. ³The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. ⁴Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. ⁵You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

²³Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." ²⁴When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain." ²⁵While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars,²⁶ Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them."²⁷ Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform.²⁸ Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."²⁹ Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,³⁰ Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

THOUGHT

Samson was set apart by God from birth for a great purpose. God wanted to use Samson to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines. Samson first lived a blessed life until he fell into temptation and sin. If we take a closer look into Samson's life, we see that we are not as different from him. There are also times in our life where we fall short of God's glory and fall into all sorts of sins. It is God's redemptive love that redeems us from our sins and failures. Through Samson's life, God also displayed to us that mistakes and failures would hinder him from fulfilling his will in our lives.

1. Do you know God's purpose for your life? How has he set you apart for his will?

2. What do you think Samson was thinking during temptation and sin?

- *It's only going to be this time. I swear it won't happen again.*
- *I know this is wrong. I shouldn't do this.*
- *I just can't help myself.*
- *I need to do this to feel alive!*
- *What could possibly go wrong? It won't hurt me.*

3. If you were in Samson's shoes, what do you think you would have done?

- *Listened to my parents*
- *Continued making bad choices*
- *Asked God for guidance*
- *Never listened to Delilah*
- *Rejected sin and temptation and realigned my life with my God-given purpose and convictions*
- *Just enjoyed my time with Delilah*

5. Like Samson, is there an area in your life that you need God to redeem and restore? How will you surrender that area to God?

6. While reading and talking about Samson's life, what realization most affected you?

- *God can use me despite my failures and mistakes*
- *I am also struggling with the same temptations and sins*
- *I don't know my purpose and what God wants from me*
- *My failures and flaws have defined me*
- *I need God more than ever to redeem me from my mistakes.*

7. Which character trait do you feel you most need God's help to develop and walk in?

- *Humility*
- *Obedience*
- *Gentleness*
- *Patience*
- *Perseverance*