



Sunday School Study Plan for April 2022 with Dr. Dewayne Dickens and Mrs. Hazel Reed
Theme: The Anointing of Samson to Save Israel

Judges 13 - 16

Week 1: The Birth of Samson - (Judges 13; Luke 1; Numbers 6:2-8)

Terms to Consider: Nazirite, Philistines

Guiding Questions:

1. Consider Judges 2: 1-3; 2:10-13; 2:10-15; 3:1-7; 13:1: What was the spiritual condition of the Children of Israel and how did they get to this point?
2. Consider Numbers 6:2-8. What are the three restrictions identified for a Nazirite in verses 3, 5 and 6?
3. The birth account of Samson in Judges 13 is among seven found in the Bible – thus rare and important narratives. Consider Luke 1: what are some of the common features for the two birth narratives in Luke 1 when compared to Samson’s birth in Judges 13?
4. What does Samson’s birth account teach us about the upcoming life and ministry of Samson?
5. In v. 12, how would you answer the question of his father, “What is to be the child’s manner of life, and what is his mission?”

Week 2: Samson and His Philistine Bride

(Judges 13: 24, 25 – Judges 14)

Guiding Questions:

1. According to Judges 13:24-25 and 14:6, 19, what is the key component to both Samson’s great strength and his success?
2. What do we learn from verse 4 about Samson’s reason for seeking this Philistine marriage? How does this important fact impact how we think about Samson’s request and all the terrible events that follow?
3. From verses 5-9, why does the Bible share that Samson killed a lion under the influence of the Spirit, only to return later to eat honey from it?
4. Why would the Lord choose to work through Samson with weapons of 300 foxes, 150 torches, and the jawbone of a donkey?

WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
 - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
 - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
 - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS FROM PAST DECADES AND LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

(Weeks 3 & 4 continued on other side)

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."



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Week 3: Samson's Vengeance on the Philistines

(Judges 15)

Terms to Consider: Spirit of the Lord

Guiding Questions:

1. Who handed Samson into the hands of the Philistines? What does this say about the condition of Israel at this time?
2. Why is the statement of verse 15 so tragic: "Do you know that the Philistines are rulers over us?"
3. In verses 14-19, what do we learn about God's assistance to Samson?
4. Is Samson best compared to believers today or to a type of Christ? As such, do we best compare ourselves with Samson or with the people of Israel?

Week 4: Samson and Delilah

(Judges 16; Joshua 2:1-7; Genesis 22:17; Genesis 24:60; Hebrews 11:32)

Guiding Questions:

1. Read Joshua 2:1-7, and note the parallels between the spies' trip to Jericho and Samson's trip to Gaza shared in Judges 16: 1-3. Given these parallels, why would Samson have stayed with a prostitute in Gaza?
2. Read Genesis 22:17 and Genesis 24:60, and explain how Samson's removal of the city gates is a sign of God's faithfulness to his people.
3. In reading Judges 16:17-20, what happens to Samson when his hair is cut, and what does this tell us about the true nature of his strength?
4. Given Samson's calling as judge to deliver Israel from Philistine oppression, how should we think about Samson's death in light of the summary statement, "So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life" (v. 30)?
5. Samson's name is hung forever, so to speak, in God's hall of great men and women of faith. Read it now in Hebrews 11:32. What does this say about the faith and feats of this Judge Samson?

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