



Judges Series Study Sheet

Week 14—October 20

Message Title: Samson & Delilah

Text: Judges 16

Read Judges 16

In what way is the story of Samson & Delilah a parable of Israel?

In what way is this story a mirror of our own lives? In what sense does Samson represent each of us?

Delilah represents any seductive force or power that entices us away from God and damages our relationship with self and others. What are some of the 'Delilah's' of our culture?

If you're brave enough, share what your own Delilah is. What is that thing that holds a seductive power in your life? How does it exercise its power in practical ways?

How is Samson also a signpost to Jesus? Discuss the parallels between the story of Samson & Delilah and the last 24-hrs of Jesus' life (compare with Luke 22-23).

Whereas Samson's death achieved only a partial victory over the Philistines, Jesus' death accomplished a comprehensive defeat of Satan and all the forces of evil, delivering those who belong to him out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of God's Son. Discuss the significance of the statement above, in reference to your own life.

Why is it so important when facing temptation in our lives to be securely anchored in God's grace and love?

Samson's downfall began with him going to the valley of Sorek (v4). Share practical examples of how we place ourselves in situations that make it difficult for us to resist temptation.

How can we place boundaries in our lives to help us avoid situations where we are likely to be tempted? Discuss some practical ideas that relate to specific issues you struggle with.

Samson was a solitary person who resisted living in community. How can the community of other Christians help us in our battles against temptation?

Are there any 'courageous conversations' you could have with others, to draw on their support in the struggle you are facing?

Spend time praying for the 'Delilah's that you are each facing, for fresh awareness of God's grace in your life, and fresh power of his Spirit to resist temptation.