



TIC Connect Group Discussion Guide

11-17 August 2019 | Judges 13-16

The Message. Submit our will and desire to God. Do not take for granted the call and the grace He has given us.

Context. “God had ... brought [Israelites] out of ... Egypt ... and placed them in the Promised Land ... under the leadership of Joshua ... but after Joshua dies, things begin to head into a downward spiral fast.” “... everyone did as he saw fit” (21:25). “So God punishes His people for their sin. In this, we see the cycle ... Israel would sin ... and reject God. So God would raise up people around them to oppress them and make them slaves. They would cry out to God and he would raise up a ‘Judge’ ... to save them. Then there would be a time of peace and after the ‘Judge’ died, Israel would go back to sinning and the cycle would repeat.” (Faithlife).

Concept. “The Nazirite/Nazarite vow is taken by individuals who have voluntarily dedicated themselves to God. ... Three guidelines are given ... Numbers 6:3-7 tells us that he/she was to abstain from wine or any fermented drink, nor was the Nazirite to drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins, not even the seeds or skins. Next, the Nazirite was not to cut his hair for the length of the vow. Last, he was not to go near a dead body, because that would make him ceremonially unclean. Even if a member of his immediate family died, he was not to go near the corpse.” (GotQuestions).

Observation & Meaning

1. What is the significance of the word ‘again’ in 13:1?
2. Read 13:4-5. What is the call of Samson?
3. Observe Samson’s interaction with women. What do they tell us about Samson?
 - 14:1-5 : _____.
 - 16:1 : _____.
 - 16:4,19 : _____.
4. Observe how does Samson respond to the events around him. What do they tell

us about Samson?

14:5-6: _____ 15:7-8: _____

14:8-9: _____ 15:14-17: _____

14:19: _____ 16:17-20: _____

5. Read 16:17-20. What is the source of Samson's strength?
6. Read 16:17-20 cf Rm. 6:1, Gal. 5:13; 6:7-10. What is Samson's biggest mistake?
7. Observe Samson's mighty deeds. Does Samson fulfill his call?

14:6: _____ 15:14-17: _____

14:19: _____ 16:3: _____

15:4-5: _____ 16:28-30: _____

8. Read 14:4; 16:30. How does God use Samson despite his weaknesses?
9. Read 16:28 cf. Heb. 11:32. How does God deal with him in his fallenness?

Application

10. ECF. What does our response to sinful impulses tell us about our fallenness?
11. Christ-Centeredness. Share how Samson is and is not a picture of Jesus Christ.
12. What does the story of Samson show us about God's character?
13. How should we respond as we learn about our fallenness and God's characters?

Insight

From birth (13:5). "There was nothing particularly unusual about someone taking the vow of a Nazirite for a specific period of time. What was unusual in Samson's case was that he was to live under the vow from birth - this was a lifetime vow." (Guzik).

Resources

- Guzik, David. *Galatians*. Enduring Word Commentary. Enduring Word Media, 2012.
- "Judges 13-16 -- Samson - Empowered by the Spirit, Dominated by the Flesh."
sermons.faithlife.com/sermons/55369-judges-13-16-samson-empowered-by-the-spirit-dominated-by-the-flesh (accessed on Aug 7, 2019).
- "What is the Nazirite/Nazarite vow?" www.gotquestions.org/Nazirite-vow.html (accessed on Aug 7, 2019).
- "Life Group Questions: Judges." www.firstmbchurch.org/ (accessed on Aug 7, 2019).