

THE HUMILIATION OF THE PROUD

Junior High Lesson May 31



Start with this video on the story of Samson and Delilah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcTgzQAeuZo>

Main Point: God even works through the defeat of sinful leaders to bring about His plan.

Overview: By the time we reach Judges 14, God had provided the Israelites with a number of judges to rescue them from the affliction of their enemies. Each judge was a further reminder of God's grace, but each was also a signpost to His power. Many of the judges didn't look the part, and yet, God worked through them to deliver His people and draw them back to Him. But then, when the Israelites sinned once more, God provided a judge who finally appeared to check all the boxes. Samson was strong, unnaturally so. He was confident. He was clever. Sure, he seemed to be full of himself, but many strong leaders are, right? God had given the Israelites the leader they truly needed. Or so it seemed. It wouldn't take long to realize that this man was strong on the outside, but quite weak on the inside.

Why do you think the Bible's storyline consistently highlights the flaws and failures of its heroes? Why is that significant for us to see?

Parents tell of a time where your own pride brought you into an embarrassing moment into your life.

Judges 16:4-5, 16-17 4 After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. 5 And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver." ... 16 And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. 17 And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man."

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Here we find God's chosen deliverer with yet another woman he should be nowhere near. Maybe you want to defend poor Samson and blame mean old Delilah for deceiving him, but we see that both these characters wanted the same thing: their own glory. Delilah wanted power and wealth, which the Philistine leaders would give her if she helped them. Samson was driven by his ego and the thrill of pursuing this woman. So Delilah and Samson played a cat-and-mouse game. Three times she asked him where his strength came from and three times he lied to her. But Samson eventually gives in. In his pride, Samson had told Delilah the source of his strength. And then he laid down to take a nap. While he slept, Samson's hair was shaved off and his strength left him. Delilah cried out that the Philistines were there and Samson jolted awake believing he would escape as he always had. The end of Judges 16:20 records the sad truth though, "he did not know that the LORD had left him." Samson was seized, maimed, and taken to be an object of entertainment at a festival where a large gathering of Philistines had assembled.

Discussion Questions from Judges 6:11-16:

1. When have you seen pride lead to danger for you or someone else?
2. What are some ways people compromise their beliefs, ethics, or promises for
3. their comfort?

MAIN POINT



"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble! Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time." 1 Peter 5:5-6

Read Judges 16:21-22,26-30

21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. 22 But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. 25 While 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.

Discussion Questions:

- What were the consequences of Samson's pride? What did he lose?
- What was Samson's prayer? How did it reflect the lesson he may have learned?
- What are some of the lessons you have learned in your life as a result of bad decisions?
- How did God answer Samson's prayer?
- What successes have you had in your life that might lead you to trust in yourself rather than God?

Share your highs and lows from this past week. Close in pray for each other giving God thanks for your highs and asking God to be with you in your lows.

BIBLE STUDY, GAMES AND FRIENDS

Join us Wednesday @ 7pm on Zoom

Click Here To Join the Meeting?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9829170570>



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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