

SAMSON Josh Hawley, Pastor of Community Life July 5, 2015

Samson's life was full of <u>advantages</u> & <u>opportunities</u>. (Judges 13-14)

Samson's legacy is full of honor & shame. (Judges 15-16)

We all have weaknesses & "blind spots". Samson's were lust & pride.

Lust & Pride...

- Can lead us to make some really stupid decisions. (Judges 16:7-17)
- Will eventually make us pay a <u>heavy price</u>. (Judges 16:18-21)
- <u>Hurt</u> other people. (Judges 15:1-10)
- <u>Hinder</u> God's <u>work</u> & <u>power</u> in our lives.

Taking it Home

• Envision who you want to become as a person who loves & follows

Jesus.

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- Develop the <u>habit</u> of turning to <u>Jesus</u> instead of
 - _____
- Set up some spiritual "guardrails" in your life.
- <u>Accountability</u>: we need <u>others</u> to <u>speak</u> into our lives about our

weaknesses & blind spots.

Next Steps

- I will memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 & James 4:6 over the next two weeks.
- I will apply one of the "Taking it Home" application ideas to my life this week.
- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.



Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to provide questions in abbreviated form each week for personal study and/or discussion for LifeGroups choosing to meet during a portion of the break.

- **Lesson Aim:** To learn from the example of Samson's life to make better decisions today.
 - READ Judges 13. From birth, Samson was set apart by God (verse 5). What ministry or task has God set you apart to fulfill? How is the Spirit of the Lord stirring you to action?

2. **READ Judges 14.** How often do you, like Samson, take matters into your own hands? How can you tell if you're "in the flesh" or empowered by God's Spirit?

3. **READ Judges 15.** Have you ever been in a vicious cycle of revenge? How did it feel? How did it end up?

4. **READ Judges 16.** What was Samson's downfall? What was the most redeeming thing about Samson's life?

5. What is one of your greatest strengths that God can use? How can that strength become a weakness? How can you keep it from being your downfall?

Daily Devotional Plan – Take a closer look at the life of the Early Church as we learn what it means to follow Jesus.

Day 1 – Acts 6 Day 2 – Acts 7 Day 3 – Acts 8 Day 4 – Acts 9 Day 5 – Acts 10 Day 6 – Acts 11 Day 7 – Acts 12