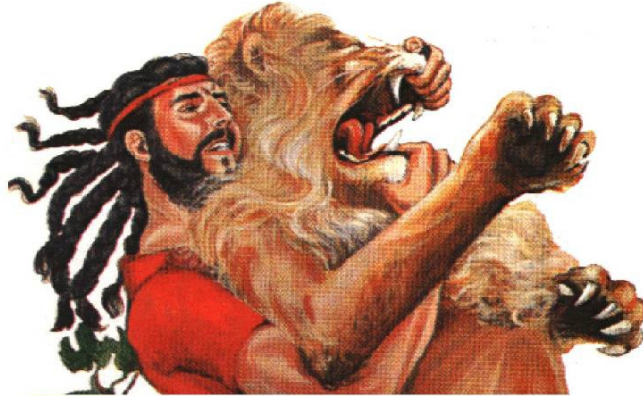


Victory Youth Camp 2011

Studying the Life of...

Samson



***"Not by might,
nor by power,
but by my spirit,
saith the LORD
of hosts."***

Zechariah 4:6

How strong are YOU?

Camper's Handbook

NAME: _____

TEAM: _____

TEAM NUMBER: _____

Victory Youth Camp

a Ministry of the **Bible Baptist Church**

Pastor Craig Ledbetter

Unit B, Enterprise Park

Inishmore, Ballincollig,

Cork, Ireland

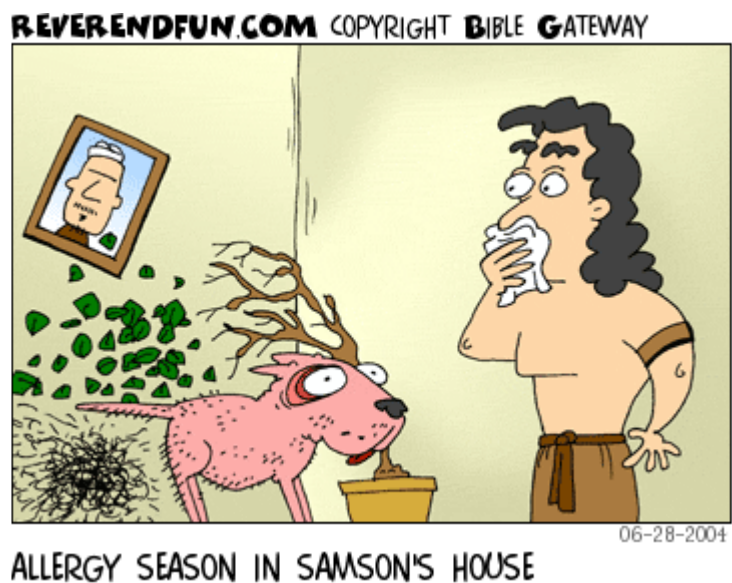
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Jesus said “...without me ye can do nothing.”

Youth Camp Schedule

Time	Duration	Main Function	Support Function
MONDAY – Introduction - Focus verse: Zechariah 4:6			
3:00pm		BBC Group Arrives at Camp	
4:00pm		Arrive (Assign Teams and Room Assignments, Collect Mobiles)	
4:00pm	1:15min	Sports Time	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
6:00pm	1hr	Dinner – <u>Burgers and Chips</u>	
7:00pm	1hr	Team Meeting – Ice-Breaker games	
8:00pm	1.30hr	Preaching – Introducing Samson	Craig Ledbetter
9:30pm	30min	Dessert, Tea and Coffee	
9:30pm	30min	Counsellors’ Meeting (<i>Everyone stay in Banquet Hall</i>)	
10:00pm	1:30hr	Sports Time	
11:45pm		Lights Out – Sleep	
TUESDAY – Samson’s Family and Upbringing - Focus verse: 2 Timothy 3:15			
8:30am	45min	Breakfast – <u>Cereal, Porridge, Toast</u>	
9:30am	45min	Group Devotion – Don’t Ignore Your Walk With God	
10:15am	45min	Kids Session – Samson, the Perfect Child	Nita Ledbetter
10:15am	45min	Teen Session – Samson, the Perfect Child	Nico Oliviers
11:00am	1hr	Sports Time	<i>Prepare Lunch</i>
12:00pm	45min	Lunch – <u>Sandwiches</u>	
12:45pm	45min	Team Time	
1:30pm	45min	Preaching – Building a Wall	Dan Eberly
2:15pm	3.30hr	Sports and Craft Time	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
5:45pm	30min	SPECIAL SINGING PRACTICE	
6:15pm	1hr	Dinner – <u>Spaghetti</u>	
7:15pm	30min	Team Time	
7:45pm	1.30hr	Preaching – Samson’s Great Purpose	Keith Hamilton
9:15pm	30min	Dessert, Tea and Coffee	
9:45pm	30min	Counsellors’ Meeting (<i>Everyone else in Rooms</i>)	
10:15pm	1:15hr	Bonfire - Singing and Testimonies	Marshmallows
11:30pm		Lights Out – Sleep	
WEDNESDAY – Living Out of Control - Focus Verse: 1 Peter 2:11			
8:30am	45min	Breakfast – <u>Cereal, Sausages, Porridge, Toast</u>	
9:30am	45min	Group Devotion – Living Above the Norm	
10:15am	45min	Kids Session – Samson Wants What He Wants	Gina Daly
10:15am	45min	Teen Session – Samson Wants What He Wants	Barry Keating
11:00am	1hr	Sports Time	<i>Prepare Lunch</i>
12:00pm	45min	Lunch – <u>Hot Dogs and Sandwiches</u>	
12:45pm	30min	Team Time	
1:15pm	1hr	Preaching – Samson’s Rebellion	Dan Pero
2:15pm	1hr	Teens – When is a Guy/Girl Relationship Wrong?	Stephen Finley
3:15pm	2.30hrs	Sports and Craft Time	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
5:45pm	1hr	Dinner – <u>Curry Chicken and Chips</u>	
6:45pm	45min	SPECIAL SINGING PRACTICE	
7:30pm	30min	Team Time	
8:00pm	1.30hr	Preaching – The Failure of Success	Kevin O’Keeffe
9:30pm	30min	Dessert, Tea and Coffee	
10:00pm	30min	Counsellors’ Meeting (<i>Everyone else in Rooms</i>)	
10:30pm	1hr	Sports Time (LATE NIGHT HIKE)	
11:45pm		Lights Out – Sleep	

Victory Youth Camp 2011

THURSDAY – Samson’s Bondage to Sin - Focus Verse: Galatians 6:7

8:30am	45min	Breakfast – <u>Cereal, Porridge, Toast</u>	
9:30am	45min	Group Devotion – What’s It Like Being a Slave?	
10:15am	45min	Kids Session – Losing Everything (Jdg 15)	Ruth Ledbetter
10.15am	45min	Teens Session – Losing Everything (Jdg 15)	Basie Olivier
11:00am	1hr	Sports and Craft Time	<i>Prepare Lunch</i>
12:00pm	45min	Lunch – <u>Sandwiches</u>	
12:45pm	1hr	Team Time	
1:45pm	1:30hr	Preaching – Selfish Praying	Dan Pero
3.15pm	2.30hrs	Sports Time	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
5:45pm	1hr	Dinner – <u>Ziti (like Lasagne)</u>	
6:45pm	45min	SPECIAL SINGING PRACTICE	
7:30pm	45min	Team Time - Memorize verses	
8:15pm	1.30hr	Preaching – Sowing and Reaping	Dan Eberly
9:45pm	30min	Dessert, Tea and Coffee	
10.15pm	1:30hr	Sports Time (TREASURE HUNT)	
11:45pm	15min	Evening Quiet Time	<i>Kids in bed</i>
12:00am		Lights Out - Sleep	

FRIDAY – Samson’s Ruin and Recovery - Focus Verse: 2Corinthians 12:9

9:00am	45min	Breakfast – <u>Cereal, Sausages, Porridge, Toast</u>	
10:00am	45min	Group Devotion – When troubles are Good for You	
10:45am	45min	Kids Session – Samson Finally Learns!	Nita Ledbetter
10.45am	45min	Teen Session – Samson Finally Learns!	John Mahony
11:15pm	1hr	Team Time – Final Point Push	
12:15pm	45min	Lunch – <u>Hot Dogs</u>	
1:00pm	1hr	Guys Session – God Made You Strong	Craig Ledbetter
1:00pm	1hr	Girls Session – Be Different than Delilah	Sharon Pero
2:00pm	2:30hr	Sports Time	<i>Prepare Dinner</i>
4:30pm	1:30hrs	RECORDING SESSION	
6:00pm	1:15hr	AWARDS Dinner – <u>B-B-Q Chicken and Salad</u>	
7:15pm	45min	Team Time - Prepare final songs and skits	
8:00pm	1.30hr	Preaching – Last Minute Faith	Layton Kelly
10:00pm	30min	Dessert, Tea and Coffee	<i>Start-up bonfire</i>
10:30pm	1hr	Sports Time/ Bonfire - Singing and Testimonies	Marshmallows
12:00am		Lights Out - Sleep	

SATURDAY – What Samson Could Have Been - Focus Verse: Ephesians 6:10

7:30am		Wake-Up	
8:30am	45min	Breakfast - <u>Cereal, Porridge, Toast</u>	
9:15am	1.15hr	Clean-up – EVERYONE CLEANING	
10:30am		Final Meeting – How Different Could YOU Be?	Stephen Finley
12.30pm		Leave to go home	
		Hot Dogs are available for everyone to take away with them	

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10



Camp Room Layout Map



MY TEAM
Notes on YOUR Camp Team



TEAM NAME:

TEAM LEADERS:

TEAM CHEER

My TEAM MATES

Rules You Have to Obey While At Camp

1. The Camp Director and leaders will be obeyed at all times.
2. No one is allowed to go outside of the Camp grounds without permission from the Camp Director – period!
3. All mobiles will be turned into either your pastor, or to the Camp Director upon arrival at camp. Use of mobile phones will be allowed once a day and will be strictly monitored. If you are using a mobile phone inappropriately, then you risk losing it, and you will lose points for both yourself, and your team. If your parents need to contact you, they must ring wither your pastor or the Camp Director.
4. Keep your Camper Handbook, put your name on it – don't lose it!
5. Don't leave your stuff lying around.
6. Keep your hands off other people's stuff
7. Every meal, a team will be selected to wash the dishes and clean the dining hall – do your tasks without complaining – the better the attitude, the more the points!
8. No profanity will be allowed
9. No rock music will be played at all at camp.
10. No boy and girl things going on
11. No knives – if you have one, give it to your pastor, or to the Camp Director until Camp is over and he will return it.
12. No smoking
13. No going behind the buildings, or going out through the windows
14. No guys going into girl's rooms, and no girls going into the guy's room – ever!
15. No one except adults are allowed into the Adult rooms

Things every Counsellor must look for, and be pro-active about:

1. Boys and girls coupling together, and sneaking off away from sight
2. The kids misusing their mobile phones: taking inappropriate pictures, listening to rock music; phoning each other after curfew
3. The kids will try and sneak out at night, and go into other rooms to “cream them” or worse – so every Counsellor must keep their doors open to be able to listen for the kids sneaking out. If the kids do try and sneak out, every kid loses 1000 points!
4. Some of the kids will not be saved when they come, so look for ways to talk to each young person about their soul throughout the week – THAT IS YOUR MAIN FOCUS! LEAD ONE OF THE KIDS TO CHRIST THIS WEEK!
5. Anger and fights between the kids must be watched for, and instantly stopped.
6. Sit among the kids at preaching and teaching times. Don't let them all just sit amongst themselves, and you counsellors sit in the back by yourselves!
7. Befriend the other counsellors – get to know each other – you are all miracles of the grace of God, and need each other!
8. Participate in singing specials, helping the kids develop skits, etc.
9. Be the best example to the kids of what it means to be a Christian!
10. Learn the memory verses yourself along with the kids

How to Earn Points

Getting Points

- Every Scripture verse you memorize, YOU get 100 points!
- If you memorize all the 5 key verses you get 500 Extra points!
- If you memorize ALL the verses, you will get 1000 extra points on top of them!
- The first full team present and seated for Chapel gets 500 points! Every time!
- Every Team Cheer, or Skit will get points for that team based on how good they are!
- Every time your team wins a sports activity, your whole team gets 1000 points! Some sports activities will not be point-based.
- Clean Bunks will result in 100 points being given to the person
- A completed Bible Word Dictionary will result in 500 points for that person.
- Every Sermon or lesson that you take a full page of notes on will get you 500 pts
- Every Devotion Page completed will get 500 points
- Every time the Camp Director sees a person with great zeal, they will get 500 pts
- Every young camper who finishes making a Craft will get 1,000 points!
- Every bed at inspection that is clean and tidy will get 100 points.

Losing Points – unless stated, breaking any of these rules has a limit of three warnings

- Every time someone on your team has a bad attitude, breaks a rule, or gets into a fight, they will lose 1000 points.
- Every bed must be made and every room cleaned before breakfast – or else each person who leaves a messy bunk will lose 100 points.
- Arguing with a camp leader/counsellor will cost you 500 points.
- No one ever goes out of the camp unless they are given permission by the Camp Director. If you leave camp grounds without permission, you will be sent home.
- No boy is ever allowed in a girl's room, and no girl is ever allowed in a boy's room. If you disobey this rule, you may be sent home.
- No one is allowed to mess with the windows in the rooms, or with the thermostats. Do not touch the fire alarms!
- Everyone must obey their team leader and the camp counsellors at all times.
- Anyone caught doing intentional damage to the camp will have to pay for it, and may be sent home
- Anyone going out of their room after curfew, or before 6am **will be sent home.**
- Anyone with more than three warnings will be sent home.
- Anyone caught messing with the fire alarms will be sent home!!!!

Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Camp Song – The Samson Song

Song for Victory Youth Camp 2011
A Song about the Life-Lessons of Samson
© 2011 By Craig Ledbetter and John Mahony



Verse 1

Samson was a young man, who had a godly start.
His parents had such plans for him, they knew he'd have a part,
In bringing back God's people, from the bondage of their sins.
But Samson was a rebel, he had other things to win

Verse 2

When it was time for battle, to take the enemy on;
Samson's lust and selfishness, enslaved him as a pawn!
There was a bigger battle, than just with Philistines!
Samson's sins they trapped him, as he did the devil's schemes!

Verse 3

God showed him such great mercy, when a lion attacked and roared;
A thousand men surrounded him, yet he won without a sword!
He could tie three hundred foxes tails, so the Bible did record;
But Samson never learned it's by, "my spirit saith the Lord!"

Chorus

*God seeks a man He can strengthen, who'll fight down on his knees.
Who cares about God's honour, more than his own needs...
Who walks with God, and leans on Him, and loves Him more each day...
We'll find the strength that's spiritual, that works as we obey!*

Verse 4

At the end of his life, ol' Samson, now blind and bound in chains;
Was finally a broken man, his life had been in vain!
He begged the Lord this final time, his faith to be restored
And mightily proved, it's only by, "my Spirit saith the Lord!"

Verse 5

So, when God shows you why you're here, and what you are to be;
You'll find you have a strength from Him, that gives you victory!
But the power that God offers, is the power of God's Son;
It comes upon a spiritual life... all God needs is one!

Ending

*God seeks a man He can strengthen, who'll fight down on his knees
Who cares about God's honour, more than his own needs...
Who walks with God, and leans on Him, and loves Him more each day...
We'll find the strength that's spiritual, that works as we obey!
It works as we obey!*

The Scripture Verses to Memorize

Each verse is worth 100 points. Memorize all of them and you get 5,000 extra points!

Monday INTRO	Zechariah 4:6 Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.	
Tuesday FAMILY	2Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.	Proverbs 5:12,13 How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!
	1Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.	2Chronicles 34:3 While he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father.
Wednesday OUT OF CONTROL	1Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.	1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
	1Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.	James 1:14,15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
Thursday BONDAGE TO SIN	Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.	1Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
	Proverbs 5:22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.	
Friday RUIN & RECOVERY	2Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.	Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
		Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
	Psalms 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.	John 15:5 He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
Saturday	Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.	

How to memorize God's Word... Read each verse *out-loud* 5 times – while waiting in line for dinner, while combing or brushing your hair, or while getting ready for bed. Memorize it word-perfect (don't leave out any words).

Bible Word Dictionary – Strong Words (worth 500 pts)

Try and figure out what each word means on your own, then see if it is explained in the Bible Dictionary in the back of your Bible, and if you still don't know what a word means, ask your Team Leaders to help you. Fill in the blank with the best definition you can come up with.

INTRO	Might (Zech 4:6) _____ Power (Zech 4:6) _____ LORD (Zech 4:6) _____ Hosts (Zech 4:6) _____
FAMILY	Child (2Tim 3:15) _____ Salvation (2Tim 3:15) _____ Walk worthy (2Thes 2:12) _____ Called (2Thes 2:12) _____ Inclined (Pr 5:13) _____
WILD	Beseech (1Pet 2:11) _____ Abstain (1Pet 2:11) _____ Rebellion (1Sam 15:23) _____ Witchcraft (1Sam 15:23) _____ Love (1John 2:15) _____ The World (1John 2:15) _____ Lust (Jam 1:14,15) _____
BONDAGE	Temptation (1Cor 10:13) _____ Suffer (1Cor 10:13) _____ Deceived (Gal 6:7) _____ Mocked (Gal 6:7) _____ Soweth (Gal 6:7) _____ Reap (Gal 6:7) _____ Holden (Pr 5:22) _____
RECOVERY	Afflicted (Psalm 119:71) _____ Statutes (Psalm 119:71) _____ Nothing (John 15:5) _____ Wages (Rom 6:23) _____ Gift (Rom 6:23) _____ Grace (2Cor 12:10) _____
STRONG	Finally (Eph 6:10) _____ “strong in the Lord” (Eph 6:10) _____ _____

The Life of Samson

Ask someone who was the strongest man in the Bible and you'll probably hear "Samson." After all, it's not every day that you hear of a man who kills 1,000 enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand combat armed with only the jawbone of a donkey! Samson was a very strong young man (Judges 15:15). And his strength ruined him. But it wasn't supposed to be that way. Samson was born about 3,000 years ago and was supposed to free the nation of Israel from their arch-enemies the Philistines! But he became a slave to his worst enemy – himself. And it wasn't until just before he died, that he figured out how to trust God and accomplish God's great purpose for his life. Samson wasted all his potential on himself. But God recorded in the Bible everything about Samson and all his failures so that we don't have to repeat them!

Samson's Home (Judges 13:1-14, 24,25)

Before Samson was born, his parents weren't able to have children. But one day an angel, appeared to Samson's mother. This appearance was, of course, a highly unusual event. This was going to be a special birth, of a special boy!

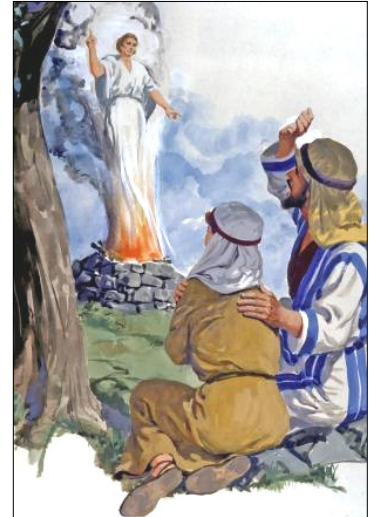
The angel gave Samson's mother some good news. She was going to have a baby boy. But she was also told to be careful during her pregnancy to avoid drinking any alcohol and to not eat any wrong (defiling) food and, once the boy was born, not to ever cut his hair because he was to be a "Nazarite to God from the womb" (Judges 13:5). This was unusual, because people were encouraged to make vows/promises to God, and live separate from sin while waiting for those promises to be fulfilled by God, but Samson was supposed to live his whole life yielded to God waiting for God to fulfil His promise – which by the way, was the defeat of the Philistine's control of the nation of Israel (13:5).

Just as they had been told, Manoah and his wife soon had their baby boy, whom they named Samson. God blessed Samson and, as he grew older, God began helping him by empowering him with the Holy Spirit (13:24-25).

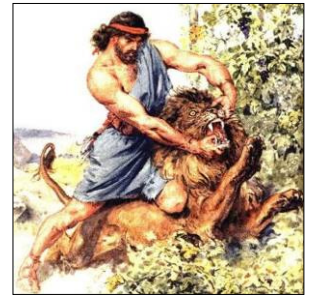
Manoah and his wife faithfully kept Samson from sinful things, and taught him the law of God. They taught him the right way to do things. They taught him to not touch dead animals, and to never drink alcoholic drinks, and not even eat raisins or grapes. And they especially taught their son how to worship God and pray for the things that he needed. But Samson quickly found that he didn't need to pray. If he ever had a problem, he was always smart enough and strong enough to handle it. And he noticed how popular he was with everyone, especially the other girls in Israel. So to Samson, God was someone that he just didn't need right now.

Samson Wants a Wife (Judges 14:1-20)

As soon as Samson grew up, he would spend his time chasing the girls in his town. But the Jewish girls were not exciting like the Philistine girls were, and when he saw a beautiful Philistine woman in the nearby town of Timnah, he decided he wanted to marry her (Judges 14:1-2). His parents warned him against marrying someone outside his faith (14:3-4). Yet Samson was determined in his desire to marry her. He even had the cheek to order his parents to go and get this Philistine woman for him! When Samson had become a man, he thought he was "above" everyone else, and that everyone should just do as HE said. Samson was arrogant, and selfish, but as 14:4 says, God still used Samson as a way to move against the Philistines, and drive them away from the borders of Israel..



On his way to Timnah to set a date for the wedding, Samson was attacked by a fierce lion. Without realising that he had the help of God's Spirit, he miraculously tore the lion apart with his bare hands (verse 6). From that moment he began to think of himself as some kind of a superhero, and that nothing could stand in his way! So he continued on his way as if nothing had happened and visited his bride-to-be (verse 7), and then headed back home to wait for the wedding day.



When the wedding date approached, Samson travelled back to Timnah, and decided to check out the carcass of the lion he had killed on his previous trip. To his surprise, a swarm of bees had made a hive in the carcass and had produced some honey. He reached down into that dead carcass and grabbed some of the honey and ate it on the spot, and it was good! And then he was back on his way again, happily thinking about his upcoming wedding. Samson had touched a dead animal and didn't think it was wrong.

At his wedding feast Samson decided to use the honey from the dead lion as a riddle for the 30 Philistine companions that had been invited to the wedding. If they could correctly solve the riddle in seven days, he promised to give them each a new change of clothing. If they couldn't explain the riddle, they'd have to give him 30 new sets of clothes. The riddle he gave was: " Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness" (14:14). What could it be? But none of them could figure out what he was talking about, so they got angry at the prospect of being embarrassed, and having to buy new clothes for this Israelite.

To make sure they got the answer and their new clothes, the 30 Philistines threatened to kill Samson's bride and her family if she didn't find a way to discover the answer to Samson's riddle. So Samson's wife-to-be wept, and said, 'You only hate me! You do not love me! You have posed a riddle to the my people, but you have not explained it to me' (verse 16). She did this for days, making Samson miserable. This was supposed to be their wedding feast!

Finally on the seventh day of the marriage feast Samson told her the answer—that bees had produced honey in the dead carcass of a lion. She immediately told the 30 Philistines. When they confidently approached Samson, and told him the correct answer, he knew they had gotten it from the woman he was marrying, and he was mad! His future wife had betrayed him! So Samson storms out of the party and he went down to the Philistine city of Ashkelon. It was then that " the Spirit of the LORD came upon him" and he silently and quickly killed thirty Philistine soldiers, took their best clothes, and brought the clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Samson was so angry however, that he went back up to his father's house without actually getting married! And to top it all off, while Samson was back home, his wife was given to another man in marriage, who had been his best man at his wedding (14:19-20)!

This marriage to someone outside Samson's faith was a terrible tragedy in every way. Samson's own eyes had deceived him into thinking that it is okay to marry a woman of a different religion, when God had forbid such a thing. The woman that Samson thought he loved had her own life, and the lives of her family threatened because of Samson - his love of her nearly killed her. This woman ultimately betrayed her future husband - he lost all trust in her. Samson ends up killing 30 Philistines in anger (he is getting to be this way all the time). Samson goes home empty without his wife. And worst of all, the woman Samson loved was then given in marriage to his best friend! How could things get any worse?

The only thing good about this sad chain of events was that God, through Samson, was beginning to weaken the Philistine nation. Other than that, Samson's life was a crashing disaster!

Making Trouble for the Philistines (Judges 15-17)

After spending some time with his parents so that he could cool off, Samson decided to go back to Timnah for his wife. He wanted to try again with her. But upon arrival he learned that she had been given in marriage to his best man. Oh was he mad! In revenge he caught three hundred foxes (which was an impossible task) and turned the foxes tail to tail, and tied a torch between each pair of tails (which was even more amazing). He then lit the torches on fire between all the pairs of foxes and let them loose into the crops of the Philistines. As the foxes ran through the fields, the torches set everything on fire, and burned up the grain crops, and the vineyards and the olive yards for miles in every direction (Judges 15:4-5). It was a major disaster to the Philistines.

In their anger over the devastation to their crops, the Philistines burned the woman that Samson had wanted to marry along with her father (verse 6). It was at this point, that revenge took over and war had begun! From now on, Samson only hated everyone and everything in his life, and in retaliation Samson killed more Philistines.

In destroying much of their food supply and killing more of their citizens, Samson now had the Philistines' full attention, and a mob of them quickly came to arrest him. Samson allowed his own countrymen in Judah to bind him with ropes and deliver him like a criminal to the Philistines. But when the Philistines came to get him, God's Spirit came upon him. Samson easily broke free of the strong ropes with which he had been bound, then grabbed the jawbone of a donkey, promptly killed 1,000 Philistines, and secured Israel's freedom for a while.

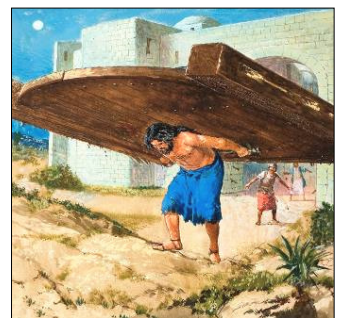
Samson's Poor Prayer Life (Judges 15:18-20)

After that battle singlehandedly defeating 1,000 Philistine soldiers, Samson was very thirsty and had no way to find water to drink. It was then and only then that he decided to pray to God. But when he prayed, he gave out to God and almost demanded that God give him something to drink! But God had made a small hole in the very jawbone Samson had used to fight and defeat the Philistines and was pouring water out of that hole! Samson grabbed up that jawbone and drank the water, but never gave thanks for it, nor for his victory that day!

Because of the great victory against so many Philistines all the people made Samson the governing judge over Israel for the next 20 years.

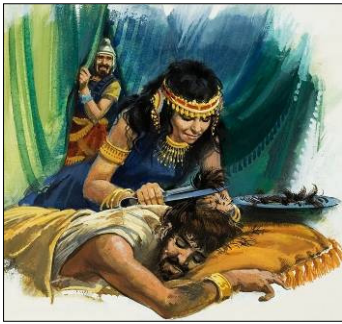
More trouble with women (Judges 16:1-20)

Toward the end of Samson's life, his eyes deceived him again. First it was a harlot at Gaza. Samson was so far away from God, looking for love in all the wrong places. The Philistines tried to box in and capture Samson in their city while he was sleeping, but he awoke at midnight, and broke off the two main doors and doorposts, and carried them 30 miles away onto the top of a hill in Judea called Hebron! It was such an embarrassment for the Philistines to see their big heavy city doors up on top of that hill so far away in their enemies' country.



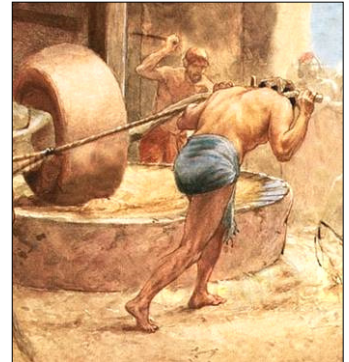
But Samson was still looking for trouble, and his eyes locked onto another Philistine woman named Delilah, who sought his confidence in order to betray him to the Philistines. She did not love Samson. All she wanted was the money that she would get if she turned Samson over to the Philistine leaders! So under relentless nagging, Samson finally told Delilah the secret of his strength—his faithfulness to his Nazarite vow to God, which forbade him from cutting his hair.

Armed with this information, Delilah had Samson's hair cut while he was sleeping. When Delilah woke up Samson, and warned him mockingly of the Philistines coming to get him, he never realised that God's Holy Spirit was not coming this time to help him, and was completely departed from him - he was on his own! That's when the Philistines captured him, put out his eyes and put him in prison as a slave.



Finally Broken (Judges 16:20-28)

Here was Samson, blinded, bound in chains, locked away in prison, without hope, without God, and very alone. But his hair began to grow again (Judges 16:22). This was the turning point for Samson, since even though he was blind, he could sense that at least ONE thing was changing for the better. He could feel that his hair was growing back to the place where he was a Nazarite again, and maybe God could use him again!



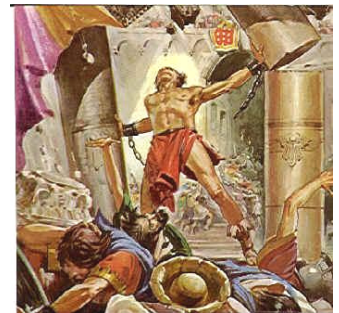
Through everything, Samson never lost his own natural strength, but now was realising that it wasn't his own strength that had given him so many victories in the past. It was during this time of defeat and brokenness that Samson starting trusting God's power and strength instead of his own.

Falsely assuming that their fish god named Dagon had delivered Samson into their hands, thousands of Philistine men and women (the leaders), gathered at the temple of Dagon to sacrifice in celebration. While there, they decided to bring Samson out of the prison to make fun of him. But God was about to act!

The mighty Samson was dragged around the centre stage by a small, weak child, tripping and falling over everything in his way. This made everyone laugh and laugh - it was the best entertainment they had seen in years!

Samson's Last Minute Faith (Judges 16:28-31)

In the midst of all the mockery, blind Samson finally understood God's purpose for his life—to weaken the Philistine nation so that Israel could be a free country again. He realised that his purpose was not to find love and have fun, but to use his strengths for others, and for making people free! So, standing between two pillars that supported the entire temple building, Samson asked God for extra strength to bring final destruction upon the Philistines who had caused the loss of his eyes. Saying, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Samson pushed on the two central pillars. God answered his prayer and brought the temple crashing down (verse 30), not only on all the Philistines in the building, but also upon himself.



In the end, Samson killed more Philistines at his death than he had during his whole life, which was what he was supposed to be doing during his life instead of pursuing women and pleasure. It is amazing that even though Samson wasted most of his life, God still honours him today, by listing his name as a man of great faith in Hebrews 11:32. Oh that Samson had lived his faith all his life instead of only at the very end!

Samson was the next to the last Judge of Israel before its first king! He could have been one of the greatest men in the Bible, but is now known as one of the greatest failures!

Monday – Introducing Samson

Pastor Craig Ledbetter

Zechariah 4:6

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

I. Background (Judges 13:1)

- A. Israel as a nation, up to this point, is a _____. The entire nation was ungodly – “did evil in the sight of the Lord”
- B. They were up and down spiritually - never consistent or faithful to God (Judg 2:11-19)
- C. So, now the people needed some _____ – governors – people who could lead Israel, and guide the people, coach them, and help them do right and live right – why?
- D. _____ chapters in this book is dedicated to this one man that God had so many expectations of – Samson!

II. Who Was Samson?

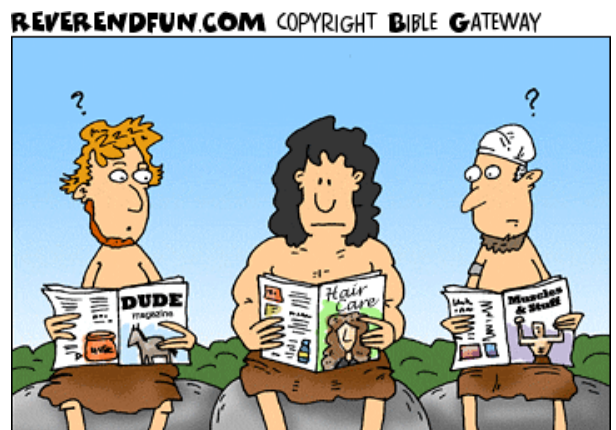
- A. He had a Special _____ from God - a special purpose and design
- B. He had Special _____
- C. He had Special _____ available to him (13:24)
- D. It Required Special Living - _____ living - a _____
- E. He was a _____ - culmination of many failures!

III. Samson’s life was a life of contrasts: a life of Opposites!

- A. He was _____ from sin as a Nazarite (Judges 13:5) (Judges 16:17) - yet continually he was with evil people (Judges 14:1-3) – the Philistines
- B. He was Physically strong and mighty in fleshly battles (Judges 16:3, 9, 12, 14) - yet he was weak in _____ warfare. (Judges 16:1, 15-17)
- C. He was courageous and brave in battle (Judges 15:11-14), yet he was _____ in his thinking and planning (Judges 15:4).
He didn’t make wise decisions very easily

IV. What are we going to learn this week? What to look for in Samson’s life?

V. Where do we Begin?



Tuesday Devotional

Don't Ignore Your OWN Walk With God!

Samson grew up in a very good home. His Mom and Dad didn't have a lot of money, but they knew God, and they loved God with all their hearts! So young Samson should have been a godly young man, but he turned out very selfish, and very bad!



Did you know that there is nothing stopping you from going astray in your own spiritual life like Samson did? The Bible teaches that growing up in a good home does not guarantee your own goodness, integrity, or personal righteousness. Samson **IGNORED** his need to pray and read God's word. He ignored having a quiet time every day!

Only your **OWN** walk with God will change you and fix you and keep you right! Your parents can help you, and your pastor can help you, but **YOU** have to stay close to the Lord Jesus in order to not be trapped and ruined by the devil's lies!

What is it like to take a walk with God?

He already is near you. Read Psalm 139:1-18.

Did you know God knows you?

He knows when you sit _____ and when you _____ up (139:2)!

He knows all the _____ that you think (139:2)

God knows what words come out of your _____ (139:4)

Is there any place you can go to hide from God (139:7-12)? **Yes** or **No**

Who made you? (139:13,14) _____

Who does God think about all the time? (139:17,18) _____

So, do you think that God love you? **Yes** or **No**

He wants to listen to you. Read Psalm 145:18

So, when is the Lord nearest to us? When we are _____. But we need to pray how? _____ – truthfully, asking God to help you to be like Jesus!

Ask God to fix problems in your life, and to help you do right things. What else can you ask God for? _____.

He wants to talk to you. Read Proverbs 8:32

We usually spend a lot of time praying and telling God what we need, but we need to take time to let Him talk to us too! God speaks to us as we read the Bible. So if you want to hear God talk, then you need to read the _____ yourself, as He tells you what to do and how to live.

Make sure that you read your Bible yourself _____ day and listen to His voice in the morning, before breakfast. Start reading in Matthew, and read at least one chapter. If you can't read yet, ask your parents to read to you.

Lastly, God wants to give you His strength and peace, so that you are ready for whatever comes at you each day! But God will only help you when you ask for His help, and take time to “walk” with Him, and listen to Him, and tell Him what you need.

Be sure to tell God ***Thank You*** for loving you, and thank Him for being with you!

If you neglect to do all this, you will fall apart like Samson did! But if you faithfully do just these simple tasks, **you will be mightier than Samson in your life!**

Tuesday Afternoon Session
Convictions and Separation from Things
Dan Eberly

INTRODUCTION (Psalm 119:104)

How does a Christian get to that place that the writer of this Psalm is?

How can we protect ourselves against the ruin of sinful behaviour? We must build walls of separation!



How do we build a wall of separation from sin and the devil?

1. You must be _____! Matt. 7:13,14
2. You must honour the _____! Ps. 119:127-129
3. Develop Personal _____ and Convictions! Titus 2:12

The Blessings of Convictions

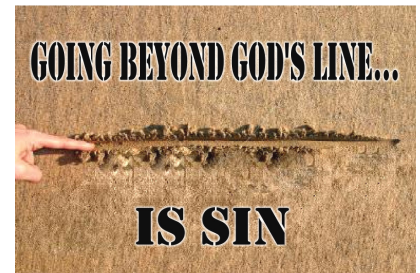
What Should a Christian be separated from? 2Cor 6:14-18

*The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.
Just realise that you will never stand alone as a Christian!*

Biblical Convictions of a Teenager

Most people only do what they want. But a Christian who is following the Lord Jesus Christ, does what Jesus wants done, and would never do anything that Jesus forbids! The decision to live in obedience to God's rules is called *living by conviction*. Having a convinced conscience of what is right and wrong to do (Hebrews 5:14).

A biblical Conviction is a limit on what you will allow yourself to do. Others may not have any problem watching certain TV programmes, or listening to Rock Music, but a Bible Believing Christian, who has the Holy Spirit of God in them, will have big problems doing such things. Biblical convictions are absolute lines that God has drawn in His word, that you as a Christian must decide to never cross! You need to obey your parent's rules, but you YOURSELF need to develop your own Biblical rules that you will live by (1Thessalonians 5:21). If you don't have Biblical limits on what you will or won't do, then the devil will always be able to trap you, and ruin you just like he did Samson. Here are some absolutely important things that every teenager needs to decide to do, to keep the devil OUT of their mind and life. These are Biblical limits (convictions) that you need to be "_____ " about (Romans 14:5). Tick off the convictions that you already believe and live by!



- Believe the King James Bible IS the perfect word of Almighty God! Not the "New" King James Version, or the "New" International Version (NIV), or any other English bible (2Timothy 3:15; Psalm 12:6,7; Psalm 119:140). God has preserved His words in the KJB.**
- Do whatever God says do, even when the government makes it illegal like _____ did (Daniel 6:7-10). What did the government make illegal? _____**
- My purpose in life is to love God supremely and order my life around His priorities always seeking to do _____ will instead of only my own (Matthew 6:33).**
- Know for SURE that you have been born again (2Timothy 1:12). Don't just hope so!**
- Never embrace or caress a person of the opposite sex until _____ (1Cor 7:1). That means, no touching, no hugging, no kissing, and no dancing with someone who is not your wife or husband! Make sure your first kiss is saved for your husband or wife on the day you get married!**
- Never _____! My marriage is a life-long commitment to God and to my marriage partner (Matthew 19:6).**
- Never listen to rock music, rap music, country and western music, or any music that the world thinks is "cool". If all your friends think a certain kind of music is "cool" then that is a sure sign that God doesn't think so! God calls the music of the world the "song of _____" (Ecclesiastes 7:5). Listen to music that causes you to worship and praise God, and be thankful for everything! Rock music will usually make you angry and frustrated.**
- Always dress _____, respecting your body, and not showing it off (1Timothy 2:9).**
- Never drink any _____ drinks – ever (Isaiah 5:22)!**
- Always work a job – never live off of the government (1Timothy 5:8)**
- Always give to God your tithe, every time you receive any money (Proverbs 3:9,10).**
- Trust God more than you trust your feelings, or your friends. Abraham was "_____ " that, what God had promised, he was able also to perform (Romans 4:20,21).**
- Always hate and run from sexual sins like _____ did (Genesis 39:7-9). My body is the temple of God's Holy Spirit and I must never defile it with sinful thoughts or bad attitudes, or sinful actions (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1Thes 5:22).**

If you don't yet agree with some of these, then you need to decide to trust God's rules anyway, no matter how hard it is to obey. Become fully persuaded and not just lazy about this stuff.

Tuesday Evening Session
Samson's Great Purpose
Keith Hamilton

SAMSON THE JUDGE OF ISRAEL



Real, true faith is man's weakness leaning on God's infinite strength. – D.L. Moody

Wednesday Devotion: Living Above the Norm!

Judges 14:1-4

What do *YOU* do just “naturally”, without even thinking about it? You breathe in and out without thinking about it; you swallow; you burp after a meal maybe. Some people get angry at everything around them, and aren’t even aware of it. Some people just complain about things, and others just naturally are lazy – they never help out around the house, or get up early to read their Bible and pray about their needs – they just stay in bed until they HAVE to get up! Some people are just naturally smart and never have to study, while others have to work very hard to learn their classes at school.

What we can do by ourselves, and what we do without even thinking, is not good. Only when we do the things we are supposed to do, when we obey God’s word, and obey our parents, and our teachers, and our bosses, are we actually doing something good!

Just doing what you find easy to do, will lead you away from obeying God, and doing what is right – because doing what is right to do, is usually harder than doing only what you want to do.

God had made Samson so that he would lead the people to God, and be an example of a godly man. But Samson only did what he wanted to do. He was not a good example of what a Christian should be. When he saw a beautiful Philistine woman, he demanded that his parents go and get her to agree to marry him. He just lived like everyone one else was living – just demanding things. He never asked God who he should marry, and he never listened to his parents as they tried to protect him from wrong decisions. Living like everyone else does is a selfish way of living, and is a trap that Satan uses to get God’s people to live in defeat and disappointment.

Answer the following questions about yourself and see if you are just “normal” (like everyone else), or are living above the norm, like a Christian should live! Circle your answer for each question.

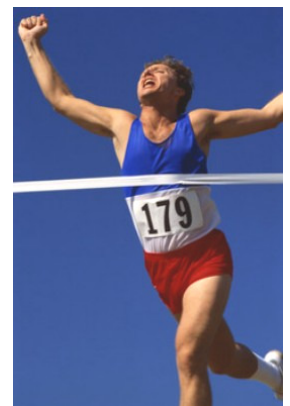
1. How hard do you find it to read your Bible? (**I love to, Find it hard, Couldn’t be bothered**)
2. How hard do you find it to watch TV for 2 hours? (**Love it, It’s hard, Don’t care**)

One comes naturally, and the other comes by obedience to God.

3. Do you miss church when you’re not there? (**Definitely, Not really, Never bother to go**)
4. Do you miss being with your friends in the estate? (**Definitely, Not really, Don’t want any friends**)

If we only do what comes naturally, we, like Samson will become a slave to our “nature” and become a puppet in the hands of the devil. But, if we do what God says to do, even when it is hard and uncomfortable, then we become free. We will be able to do more than we think we can, because God’s power is enabling us, and not our own power.

God says in Philippians 3:13,14 that we should “_____” all the things behind us and around us that are unimportant, and should “_____” the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” That means push ourselves beyond what we are used to doing! According to Revelation 3:21 there is a great promise to those who “overcome” their natural habits, and do what Jesus commands us to do! What is that reward? That we will get to “_____.” That will be a great reward!



Wednesday Afternoon Session

Samson's Rebellion

Dan Pero



After leaving Delilah and joining the army, Samson then remembered something important.

Men fall in private long before they fall in public.

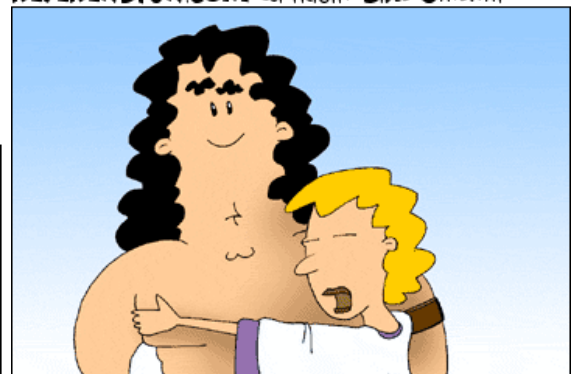
J.C. Ryle

Wednesday Teen Session
When is a Guy/Girl Relationship Wrong?
Pastor Stephen Finley

A man who has not learned to say “no” – who is not resolved that he will take God’s way in spite of every dog that can bark at him, in spite of every silvery voice that can woo him aside – will be a weak and wretched man till he dies.

Alexander MacLaren

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Thanks to God's Servant (See Judges 16) 06-25-2003

OH SAMSON DARLING, I LOVE YOU TO DEATH

Wednesday Evening Session

The Failure of Success

Kevin O’Keeffe

“The biggest mistake you can make is to continually fear that you will make one!”



Thursday's Devotional: What's it Like being a Slave?

Galatians 5:1

Samson was a mighty and a very smart man. He was supposed to be fighting against the Philistines to free the Israelites from slavery! But instead, Samson became a slave himself! He was tricked, then trapped, and then put into chains and made to work all day *like an animal*! In the end, mighty Samson was publicly made fun of by his enemies in a pagan temple as they mocked him and made fun of his God, and of his failure as a Christian! Satan had taken away all the freedoms that God had given Samson, and now Samson lived like a slave! The worse thing about this story is that Samson brought all of this upon himself! If you had asked Sampson in his early childhood if he wanted to be a slave when he grew up, his answer would have been NO! Yet, we can see that each of the choices Sampson made throughout his life brought him farther from God, and deeper into slavery.



Let's read Judges 16:21, and think about what is it like being a slave.

Some of you think school is slavery, or doing chores! But Samson had to grind wheat all day long, pushing on a long pole that he was chained to, going around and around a millstone, scraping two huge rocks against each other – it was hard work! All of Samson's massive strength was used just to make *flour*! What a waste! A slave lives no life at all! He is forced to do whatever his owner wants him to do. He gets no respect or care, and he doesn't get paid - ever. All that matters to the owner is whether the work is getting done. It's a very empty and joyless life being a slave. What are "fetters"? _____
 _____ . How would they feel around YOUR wrists and ankles?

Even today, there are millions of people in slavery all over the world. They have no hope, and no freedom. You would probably wish for them to become free like you are, wouldn't you? Well, the thing is, some of you might be slaves yourselves right now. You don't have to be wearing chains and fetters to be a slave. All you have to do is live like Samson did, ignoring all of his parent's warnings, and all the warnings of the Bible.

Read Romans 6:16. All you have to do to become a slave to Satan is just obey your own heart, and just do what you want! But if you obey God and do what HE wants, you will actually become free! Not free to do what YOU want again (that will lead you back into slavery), but free to do right, and follow Jesus. You cannot do both (Luke 16:13).

Samson became a slave to his own lusts and to his own desires. Are YOU doing things you know are wrong? It's hard to stop doing those things, isn't it? That is because they are making you more and more a slave to them every day you obey them! Wouldn't it be terrible to be a slave of Satan? Is that how YOU want to live for the rest of your life? John 8:36 says that Someone has already made us free. Who was that? _____. Is it possible for a Christian to become tricked by sin and made into a slave all over again? _____.

The Bible teaches that we don't have to be a slave anymore! If you don't want to be a slave to the lusts you usually give in to...

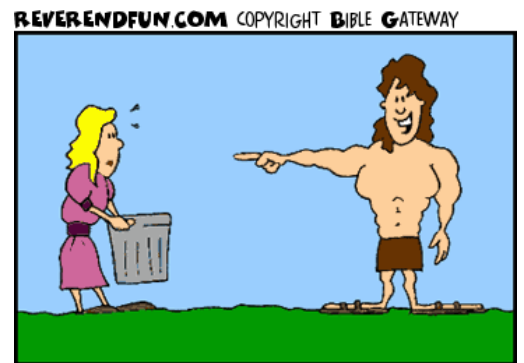
1. Humble yourself and admit to God that you are a slave to sin, and ask to be forgiven and made all over again, as a born again child of God (John 3:3)
2. _____ (believe with all your heart) God's promises are true for your life (Rom 6:11)
3. Get help from your parents and Pastor on how to live differently (James 5:16)
4. Learn how to fast and pray against the devil as you fight to get the victory (Mark 9:29)
5. Keep walking in Christ's liberty (Gal. 5:1) – never go back to living like Samson!

Thursday Afternoon Session

Selfish Praying

Dan Pero

“When we pray for the Spirit’s help... we will simply fall down at the Lords feet in our weakness. Only there we will find the victory and power that comes from His love.” – Andrew Murray



(See Judges 16) 10-13-1999

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OH, YOU THOUGHT THAT I SAID THAT I WOULD LOSE MY STRENGTH IF YOU TOOK OUT THE TRASH? ... I MEANT TO SAY THAT THE GREAT AND MIGHTY SAMSON WOULD ONLY LOSE HIS STRENGTH IF YOU DID THE DISHES, MOWED THE LAWN AND TRIMMED THE HEDGES

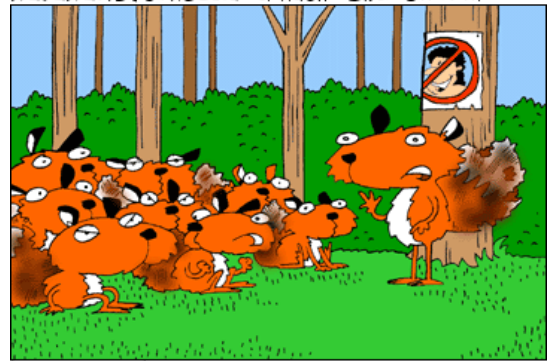
Thursday Evening Session

Sowing and Reaping

Judg. 16:20 (Gal 6:7) (Mat 7:20)

Pastor Dan Eberly

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(See Judges 15:1-7) 11-29-2001

ATTENTION EVERYONE ... THE FIRST MEETING OF "FOXES AGAINST SAMSON" WILL NOW COME TO ORDER

“Your failure to realise your weakness without Christ, will be your greatest failure.”

Friday Devotional: When Troubles Are Good for you!

Psalm 119:67,71,75

Samson is having a bad time. Everything that can go wrong, has gone wrong for Samson. Even though he is the strongest man alive, nothing is working out right. He just goes from trouble to disaster, and it is not going to get any better.

But did you know that having a bad day can be good for you? So how can that be a good thing for Samson? Let's find out the good things about troubles.

- ◆ Troubles stop you from **sinning** (Psalm 119:67)
- ◆ Troubles humble you - makes you aware of consequences of wrongdoing.
- ◆ Troubles test our faith in God (Psalm 119:75) – when we get upset at our parents when we have gotten into trouble, or when we have a bad attitude because we are having a bad day, we are showing that we are not trusting our Heavenly Father to take care of us.

The worst thing that can happen to a person is to never get into trouble - to always be protected from getting into trouble.

Samson NEEDED to be humbled so that he would turn back to God. As long as things were going well, Samson didn't think he needed God. But we have learned it was actually *then* that he needed God the most! Samson was not listening to God, so God had to speak to him through disasters, and disappointments.



How to ACCEPT Troubles (allow them to work on your)...

1. Accept troubles, and getting into trouble as God trying to get your attention
2. Accept troubles as a chance to repent and get right with God
3. Accept troubles as a way to humble you so that God can start to bless and use you
4. Accept troubles without anger or bitterness or complaining – God is always good!
5. Accept troubles as a trial of your faith - or even the exposing of the lack of your faith!

Are any of those things easy to do? **Yes** or **No**

Do you ever get into trouble? **Yes** or **No**. Is that a good thing? **Yes** or **No**

What is God doing when He gets you caught doing something you shouldn't?

How do you normally act when you are caught disobeying? Do you argue and get mad? Or do you admit you did wrong, and ask forgiveness? (circle one)

Which way SHOULD you react? _____

What does it mean to be humbled? _____

What should Samson have done when he kept getting into trouble with God? _____

What will happen if we don't humble ourselves and become sorry for disobeying? _____

So, don't be like Samson and only get into to trouble – humble yourself and allow troubles to draw you closer to God!

Friday Teen Guy Session

God Made You Strong!

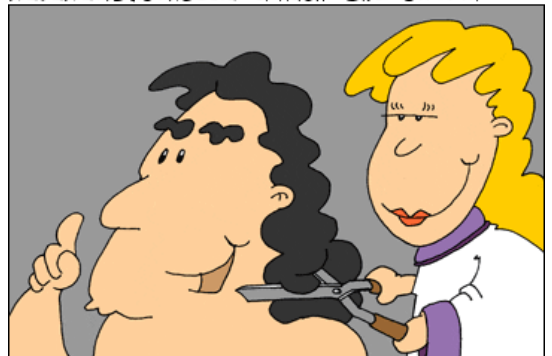
Craig Ledbetter

Friday Teen Girls Session

Be Different than Delilah

Sharon Pero

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Thanks to Brian Hockett (See Judges 16)

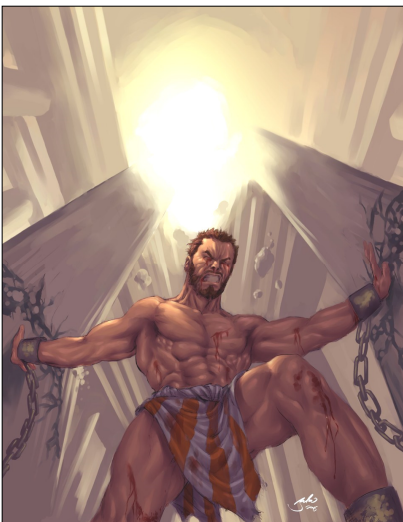
11-12-2003

REMEMBER DELILAH, JUST A LITTLE OFF THE TOP

Friday Evening Session

Last Minute Faith

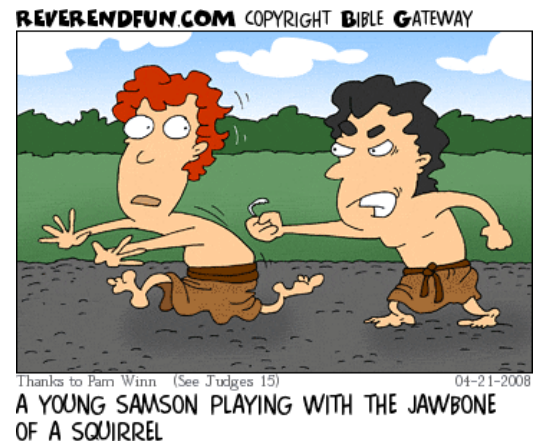
Layton Kelly



“It really takes courage to believe in things unseen. And it is a strength to trust in the God who is there!”

Saturday Morning Session
What Samson Could Have Been Like
Pastor Stephen Finley

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31





Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig

Meeting at the Westgate Foundation

Main Road, Ballincollig (West End)

Sundays at 10.30am and again at 7pm

Wednesday Evening Open Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at 7pm

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