

LESSON 6: SAMSON THE FAITHLESS

Biblical Passages: Judges 13:1-7; 16:4-30

Invite each family member to describe something that they love to do. For example, one family member may love to go fishing and hunting while another member enjoys playing musical instruments or playing a favorite sport. Ask: **Where did you get your love for those activities?** Explain that, since God creates us, He is the ultimate source of those desires and talents. Many of the things we now enjoy doing first required learning the skills to do those things successfully. In fact, no one picks up an unfamiliar instrument and plays it like a master. Those early attempts to play the instrument usually resulted in fumbling fingers and squawking sounds that were anything but pleasing. Part of the process is trying, failing, and trying again. So many times, the same principle proves true in our spiritual walk. As we seek to follow God, we may fail, but through those failures we soon become stronger followers of God.

Read Judges 13:1-7 and 16:4-30. From the moment of conception, God had a specific plan for Samson. God provided specific instructions to Samuel's parents to guide them as they raised Samson, which they diligently tried to follow. But when Samson grew up, he made many mistakes and repeatedly chose not to follow God's plan. Although Samson knew that God was the source of his strength, he showed little respect for the gift God had given him. When his head was shaved, Samson had broken all three requirements of his Nazarite vow, and God had "left him." Yet, while imprisoned by the Philistines, Samson recognized his mistakes and begged God to strengthen him for one final chance to bring God's judgment on the Philistines. His last, and greatest, act was to pull down the pillars of the Philistines house of worship to their god, killing himself and every Philistine inside.

God has a purpose for each person in your family. It's up to each of us to embrace God's purpose and live our lives accordingly. Conclude by encouraging each family member to pray that the person on their right will fully commit to discovering and living out God's plan for them.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. What gifts has God given to each member of your family? How could those gifts be used to honor and serve God?
2. What kinds of things tempt us to use our gifts for the wrong reasons? Or to refuse to use our gifts at all?
3. How should we respond when we make mistakes in using the gifts God has given us?
4. Why is it comforting to know that God can and will continue to use us for His purposes even if we've made mistakes in the past?