

CONTEXT

- › What do you know about Samson (see Judg. 13:24-25)? What was the purpose of his Nazarite vow?
- › What made Samson worthy to serve as a judge for the nation of Israel (see Judg. 14:6; 15:14-16)?

JUDGES 16:4-6

- › What did the Philistines want? What did Delilah want? What methods did they use to get what they wanted?
- › What pressures are you facing that may compromise the mission God has given you? How can we grow to be more aware of the pressures around us?

JUDGES 16:13-21

- › What tactics did Delilah use to influence Samson (v. 15)? How does this relate to the tactics Satan uses to tempt us?
- › Did Samson have any reason to trust Delilah? Why did he give in (v. 16)?
- › What were the consequences of Samson's compromise (vv. 19, 21)?
- › What spiritual ramifications did Samson's actions have (v. 20)? Why do you think Samson was not aware that the Lord had left him?

CENTRAL TRUTH

The mission God has given us requires fighting temptation and uprooting sin.

NOW WHAT?

- › What are some of the key areas where you are tempted to give into sin? How can we guard against spiritual compromise in these areas of our lives?
- › Why might temptation be particularly difficult to overcome in the context of dating? How should this change the way you approach such relationships?
- › Do you have a plan for fighting the sin in your life? For overcoming temptation? If not, journal a plan now and make plans to share it with a trusted friend this week.
- › How might focusing our time, energy, and resources on the mission God has given us help us achieve victory over sin?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-14. Have you identified the means of escape God provides when you face temptation? How might knowing that God provides an escape, give you confidence in your fight against sin? What idols or potential idols might you need to flee from this week? Journal your answers to these questions.
- › **Memorize:** Judges 17:6
- › **Pray:** Thank God for promising to always provide us a means of escape when face temptation. Thank Him also for Jesus, who, though He was without sin, became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). Pray that God would help you see that fighting sin is essential to living on mission for Christ. Pray that God would help you and your group to determine to put the sin in your lives to death for the purpose of pointing others to Christ.

KEEP ON DIGGING

Read each of the following verses and journal what each says about temptation and how you might overcome it.

- › Luke 4:1-13; 22:40
- › James 1:13-18
- › 1 Corinthians 10:6-14