

### The Unlikely: The Narcissist Judges 13-16

- “Let me die with the Philistines.” **Judges 16:30**
- And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a **Nazirite** to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” **Judges 13:1-5**
- “Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring **Judges**” **14:5**
- “His father went down to the woman, and Samson prepared a feast there, for so the young men used to do.” **Judges 14:10**
- After some days he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and behold, there was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey. He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion. **Judges 14:8-9**
- God’s favor is not held together by your goodness.
- Don’t mistake Gods patience with sin with his permission to participate in it.
- Whether or not you choose to live by God’s standard doesn’t change what it is.
- Then Samson called to the LORD and said, “O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.” And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death

were more than those whom he had killed during his life. **Judges 17:28-30**

- In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. **Ruth 1:1**
- Jesus
- God's people are for His purposes
- God's blessings are not founded in your performance, but in His grace
- God's plans for your life are always better experienced without sin

### **LIFE GROUP GUIDE**

**Starter Question:** What does this story show us about God's love and will?

1. Read Judges 13:1-5
2. What does this passage teach us about how God uses people for his purposes?
3. Why do we tend to think we have to earn God's blessings through good works and moral living?
4. Knowing this, why **should** we **want** to live holy?
5. As someone who constantly broke God's standard why do you think Samson never repented? How does this compare to today?
6. Read Judges 17:28-30
7. What was Samson's contribution to God's deliverance of his people from philistine rule?
8. Read Hebrews 11:32.
9. The fact Samson is named as a man of faith in this powerful passage says what to us about the Lord?
10. What does this mean about us individually?
11. Read Ruth 1:1 & 4:22- What does God was working in the foreground with the Judges to preserve his own lineage as Christ in the background communicate?
12. How should that affect the way we think? How should this give us hope?