

## What Steps Are You Taking?

“**I looked for a man** among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but **I found none.**” - **Ezekiel 22:30 NIV**

**Samson Didn't Ruin His Life \_\_\_\_\_; He Did It \_\_\_\_\_ At A Time!**

**One day** Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. The people of Gaza were told, “Samson is here!” So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, “At dawn we'll kill him.” - **Judges 16:1-2 NIV**

### SMALL STEPS TOWARD BIG DESTRUCTION

**1. Samson \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_!**

But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. - **Judges 16:3 NIV**

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you **don't fall!** - **1 Corinthians 10:12 NIV**

**2. Samson \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_!**

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was **Delilah.** - **Judges 16:4 NIV**

The rulers of the Philistines went to [Delilah] and said, “See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him.” - **Judges 16:5 NIV**

Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength.” With such **nagging** she prodded him day after day until he was **tired to death.** - **Judges 16:15-16 NIV**

Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And **his strength left him.** - **Judges 16:19 NIV**

**3. Samson \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_!**

Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “**I'll go out as before and shake myself free.**” But **he did not know that the Lord had left him.** Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. - **Judges 16:20-21 NIV**

#### • WHERE ARE YOU STEPPING AWAY FROM GOD?

But the hair on his head **began to grow again** after it had been shaved. - **Judges 16:22 NIV**

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

- What's one of the biggest mistakes you've ever made? What started you on your path towards making that mistake?
- What are some steps away from God that tend to get overlooked and aren't recognized as dangerous?
- What are some of the most common struggles you've seen that tend to lead people toward destruction?
- Why do you think so many people continue to make the same mistakes when they are well aware of the consequences?
- How have you rationalized your own sin throughout your life in the same way Samson did?
- What did God speak to you during this message? Discuss it.
- How can you begin to pray this week to be leave any sin behind?