

2023



ROAD CLOSED

THE SIGNS OF LIFE SERMON SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

When you drive, there are different signs you will see on the street and you have to obey these signs - they warn us. The sign *road closed* means that you can't go through and there's about to be a detour. In your life, you will feel that certain roads are closed and people don't have access. You will even feel like you're not flowing the way you are supposed to flow. We conclude this sermon series, "Signs of Life," by learning from Samson and how he ended up on the road being closed.

THIS WILL BE A RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

SAMSON WAS TOLD TWO THINGS:

1) He was to be set **aside as a Nazarite**

- No haircut
- No drinking
- Nothing dead

2) **His destiny**

- You are not like everyone else
- Stop comparing yourself to others
- You have purpose

*Judges 13:5 - He will **take the lead** in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.*

*Judges 13:24-25 NIV - [24] The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, [25] **and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him***

- The hand of God is on your life and the Spirit of God will prove to you that He is with you.

WHENEVER THE SPIRIT STIRS YOU, YOU ARE GUARANTEED TO BE VICTORIOUS.

GOD MAKES THE ROAD IN THE SUPERNATURAL

3 TIMES " THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON HIM"

*"**The spirit of the Lord** came powerfully upon him."*

*Judges 14:6 **LION - HE KILLED IT***

*Judges 14:19 **DEBT - HE PAID IT***

*Judges 15:14 **ENEMY - HE CONQUERED IT***

- You have conquered what was supposed to get you and you did it with God.

What have you conquered with the help of the Spirit of the Lord?

ROAD OPEN

Judges 15:20 NIV - “Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.”

- You can't lead until you have killed it, paid it, and conquered it.

What have you done to prepare you for leading?

YOU KILLED IT. YOU PAID IT. YOU CONQUERED IT.

WHAT CAUSES THE ROAD TO CLOSE?

POWER

Judges 16:5a NIV - “The rulers of the Philistines went to her 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.”

- There is a struggle of power to get you out of your seat of power. Everyone is not in your corner and some are waiting for you to have a bad day.
- The natural eye can't figure out how you do what you do.

How do you handle being in a seat of power? Have you allowed yourself to become compromised?

MONEY

Judges 16:5b NIV - “Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.”

- Do not allow someone to put a price tag on your purpose, anointing, or gift.
- Money cannot buy you.

How much did you settle for in place of your purpose? Was it worth it?

SEX

Judges 16:19 NIV - After putting him to sleep on her lap,

- Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- When you get in bed with someone, you also bring with you your purpose, destiny, and assignment.
- You better cover your purpose, anointing, and destiny because it cost you too much.

Recall a time when you sacrificed your body for sin. How did it make you feel? If you are still entangled in the sin, what scripture can you stand on to get free?

ROAD CLOSED

Judges 16:20 NIV - *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.*

- You begin to operate with no power when the road is closed. You're able to perform, but the results will not be the same. You are not effective.

Have you ever tried to do something without God? What was the result?

JUST BECAUSE YOU’RE PREDESTINED DOESN’T MEAN YOU’RE EXEMPT FROM THE ENEMY COMING AFTER YOU.

SIGNS THE ROAD IS CLOSED

Judges 16:21 NIV - *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 grain in the prison.*

- 1) Seized him – **LOST CONTROL**
- 2) Gouged out his eyes – **NO VISION**
- 3) Took him down to Gaza – **LOW PLACE**
- 4) Binding him with bronze shackles – **BONDAGE**
- 5) Grinding grain in the prison – **LIFE IS DIFFICULT**

- Your road was not destroyed, it was temporarily closed.
- What if someone’s breakthrough is based on you being open?

What has taken place in your life that has caused your road to close? How are you working to get the road open again?

**STOP LOOKING TO BE PERFECT.
LOOK TO BE STRONG IN THE AREAS YOU ARE WEAK IN.**

WHAT IT TAKES TO REOPEN

TIME (SELF)

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

- Give yourself the space to grow. You have to see progress.

Recall a time in your life when you felt you hit your lowest point. How did you recover?

REACH FOR HELP (OTHERS)

Judges 16:26 NIV - Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them."

- You cannot do it on your own. You have to get someone who can:
 - Grab you
 - Lead you down the road
 - Talk to you
- You have to rebuke pride.

Who is your safe person? Why have you chosen them?

PRAY TO GOD (GOD)

*Judges 16:28 NIV - Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "**Sovereign Lord**, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."*

- God still reigns over your situations. You have to believe He is still sovereign.
- Go to your testimony and ask God to remember you.

What testimony can you recall to help you? What are your current prayers to God?

TAKE YOUR SEAT AND PROTECT YOUR SEAT.

ROAD OPEN

*Judges 16:30 NIV - Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. **Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.***

- Die doing the will of God.
- Your next push will be greater than your previous push.
- There is another win in you.

What has God called you to do? Are you fulfilling your purpose? If not, why?

YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO GO WITH THE GIFT THAT GOD GAVE YOU.

QUESTION

What are you doing to make sure your road reopens?

DECLARATION

The road has re-opened and I shall recover all!

PRAYER

Lord, You created me with a specific purpose in mind. I am not like everyone else. You set me apart and filled me with Your anointing, gifts, and destiny. You have given me power and authority to overthrow my enemies. Thank You, Lord, for loving and creating a plan just for me. You continue to push me when I feel like there is nothing left. Your faithfulness towards me encourages me to not give up. I love You Lord and I am grateful for Your sovereignty. Let Your will be done, in Jesus' name, Amen!