



SAMSON

A LIFE WELL WASTED

SAMSON—A LIFE WELL WASTED, PART 3: SMALL STEPS TOWARD A BIG DESTRUCTION

He had brains, he had brawn. But he had one weakness and it eventually cost him everything. The mighty Samson was destined to be the next leader of Israel. But as his gaze drifted, so he eventually drifted far away from God. How did this drift happen? Did it happen overnight, or was it a slow erosion? Today, we will discover that most of us don't take huge leaps away from God and our morals. Most of us take small steps away from our values and our conviction and, over time, we don't even recognize the person we once were.

BIG IDEA: You ruin your life one step at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's one of the biggest mistakes you've ever made? What started you on your path towards making that mistake?
2. Talk of a time that you were closer to God than you are now. What happened? Why did you drift? What caused you to drift?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, read 1 Corinthians 10:12.*

Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. If you think you are standing firm you had better be careful. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (Message)

4. What is the danger of being naïve? What is the danger of being self-confident?
5. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Judges 16:1-6.*

¹ One day Samson went to the Philistine town of Gaza and spent the night with a prostitute. ² Word soon spread that Samson was there, so the men of Gaza gathered together and waited all night at the town gates. They kept quiet during the night, saying to themselves, "When the light of morning comes, we will kill him." ³ But Samson stayed in bed only until midnight. Then he got up, took hold of the doors of the town gate, including the two posts, and lifted them up, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and carried them all the way to the top of the hill across from Hebron. ⁴ Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. ⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong and what it would take to tie you up securely."

Judges 16:1-6 (NLT)

6. What was the source of Samson's power? (*hint: it wasn't his hair! Read Judges 13:25, 14:6, 14:19, 15:14*)
7. Samson started out strong but let little areas of sin in his life steal God's plan for him. Think about the little things in your life that have led you to compromise and take small steps away from God. Share those with the group.

8. With your Bible or Bible App, read Judges 16:15-21.

¹⁵ Then Delilah pouted, "How can you tell me, 'I love you,' when you don't share your secrets with me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!" ¹⁶ She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. ¹⁷ Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never been cut," he confessed, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as everyone else." ¹⁹ Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him. ²⁰ Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." ²⁰ But he didn't realize the LORD had left him. So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison. Judges 16:15-21 (NLT)

9. What things in your life currently have the potential to cause you to drift away from God? Remember, they may not necessarily be bad things.
10. What are some of the most common struggles you've seen that tend to lead men towards destruction?
11. What is the one thing you struggle with the most that could drive you down a dangerous path?
12. How have you rationalized your own sin throughout your life in the same way Samson did?
13. What prices have you paid as a result of your sin? What have you learned from your actions?
14. Why do you think so many men continue to make the same mistakes when they are well aware of the consequences?

THINK ABOUT IT

God wants to use you to change hundreds, maybe thousands of people's lives for Him but that can't happen when we allow sin to rule our lives. Take a little time and pray to God that he would help you overcome the sin that you fight with and use you to impact your friends for the name of Jesus.

MOVING FORWARD

Samson took 56,250 steps towards his destruction. Where are you stepping away from God right now? What areas in your life do you need to give more attention? In what areas of your life are you drifting away slowly from your values, one small baby step at a time?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. If you think you are standing firm you had better be careful. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.
1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (Message)