

# onechurch

## bigIdea

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:** Moving away from God happens by steps, not leaps.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Last week, Chris said that, “We move close to God not in great leaps, but small steps.” This week, Chris said, “We drift from God not in great leaps, but small steps.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
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?

*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)*

3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12 above. What is the danger of being naïve? What is the danger of being self-confident? Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What subject does Paul talk about after 1 Corinthians 10:12? How is verse 12 connected with verse 13?
4. Read Judges 13:1-5. What three vows does the Nazirite make in Numbers 6:1-21? (Samson will break all three.) What is the purpose of this separation and abstinence? Is it to be temporary or lifelong? How long is it to be for Samson?
5. What type of girl was Samson supposed to date/marry (Deuteronomy 7:1-4, Judges 3:5-6)? What type of person should Christians date/marry? (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)
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. Read Judges 14:1-9. How did Samson's actions cause his parents to sin (Judges 13:3-5)?
8. 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.
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. Read Colossians 3:5. Write down some actions you can take to “put to death” the sin in your life. Maybe if gossiping is a downfall for you, you need to quit hanging out with certain people who gossip all the time. Maybe lust is your battle and you need to have accountability when you get on the computer or with the movies you watch. Whatever it is, write them down and memorize 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 to help you overcome them.

### 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.

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

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)*