

A background image of a bookshelf filled with books of various colors and sizes. The books are arranged on several shelves, creating a dense, textured backdrop. The colors range from dark blues and greys to warm browns and reds. Some book spines are visible with text like 'ENGLISH HISTORY 19-1943' and 'Oxford'.

# *Story Tellers*

SAMSON:  
JUDGES 13-16



# Read

## Judges 16:15-22

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<sup>15</sup> And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies." <sup>16</sup> And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. <sup>17</sup> And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man." <sup>18</sup> When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. <sup>19</sup> She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

# Read More!

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<sup>20</sup> And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And he awoke from his sleep and said, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him. <sup>21</sup> And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. <sup>22</sup> But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

## **Cross Reference: Hebrews 11:32-34**

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

# Ask

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In Judges 16, Samson slowly gives in and reveals the secret of his strength. What does this show us about how temptation works over time? What are some small compromises that can lead to bigger problems if you're not careful?

Samson prays to God directly 2 times, both when he is in desperation. Why do you think it sometimes takes hitting a low point for people to turn to God? What does it look like in your life for you to choose dependence on God before things fall apart?

Samson didn't reject God—he just never really pursued Him. Do you think it's easier to ignore God than outright reject Him? What does actively pursuing God actually look like for you?

In Judges 16:20, it says, "He did not know that the Lord had left him." What are some ways a person can slowly drift from God without realizing it? How would you personally recognize if that was happening to you?

Samson was incredibly strong physically but weak spiritually. Where do you feel "strong" on the outside but weak on the inside? How could you begin to strengthen that area?

# Gospel Sharing Tool

1) **Ask permission:** "Can I ask you a spiritual question?"

2) **Ask 2 questions:** "What happens when you die?" "If God asked, 'Why should I let you in?', what would you say?"

3) **Listen + Repeat back**

4) **Share Gospel in 4:** God / Us / Jesus / Response

5) **Invite:** "Where are you at with Jesus?"

6) **Follow up:** "Want to talk/read more this week?"

7) **Pray for and or with them:** "Can I pray with you?"







**THE GARDEN**  
YOUTH MINISTRY

Sundays  
9 AM, *Netcong*  
10 AM, *Randolph*  
11:15 AM, *Netcong*

Wednesdays  
7 PM, *Netcong*

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