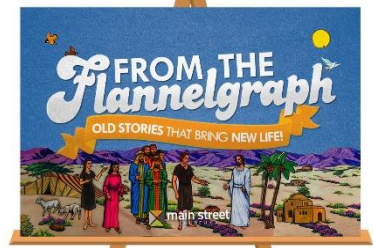


# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **FROM THE FLANNELGRAPH**

Message: **Part 4 – SUPER SAMSON** (Judges 13-16)

February 25, 2018



## Connect & Pray (20min)

**\*Icebreaker: Super-Hero Movies & TV Shows are incredibly popular...**

a. Who was/is your favorite Superhero? b. If you could have 1 Superpower, which would you choose & why?

**\*Opening Prayer: Let's begin our time together with Praise & Thanks to GOD.** [Use "popcorn prayers" ]

1. **DECLARE** (4min)

*GOD, because You are GOOD, POWERFUL, \_\_\_\_\_.*

2. **LISTEN** (3min)

*JESUS, Is there anything that You would like to say to me, impress on my heart or remind me of today?*

3. **ASK** (3min)

*JESUS, please bless me in \_\_\_\_\_ so that I can bless others...*

## Sunday Message Feedback (45min)

**\*Speaker:** Pastor Shawn Vandop.

1. **\*The Story of SAMSON is recorded in [Judges 13-16](#)** (please read it on your own this week).

**\*(Optional) WATCH [The Bible Project's Introduction to the Book of Judges](#)** (YouTube. 8min).

**\*Read over the following overview of Samson's life to get everyone reacquainted with it.**

Probably one of the best known stories in the Bible is that of Samson. Even non-believers at some point have probably heard the story of Samson and Delilah. Samson's story starts with lofty promise. He was set apart and had a very specific purpose even before he was born. God had chosen him to be one of the Judges in Israel and liberate them from the rule of the Philistines. God told his parents to set him apart as a Nazirite. A typical Nazirite vow would usually last either days or weeks, but Samson's was for a lifetime. He was not to have any fermented drink, touch anything dead or cut his hair. As you go through the story of Samson you can see him breaking each one of these vows, with the cutting of his hair being the last one. Here Samson was supposed to be Israel's liberator and he goes to marry a Philistine woman. He tells his parents to get this woman for him to marry. This part of his story goes to show that Samson was very self-centered. He was defying his parents by marrying someone from outside Israel. Samson was meant to be against the Philistines, not marry one of them. More often than not we continue to see a very 'broken savior': a man who pursues illicit sexual relationships outside of the covenant, who mistreats and uses women, who is given to anger and rage, and whose chief virtue is seen to be the murder of Philistines. Samson is not being held up as a model of godliness; his actions violate the Mosaic Law on countless occasions. God uses Samson in spite of his sinfulness, not because of it. We all know that God is bigger than our mistakes and this is true with Samson. God used Samson's poor decisions to fulfill His greater purpose. Even though Samson was dedicated to God and set apart for a larger purpose he still ended up a blind slave of the very people he was supposed to conquer. Despite all his failings God still used him.

2. **Message Feedback:**
  - a. Is there anything new that you learned about Samson on Sunday?
  - b. What is the most surprising or shocking part of Samson’s story for you?
  - c. What encourages or challenges you?
  
3. **“In those days Israel had no King and everyone did what was right in their own eyes”**  
– is a statement repeated four times in the Book of Judges.
  - a. How does this connect with our lives & culture today?
  - b. What do you see in Samson that you see in the culture around us?
  
4. Read [Judges 14:4](#). *Even though Samson was making poor decisions God was still using him.*
  - a. Have you ever seen God use “less than ideal” circumstances to bring about his good and fulfill His purposes? What were they?
  - b. How has God used some of your mistakes and bad choices for His greater purpose?
  - c. If you could rewrite Samson’s story what would his life look like if he truly lived to honor God? Could his impact have been different? What advice would you have given him?
  
5. Read [Judges 16:20-22](#). Samson took for granted that God would always be with him no matter how he acted. Read [Romans 6:1-2](#). How can Christians gauge if they are truly seeking forgiveness, or just using God’s grace to live how they want?
  
6. **How does Samson, a broken savior, contrast with Jesus, the True Savior?** Discuss the differences.
  
7. Read [Judges 16:28](#). Finally, at the end of Samson’s life he cried out to God. Read [Hebrews 11:32](#). Samson is mentioned for his faith. What can we learn about God and His desire to use you despite your mistakes?
  
8. Read [Judges 16:17](#).
  - a. In this passage Samson confesses to Delilah that his strength comes from his hair that has never been cut. While he gives lip service to his Nazarite vows, he believes his strength comes from his flowing locks, not the Lord.
    - i. What gifts/talents/abilities has God given you?
    - ii. How do we keep ourselves from taking all the credit for them and relying on them- instead of God?
    - iii. How do we remind ourselves that these gifts were given to us from God?
  - b. How have you used your strengths to serve others?
  - c. In which new ways could you use your strengths to serve God and others?
  - d. Is there something God has given you that you haven’t thought about using to serve Him or others?

## Application & Prayer (20min)

\* **APPLY:** *So encourage one another and build each other up...* [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)

- **Many Biblical characters can act as a mirror**, showing us our faults, and showing how God works in their lives despite their faults.
  - a. **Is there a particular person in Scripture that you see yourself in?**
  - b. How do you see God working in his or her life?
  - c. How do you draw encouragement from his or her life?
- **Many of the “heroes” of the Bible messed up in really big ways.**  
God is gracious and uses them anyways to bring about His good, His Kingdom. It’s easy to see our mess ups and failures as reasons God should not use us and disqualify us.
  - a. How do stories like that of Samson’s help us understand God and His work in our life?
  - b. How might God use some of your big mistakes to minister and bring about good, bring about life?
  - c. What is one step you can take this week to put this message into practice?
- **How was personal time with God this past week?**  
**What is 1 thing you have learned or been challenged/changed in?**  
**Do you have a Plan for your Devotions this week?** Time, Place, Reading/Study Plan?

\* **PRAY:** Break into groups of 3-4 or Men/Women to Pray for one another, based on your discussion.

\* **2018 MOVIE: *Samson***

<https://samsonmovie.pureflix.com> [www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/samson](http://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/samson)

## Announcements

### BAPTISM SUNDAY

**Sun. March 4.** During the Morning Services. Info & Registration - [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism)

### PRAYER SUMMIT

**Sun. March 25.** 6pm-7:30pm. Main Street Auditorium. *Worship – Prayer – Communion.*

### GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SERVICES

**Fri. March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am** (Kids programs for Nursery-Gr.4)

**Sun. April 1<sup>st</sup>. 9am & 10:45am.**

### SET FREE Retreat

**April 20&21.** Friday 5:30pm-9pm / Saturday 9am-7pm. \$40/person.

Register Online: [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free)