



Faith Community Church
Samson, Part 2
(Judges, Part 8)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Ask God to help us examine our lives both for where we have compromised and how we can draw near to Him.

Icebreaker: Share a lighthearted example of a time you did something completely irrational (e.g., locking your keys in the car while it was running, trying a ridiculous DIY fix, or buying something bizarre). How did you feel?

Key Points

1. **Called but Not Consecrated:** It is entirely possible to be chosen, gifted, and used by God while simultaneously failing to live a life that actually honors and pursues Him.
2. **The Irrationality of Compromise:** Continual, unchecked sin desensitizes our conscience and distorts our judgment, leading us to make reckless and irrational decisions we would normally avoid.
3. **The Blindness of Spiritual Apathy:** Deliberate compromise acts like a spiritual anesthetic, making us completely oblivious to the enemy's traps and numb to the loss of God's presence and power.
4. **The Source of True Strength:** Our ultimate spiritual victories do not depend on our personal resolve, talent, or background, or hair length 🙄, but on our daily dependence on the presence of the Lord.

Discussion Questions

1. Did you identify clutter, change up your worship, or pray for camp? How did you experience God through that?
2. Samson was *called*, *empowered*, and *used* by God, but he wasn't actually *living* for God. What does it look like in modern life for someone to be spiritually gifted or active in church, yet completely self-centered in how they live? (Ephesians 1:3,6)
3. Look at Judges 16:1. Samson, the leader of Israel, willingly walked directly into the capital city of his sworn enemies just to satisfy his flesh. Why do you think we often convince ourselves that we can "visit" tempting environments or situations without facing major consequences? (Proverbs 6:20-35)

4. In the sermon, we saw how Delilah repeatedly and explicitly set traps for Samson, yet he kept coming back for more. Why does ongoing compromise make us so blind to obvious red flags and warnings in our lives? (1 Timothy 1:5-19)
5. Judges 16:20 contains the sobering phrase: "*But he did not know that the Lord had left him.*" How can we know if we're in God's presence? (Isaiah 59:1-13)
6. Pastor Tim noted that "*Samson's greatest battle was himself.*" When you look at your own spiritual walk, why is subduing our own internal desires and impulses often much harder than fighting external challenges? (Eph 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
7. Read James 4:4-10. Try reading it in the Message Version. What is the difference between simply trying harder to "stop sinning" versus the biblical command to *submit to God* and *draw near to Him*?

Practical Applications

1. **Build an "Early Warning" Boundary:** Identify one specific area where you have been testing boundaries or allowing a "small" compromise (e.g., in your entertainment choices, speech, finances, or thought life). Intentionally set a hard, non-negotiable boundary this week to stop the drift before it accelerates.
2. **Audit Your Armor (Stay Alert):** Read Ephesians 6:10-18 this week. Pick one piece of spiritual armor (like the *Shield of Faith* or the *Sword of the Spirit*) that you have neglected lately, and write down a practical way to consciously "put it on" every morning before you interact with the world.
3. **Practice Radical Transparency:** Samson lived a highly isolated spiritual life—he never sought counsel, never prayed with others, and never confessed his weaknesses. Break that cycle by sharing one current internal struggle or temptation with a trusted group member or accountability partner before the week ends, asking them to pray for you and hold you accountable.

Closing Prayer: Father, please give us eyes to see and courage to confront any hidden compromises. Give us a renewed hunger to draw near to You rather than flirting with the world. Guide us to live a life fully sold out for You.