



Faith Community Church
Samson, Part 1
(Judges, Part 7)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Ask God to help us examine our lives both for apathy and for areas where we have been captured by the culture.

Icebreaker: What piece of clothing have you been tempted to buy because of WHO you've seen wearing it?

Key Points

1. God's absolute sovereignty means He can and will weave our flawed choices, broken promises, and messy situations into His plan to accomplish His ultimate purposes.
2. Spiritual apathy causes us to become so comfortable with the corrupting values of our culture that we stop crying out to God for deliverance.
3. True rescue and salvation do not come from our own human strength or earthly heroes, but from God alone.
4. A loving, Perfect Heavenly Father will intentionally disrupt our comfortable, compromising relationships to pull us out of spiritual blindness.

Discussion Questions

1. Last week, did you pause prior to promising, examine an inconvenient commitment, or surrender your "deals" with God? Tell us about it!
2. In Colossians 1:9–14, Paul prays for spiritual wisdom, endurance, and fruitfulness. When you look at Samson's life in Judges 14, how do his initial choices contrast with that kind of life? Do you see them aligning, or contrasting, with yours?
3. In Judges 13, Israel is oppressed for 40 years but *never cries out to God for help*. Why do you think it is so easy for us to get comfortable with spiritual oppression or unhealthy environments instead of asking God to intervene? (Eph 6:10-13)
4. Samson's parents try to guide him, but they ultimately give in to his demands for a Philistine wife. How do we, as friends, parents, or mentors, sometimes prioritize keeping the peace or pursuing earthly desires over standing firm on God's standards? (John 12:42-43)

5. Judges 14:4 says that God used Samson's compromised marriage to create a "confrontation" with the Philistines. How does it comfort or challenge you to know that God is sovereign enough to use our messy mistakes to bring about His purposes? (1 Sam 2:2-6, Hosea 6:1-4)

6. Look at **Psalm 62:1-2** (the verse used for Day 3 of the devotional). What does it practically look like to find rest and salvation in "God alone" rather than relying on our own strength or circumstances?

7. Pastor Matt shared a personal story about how a casual conversation 12 years ago led to his current ministry. What is a "there are no accidents" moment in your own life where you can clearly see God's sovereign hand directing your steps? (Esther 4:14)

8. What are some subtle ways our modern culture (at work, in youth sports, or through media) tries to "yoke" us and reshape our character before we even realize it's happening? (1 Peter 4:1-4)

Practical Applications

1. Identify the Clutter: Commit to a "distraction-free 30 minutes" at least three times this week. Turn off your notifications (try "Do Not Disturb"!), find a quiet space (even outside in nature), and dedicate that time solely to reading Scripture and listening for God's prompting.

2. Fight Apathy by "Changing It Up": If your prayer or Bible reading has felt like a routine checklist, break the cycle this week. Choose a specific block of Scripture—like Colossians 1:9-14—and pray it directly over yourself, your children, or a friend every day. Make a plan to find a new Scripture each week to pray for yourself or others.

3. Pray for a Name from the Table: Intentionally step into the sermon's challenge to support the next generation. Take time this week to pray specifically for a youth ministry student or leader by name, asking God to make Himself real in their lives and to protect them from cultural compromise. If you didn't grab a name, pray for Pastor Matt.

Closing Prayer: Father, please wake us up this week. Help us to see where we have compromised or rested in our Lazy-boys. Help us to seek You fervently. In Jesus' name.