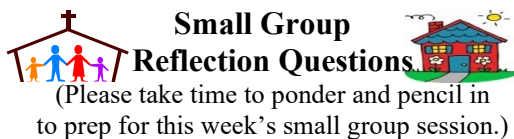


Message Outline

Samson

Judges 13



Small Group

Reflection Questions

(Please take time to ponder and pencil in to prep for this week's small group session.)

Intro: Judges: life in dysfunctional days!

- Last week's lessons from Jephthah's life...

12:8-15—More “minor judges”...

- No mention of “delivering” or “resting”...

13:1—40 years and the Philistines...

v.2-5—Other baby stories in Scripture (Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary)...

- “Angel of the Lord” stepping into more hurt and offering God's hope...
- Nazirite practices... a child to be different must live different.

v.6-7—Manoah's wife message to husband...

v.8—Manoah asks God for this experience too.

v.9-10—Follow-up visit...

v.11-14—Desiring child's larger purposes, angel reminds of daily practices...

v.15-20—Echoes of Gideon's story (Jdg.6)...

- Significance of names and His name too wonderful (cf. Is. 9:6)...

v.21-25—God's faithful to His Word...

Lessons Learned from Samson's Beginning

1) _____

- Contrast of Jephthah's and Samson's early years... God uses all kind of backstories!

2) _____

- Potential purposes behind Nazirite vows...
- Samson's life slides when these life practices slide!
- A Christian's call to live different (Jn.17:15-17, Rom.12:2, 1Pet.1:14-15)...
- Practices to help shape us...

a)

b)

c)

3) _____

- Importance of worship in experiencing God...

**God is at work in this world. Where did you “see/sense” Him this week?*

Read: Luke 18:9-14, 7:29-50

**What do you notice about the character of tax collectors and how Jesus treats them?*

Movie Review: Ep.2 “Shabbat”

**Mary's quote: “I don't understand it myself. I was one way and now I'm completely different. And the thing that happened in between—was him. So yes, I will know him for the rest of my life!” Like Mary cited, what's something Jesus has changed in your life story?*

**Compare and contrast the Shabbat meal at Nicodemus' house and Mary's house. Why do you think Jesus showed up at Mary's?*

**When is the last time you've invited someone over to your house and shared with them what God's been up to in you like Mary did? (Challenge: DO IT!)*