나눔 메모

God's Guide to Fulfilling Our Mission
Doing God's Work in God's Way

Small Group Discussion Guide · Judges 14:1–4

Bible Passage

Judges 14:1–4

Sermon Summary

Samson had the strength to defeat the Philistines, but rather than attacking them without cause, he used his marriage to a Philistine woman as an opportunity to create grounds for conflict. In the process, however, he adopted Philistine wedding customs and ate honey from a lion's carcass, even though a Nazirite was forbidden to go near a dead body. Samson ignored God's call to holiness and tried to fulfil God's mission through worldly methods. His goal may have been right, but his approach was wrong, and he ultimately failed as a judge. God's mission must be carried out in God's way—the way of holiness.

Discussion

1. Icebreakers

1. Share about a time when you tried to use something without reading the instructions first, and things did not go as planned.
2. Samson had the strength to defeat the Philistines, yet he did not rush into battle; he looked for a legitimate reason to act. When we make important decisions, how carefully do we examine our motives?

2. Exploring the Passage

1. Trace the events in Judges 14, from Samson's decision to marry the Philistine woman in Timnah to the riddle and wager at the wedding feast. What happened along the way?
2. Verse 4 says that Samson "was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines". If this explains his motive for the marriage, how did it relate to his God-given mission?
3. Samson pursued a good goal—the deliverance of Israel—through the wrong means: intermarriage, Philistine customs, and honey from a lion's carcass. Are there any methods I am overlooking or excusing simply because I believe my goal is good?
4. The sermon asked, "Does a good outcome justify any method?" Have there been times when an urgent or important goal made compromise seem acceptable? Share honestly.

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3. Going Deeper

1. Samson's parents "did not know that this was from the LORD". Could God be at work even when those involved do not recognise it? What principles should guide our discernment in situations like this?
2. The sermon noted that churches can become so focused on numerical growth that attracting Christians from another church is labelled as evangelism. What would it look like for a church to prioritise holiness over numbers?

4. Life Application

1. If you are facing an important decision this week—such as changing jobs, moving house, or ending a relationship—write one sentence explaining why you are considering it before making your decision.
2. When an urgent goal tempts you to overlook the process or compromise your methods, what will help you pause for 30 seconds and ask, "Is this the way of holiness?"

Related Bible Passages

1. Numbers 6:2–3 — These verses introduce the Nazirite vow and provide the original instructions that shaped Samson's calling.
2. Judges 15:3 — After his marriage fell apart, Samson said, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines," confirming that he had been looking for legitimate grounds to act.
3. Romans 12:2 — The command not to conform to the pattern of this world stands in contrast to the Philistine wedding culture Samson adopted.
4. 1 Peter 1:15–16 — This passage directly supports the sermon's central message: holiness must come before mission.

Good to Know

The word Nazirite comes from the Hebrew nazir, meaning "set apart", "separated", or "dedicated". Nazirites were not to drink wine or other fermented drinks, cut their hair, or go near a dead body. Samson was set apart to follow these instructions even before he was born.

This Week's Practice

1. On Tuesday, if you feel pressure to produce results at work, resist passing your responsibilities on to a colleague. Complete your work as honestly and faithfully as you can.
2. At home after Sunday worship, tell your family about one decision you made this week and explain why you made it.

Choose one of these practices, then share your experience and listen to one another at the next meeting.

Pray Together

- Pray that, as we make decisions this week, we will be guided by clear spiritual convictions rather than by trends or personal gain.
- Ask God for the strength to stop when an urgent goal tempts us to compromise our methods.
- Pray that we will focus on living holy lives rather than chasing numbers or results.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we confess that, like Samson, we sometimes pursue good goals through worldly methods. As we make decisions this week, help us not to follow trends or seek personal gain, but to act with clear and faithful convictions. When we feel pressure to achieve results quickly, keep us from compromising the way we pursue them. Teach us to treasure the guide You have given us—the call to holiness—and help us fill each day with holy living. We trust that You will accomplish wonderful things through the fruit of holiness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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