

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAMSON: A DETERIORATING FAITH

*“For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.” (Judges 13:5)*

### Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Samson was dedicated to God from birth as a Nazirite, but he ignored his identity and his vows. Despite his weaknesses, God still used Samson to enact His will.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God has His plan for our lives. He is not limited by our weaknesses. The Spirit of God will empower us to do His will.
<i>Good Works</i>	Learn to protect our identities in Christ.

### A. God’s Provision

1. *God provides for Samson’s parents:* It is clear that Samson’s parents revered God, despite Samson’s mother’s barrenness and the decline in the Israelites’ faith.
2. *God provides for the Israelites:* After forty years of oppression at the hands of the Philistines, God “began to deliver Israel” (Judg 13:5). His plan began with Samson (v. 14).

### B. Samson’s Feats of Strength

1. *Kills a lion (Judg 14:5–6):* We don’t know if this is the first time Samson demonstrated his strength, but it is a very dramatic scene in which the Lord showed His power working in Samson.
2. *Defeats the Philistines (Judg 15):* Because of his desires, a cycle of vengeful retribution began between Samson and the Philistines, resulting in the deaths of a thousand Philistines.
3. *Dies with the Philistines (Judg 16:4–30):* Samson failed to keep the secret of his strength, resulting in his torture, imprisonment, and humiliation. Ultimately, he dealt a crippling blow to the Philistine nation, but he himself tragically died alongside the enemy leaders.

### C. Samson’s Weaknesses

1. *Self-centered:* All the events of his life were driven entirely by his own self-centered decisions and desires. He was a man who persisted in his own desires and ignored his Nazirite vows.
2. *Lacked resolve:* When pressed enough, Samson relented and gave up his secrets.
3. *Lacked a relationship with God:* When Samson tried to shake himself free a fourth time, the Bible notes that he did not realize that the Lord had departed from him. This reveals to us the underlying issue in his faith: he lacked a personal relationship with God.

### Life Application: Protecting Our Identity in Christ

1. *Do not be controlled by our desires*  
Like Delilah, the world today often pesters us daily to turn away from God. We need to be aware that following our desires erodes our control and, rather than fulfilling us, makes us thirst for more. Our desires are powerful temptations that we will always face (Ps 50:15; 2 Tim 2:22; Gal 5:16).
2. *Be aware when our faith is deteriorating and take steps to return to God*  
To protect our identity, it is important that we constantly evaluate our faith and always seek to draw closer to God. If we find that we have begun to stray and are following our desires more than our faith, then we need to take immediate steps to return to God (Phil 4:6; 1 Sam 15:22; Jas 4:7–8).

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## Lesson 4 Homework Assignment

### Samson: A Deteriorating Faith

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Judges 13:5):

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1. What is a Nazirite?
2. "I say then: \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, and you shall not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_." (Galatians 5:16)
3. What made Samson's Nazirite vows out of the ordinary?
4. What was Samson's biggest weakness?
5. How do we know that Samson lacked a relationship with God?
6. What kind of threat do worldly desires pose to our faith?
7. Take a moment to evaluate your faith and spiritual life. Do you think you have a good relationship with God? Or do you follow your desires more than your faith? Briefly explain why you think so.