



Samson – Week Five

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

During our fifth and final week of the *ComeBack* series, we shift to the story of Samson, a man who compromised his great purpose for momentary pleasure. Learn how Samson was able to overcome his failures and fulfill his God-given destiny.

Discussion Questions

As we examine the life of Samson, we discover that Samson's unwillingness to confront his weaknesses led to his downfall. Like Samson, sometimes our appetites, our attitudes, and our actions blind us to compromise, and we miss out on God's best.

- Are you a person who examines or ignores his or her weaknesses? Explain.
- *When we don't work on our weaknesses, our weaknesses start working on us.* What does this statement mean to you?

Judges 13:5 reads, *"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."*

Samson was born to faithful Hebrew parents at a time when the Israelites lived immersed in a pagan culture. Samson was dedicated to God with a destiny and purpose to help rescue the Israelites from Philistine control and influence. Unfortunately, Samson's sinful compromise hindered God's plans.

- If you could travel in time to visit Samson in his youth, what counsel would you give him?
- What wise counsel do you wish someone had shared with you at a young age?

Enter Delilah

"Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

Judges 16:5 is followed by a series of attempts from Delilah to discover the source of Samson's strength. Unsuspecting and prideful, Sampson reveals that his strength comes from his hair. While Samson slept, Delilah cut off his hair, thus allowing the Philistines to capture him.

- What do you think motivated Delilah to betray Samson?
- What do you believe motivated Samson to reveal his secret?

Keys to a ComeBack

1. **Something has to grow.**

Judges 16:22 says, *"However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven."*

The return of Samson's hair reflects the return of his godly convictions. To make a comeback, we have to grow or change our perspective, our desires, or our attitudes.

- Think of a time when you made a comeback. What had to "grow" in you first?

2. **Get in the right place.**

In Samson's darkest moment, he positioned himself in the best place for his comeback.

Judges 16:26 says, *"Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them."*

- The "right place" can be in godly relationships, in the Word of God, at church, in serving, etc. What other examples can put you in the "right place"?

3. **Cry out to the Lord.**

Judges 16:28-30 tells us that Samson "called to the LORD," asking God to remember and strengthen him one last time. God heard his cry and answered him.

Like Samson, maybe you've lost your purpose and you're increasingly overcome by your weaknesses. To make a comeback, you need God to step into your life.

- Do you believe God can still use you despite any sinful or rebellious choices you've made? Why or why not?
- Share other examples in the Bible of people who sinned greatly but were later used by God for a purpose.

Life Challenge

- Ask God to reveal any weaknesses you have not seen or dealt with.
- This week choose one of the **Keys to a ComeBack** to focus on: 1) something has to grow, 2) get in the right place, or 3) cry out to the Lord.

Prayer

Pray for the specific needs of the group.