Lesson 61 - Samson

based on Judges 13-16.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?
Judges 13:1 And the children of Israel did _____ again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

Amid the widespread apostasy the faithful worshipers of God continued to plead with Him for the deliverance of Israel. Though there was apparently no response, though year after year the power of the oppressor continued to rest more heavily upon the land, God's providence was preparing help for them. Even in the early years of the Philistine oppression a child was born through whom God designed to humble the power of these mighty foes.

2) Whom did God raise up?
Judges 13:2-3 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was _____; and his wife was barren, and bare not. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a _____.

On the border of the hill country overlooking the Philistine plain was the little town of Zorah. Here dwelt the family of Manoah, of the tribe of Dan, one of the few households that amid the general defection had remained true to Jehovah.

3) What instructions were given her?
Judges 13:4-5 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and _____ not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any _____ thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a _____ unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.
4) What did she do?
Judges 13:6-7 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an _____ of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and _____ a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

The woman sought her husband, and, after describing the Angel, she repeated His message. Then, fearful that they should make some mistake in the important work committed to them, the husband prayed, ***"Let the Man of God which Thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born."***

5) What did Angel of God tell Manoah?
Judges 13:13-14 And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her _____. She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her _____.

God had an important work for the promised child of Manoah to do, and it was to secure for him the qualifications necessary for this work that the habits of both the mother and the child were to be carefully regulated.

6) What did they name the promised child?
Judges 13:24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name _____: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org

The divine promise to Manoah was in due time fulfilled in the birth of a son, to whom the name of Samson was given. As the boy grew up it became evident that he possessed extraordinary physical strength. This was not, however, as Samson and his parents well knew, dependent upon his well-knit sinews, but upon his condition as a Nazarite, of which his unshorn hair was a symbol. Had Samson obeyed the divine commands as faithfully as his parents had done, his would have been a nobler and happier destiny.

7) What did Samson do that wasn't wise?
Judges 14:1-2 And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the _____. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.

Association with idolaters corrupted him. The town of Zorah being near the country of the Philistines, Samson came to mingle with them on friendly terms. Thus, in his youth intimacies sprang up, the influence of which darkened his whole life. A young woman dwelling in the Philistine town of Timnath engaged Samson's affections, and he determined to make her his wife.

8) Did his parents try to stop him?
Judges 14:3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy _____, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.

Just as he was entering upon manhood, the time when he must execute his divine mission, the time above all others when he should have been true to God, Samson connected himself with the enemies of Israel. He did not ask whether he could better glorify God when united with the object of his choice, or whether he was placing himself in a position where he could not fulfill the purpose to be accomplished by his life.

9) What should Christians be aware of today?
2 Corinthians 6:15-16 And what concord hath Christ with _____? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the _____ of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Satan is constantly seeking to strengthen his power over the people of God by inducing them to enter into alliance with his subjects; and in order to accomplish this he endeavors to arouse unsanctified passions in the heart. But the Lord has in His Word plainly instructed His people not to unite themselves with those who have not His love abiding in them.

The wife, to obtain whom Samson had transgressed the command of God, proved treacherous to her husband before the close of the marriage feast. Incensed at her perfidy, Samson forsook her for the time and went alone to his home at Zorah. When, afterward relenting, he returned for his bride, he found her the wife of another.

10) What happened when he came back?
Judges 15:1-2 But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my _____ into the chamber. But her father would not suffer him to go in. And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy _____: is not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.
11) How well did Samson take that?
15:4-5 And Samson went and caught three hundred _____, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and _____ up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives.
12) When the men of the area found out they came against him, what happened?
Judges 15:8 And he smote them _____ and _____ with a great slaughter: and he went down and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam.

Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org

His revenge, in the wasting of all the fields and vineyards of the Philistines, provoked them to murder his wife, although their threats had driven her to the deceit with which the trouble began. Samson had already given evidence of his marvelous strength by slaying, singlehanded, a young lion, and by killing thirty of the men of Askelon. Now, moved to anger by the barbarous murder of his wife, he attacked the Philistines and smote them ***"with a great slaughter."***

13) What did the Philistines do as a result?
Judges 15:9-10 Then the Philistines went up, and pitched in Judah, and spread themselves in Lehi. And the men of _____ said, Why are ye come up against us? And they answered, To _____ Samson are we come up, to do to him as he hath done to us.

To this place he was pursued by a strong force, and the inhabitants of Judah, in great alarm, basely agreed to deliver him to his enemies. Accordingly, three thousand men of Judah went up to him. But even at such odds they would not have dared approach him had they not felt assured that he would not harm his own countrymen.

14) What transpired?
Judges 15:12-13 And they said unto him, We are come down to bind thee, that we may deliver thee into the hand of the Philistines. And Samson said unto them, Swear unto me, that ye will not _____ _____ me yourselves. And they spake unto him, saying, No; but we will bind thee fast, and deliver thee into their hand: but surely we will not kill thee. And they bound him with two new cords, and _____ him up from the rock.

He permitted them to bind him with two new ropes, and he was led into the camp of his enemies amid demonstrations of great joy.

15) While they were shouting for joy, what happened?
Judges 15:14-15 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as _____ that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. And he found a new _____ of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

Had the Israelites been ready to unite with Samson and follow up the victory, they might at this time have freed themselves from the power of their oppressors. But they had become dispirited and cowardly. They had neglected the work which God commanded them to perform, in dispossessing the heathen, and had united with them in their degrading practices, tolerating their cruelty, and so long as it was not directed against themselves, even countenancing their injustice. When themselves brought under the power of the oppressor, they tamely submitted to the degradation which they might have escaped, had they only obeyed God. Even when the Lord raised up a deliverer for them, they would, not infrequently, desert him and unite with their enemies.

16) What did the Israelites do for Samson?
Judges 15:20 And he _____ Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

After his victory the Israelites made Samson judge, and he ruled Israel for twenty years. But one wrong step prepares the way for another. Samson had transgressed the command of God by taking a wife from the Philistines, and again he ventured among them, now his deadly enemies, in the indulgence of unlawful passion.

17) What did he do in Gaza?
Judges 16:1-2 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an _____, and went in unto her. And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall _____ him.

Their enemy was shut safely within the walls of the most strongly fortified of all their cities; they felt sure of their prey and only waited till the morning to complete their triumph.

Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org

18) What did Samson do?
Judges 16:3 And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the _____ of the _____ of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and _____ them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.

But even this narrow escape did not stay his evil course. He did not again venture among the Philistines, but he continued to seek those sensuous pleasures that were luring him to ruin.

19) What did he do?
Judges 16:4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was _____.

The vale of Sorek was celebrated for its vineyards; these also had a temptation for the wavering Nazarite, who had already indulged in the use of wine, thus breaking another tie that bound him to purity and to God. The Philistines kept a vigilant watch over the movements of their enemy, and when he degraded himself by this new attachment, they determined, through Delilah, to accomplish his ruin.

As the betrayer plied Samson with her questions, he deceived her by declaring that the weakness of other men would come upon him if certain processes were tried. When she put the matter to the test, the cheat was discovered. Then she accused him of falsehood, saying, ***"How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? Thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth."*** Three times Samson had the clearest evidence that the Philistines had leagued with his charmer to destroy him; but when her purpose failed, she treated the matter as a jest, and he blindly banished fear.

20) Why did he finally relent and tell her his secret?
Judges 16:16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was _____ unto death;
21) What did he tell her?
Judges 16:17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a _____ upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be _____, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

A messenger was immediately dispatched to the lords of the Philistines, urging them to come to her without delay. While the warrior slept, the heavy masses of his hair were severed from his head.

22) What happened?
Judges 16:20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was _____ from him.
23) What did they do to him?
Judges 16:21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his _____, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did _____ in the prison house.

What a change to him who had been the judge and champion of Israel! Now weak, blind, imprisoned, degraded to the most menial service! Little by little he had violated the conditions of his sacred calling. God had borne long with him; but when he had so yielded himself to the power of sin as to betray his secret, the Lord departed from him. There was no virtue in his long hair merely, but it was a token of his loyalty to God; and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited.

In suffering and humiliation, a sport for the Philistines, Samson learned more of his own weakness than he had ever known before; and his afflictions led him to repentance. As his hair grew, his power gradually returned; but his enemies, regarding him as a fettered and helpless prisoner, felt no apprehensions.

Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org

24) What did they foolishly do with Samson?
Judges 16:23 Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our _____.

There was the pomp of the sacrificial service, followed by music and feasting. Then, as the crowning trophy of Dagon's power, Samson was brought in. Shouts of exultation greeted his appearance. People and rulers mocked his misery and adored the god who had overthrown ***"the destroyer of their country."*** After a time, as if weary, Samson asked permission to rest against the two central pillars which supported the temple roof.

25) What did he pray?
Judges 16:28-29 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, _____ me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. And Samson took _____ of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.
Judges 16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house _____ upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he _____ in his life.

The idol and its worshipers, priest and peasant, warrior and noble, were buried together beneath the ruins of Dagon's temple. And among them was the giant form of him whom God had chosen to be the deliverer of His people.

Had Samson been true to his divine calling, the purpose of God could have been accomplished in his honor and exaltation. But he yielded to temptation and proved untrue to his trust, and his mission was fulfilled in defeat, bondage, and death.

Those who in the way of duty are brought into trial may be sure that God will preserve them; but if men willfully place themselves under the power of temptation, they will fall, sooner or later.

Can you see that we can't flirt with sin?

Would you like to fulfil God's calling for you?

When is it time to humble yourself before the LORD?

Copyright 2026 TE4J Interwebs. All Rights Reserved. www.TE4J.org