

Life Group Guide Jud 14:1–20 “Commitment or Chaos”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Aug 20 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun Aug 27

Icebreaker Question

What was the best and most cherished moment from your wedding or a friend’s wedding?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Unreliable character results in the rejection of godly advice (vv. 1-4).**
 - a. Samson’s unreliable character caused him to ignore godly advice.
 - b. Biblical principles for seeking or giving godly advice.
 - i. When giving or seeking godly advice, seek direction from God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 6:18).
 - ii. When seeking or giving godly advice, don’t speak too quickly (Jam. 1:19).
 - iii. When seeking or giving godly advice don’t be hypocritical (Gal. 6:3).
 - iv. When seeking or giving godly advice speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).
 - v. When seeking or giving godly advice trust God to work in the heart to bring repentance or actions pleasing to Him (2 Cor. 7:8-10).
- II. Unreliable character results in the absence of godly discipline (vv. 5-9).**
 - a. Samson, a Nazirite from birth, knew what God expected (13:5).
 - b. Four disciplines that should be evident in every believer’s life.
 - i. Bible Study - Personal and Corporate (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - ii. Prayer (Heb. 4:16)
 - iii. Fasting (Matt. 6:18-18)
 - iv. Disciple Making (Matt. 28:19-20)
- III. Unreliable character results in a lack of self-control (vv. 10-18).**
 - a. Samson lost all self-control due to pride and sinful lust.
 - b. Three steps to developing self-control.
 - i. Understand the significance of life’s daily choices (Gal. 6:7-8).
 - ii. Remember the wisdom of pay now and play later (Prov. 21:8).
 - iii. Recommit daily to a lifestyle of self-control (Luke 9:23; Prov. 25:28).
- IV. Unreliable character results in poor decision making (vv. 19-20).**
 - a. Samson made a poor choice which just made his situation worse.
 - b. Four questions to ask before making decisions:
 - i. Will it bring God glory (1 Cor. 10:31)?
 - ii. Will it help conform me to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29)?
 - iii. Will it make someone else’s life better (Phil. 2:4)?
 - iv. Am I relying on the Spirit’s power or my own selfish desire to make this decision (Gal. 5:16)?

Jud 14:1–9

Read Jud 14:1–9 Observation

1. In 14:1–2, whom did Samson want as a wife?
2. Read Deu 7:3–4. Whom was Israel forbidden to marry? What reason was given here?
3. In 14:3, how did his parents respond?
4. In 14:4, what did his parents not know? What was God seeking to accomplish?
5. Compare this moment with 2:3. What did God set the other nations of Canaan to be for Israel?
6. In 14:5–7, what happened when Samson came to the vineyards of Timnah?
7. In 14:8–9, what did he see and then do on the return journey? What did he do with his parents?

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Interpretation

8. Why does God care so much about whom His people marry? Who is affected by marriage choices? How does marriage relate to holiness and the Great Commission?
9. What parts of the Nazirite vow did Samson break here? Why is God continuing to let Samson go on his way? What purpose did God have in mind when He set him apart with this vow?

Application

10. How does your marriage or family demonstrate God’s holiness to each other and to others? What is one thing you know God wants you to change about your marriage? How might you pray for God to help you with this adjustment?
 11. How is your marriage or family working to be a part of the Great Commission that God has set His church for? What people are you actively seeking to share the gospel with?
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Jud 14:10–20

Read Jud 14:10–18: Observation

12. In 14:10, what did Samson prepare? What large group of men joined this party?
13. In 14:12–13, what did Samson offer these men? What were the stakes? Did they agree?
14. In 14:14, what was Samson’s riddle? Did the 30 Philistine men figure it out immediately?
15. In 14:15, what did the men do on the 4th day? What did they threaten?
16. In 14:16, what did Samson’s new wife ask of him? How did Samson answer?
17. In 14:17, how long did she weep? What did Samson do? What did she do in response?
18. In 14:18, what did the 30 Philistine men do on the contest’s last day? How did Samson reply?
19. In 14:19–20, who came upon Samson? What did Samson do? Where did he go? What became of his wife?

Interpretation

20. How did Samson’s many decisions put others in jeopardy? How did the Philistine men put others in jeopardy to get what they wanted? What difference was there between the Philistine way of living and Samson’s? Why did that matter to God?
21. What was God seeking to accomplish when His Spirit came upon Samson? Why did God use Samson at this time? As you answer, please remember God’s bigger purposes for this conflict we saw in Jud 2:3.
22. How are Christians tempted to be like the world in our conflicts? What does God want us to do when the world acts in evil ways against us? Why does God allow His people to be afflicted by others?

Application

23. How might you use this chapter to encourage fellow Christians to act differently than the world?
 24. What parts of your life most resemble the ways of the world? How will you respond to this difficult truth? What parts of your life will you hand over to God this week to seek God’s holiness in your life? Whom from the church will you ask to help you?
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