

## SAMSON NEEDS SELF-CONTROL

JIM NICODEM | DECEMBER 18 & 19, 2021

JUDGES 13-16

### Introduction

1. The Influence of the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The Pull of the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The Shortage of \_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_\_ it

- \_\_\_\_\_ it

4. The Absence of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. In what area(s) of your life do you exercise self-control? In what area(s) of your life do you need greater self-control?
2. What are the 5 stages of the repeating downward cycle in Judges? Read Judges 13:1, 2, 5. Which stage (besides the final one) is noticeably absent in this cycle? Why was it absent (according to the sermon)? What life-lesson should we glean from this observation?
3. How are Christ followers like boats, based on Pastor Jim's analogy? In what ways does the influence of the world undermine self-control in the area where it's needed in your life? How could you eliminate or limit that influence?
4. Read: Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23. Are people, by nature, good or bad? What does the Bible mean by "the flesh"? How does the flesh undermine our self-control efforts?
5. Read Judges 14:1, 2 and 16:1, 4. What was one area in which Samson experienced the pull of the flesh? Read Judges 14:19 and 15:3, 7, 11b. What was a second area in which Samson's flesh manifested itself?
6. Read Galatians 5:24. How can we break the power of the flesh in our lives? Explain.
7. Read Judges 14:3. What did Samson's parents do right in responding to his demand that they get him this woman? What did they do wrong (according to how the story unfolds)?
8. If you want to receive accountability well, what practices might you put in place? If you want to offer accountability well, what rules might you follow?
9. Read Judges 16:4-22. In what sense did Samson's uncut hair contribute to his super-strength? Why did the cutting of his hair render him powerless? Why is v.20 such a tragic statement-and what is the warning here for our lives?
10. Read Galatians 5:16. What command does Paul give Christ followers? How do we do that?

**Prayer Prompt:** CHAT Prayer: Think of one area of your life that you would like to gain self-control. Spend one minute praying each of the following ways over it: C - Confess to God your lack of self-control and ways it is harming you or others. H - Honor God by declaring who he is and how he can help you overcome this area. A - Ask God for help, and don't be afraid to be specific. T - Thank God in advance for helping you gain self-control and for freedom from sin through Christ.