

JUDGES 12-17

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

The book of Judges shows the failure of Israel as they fall into cycles of sin and disobedience. Over and over again we see sin, slavery to sin, supplication, and salvation through a judge. “Judge” in Hebrew means “deliverer,” and God’s people needed to be delivered often because everyone decided for themselves what was right and wrong. This time, as a result of their sin, they were handed over to the **Philistines** for forty-years. We are introduced to a man named Samson. Samson is a judge who had his strengths, but ended up creating more problems than solutions for Israel.

Before Samson was born, he was set apart for service to the Lord. An angel of the Lord announced his birth and said that he was to take the Nazarite vow and save Israel from the Philistines. The word **Nazarite** meant to “separate”, and the word **vow** means to promise. Anyone who took the Nazarite vow would promise to be different than everyone else. Taking this vow meant they were not to eat anything produced by the grapevine including wine, they were to leave their hair uncut, and they were to avoid any physical contact with a dead body. We see Samson do all of these things.

Samson sees a Philistine woman he wanted to marry, which was not allowed for Israelites. He is on his way to meet her and out of nowhere he is attacked by a lion. Samson was given supernatural strength from the Lord, and it tells us that “he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.” As he returned, Samson saw the dead lion and a swarm of bees had filled it, producing honey. Samson put his hand in to get some honey, which was the first violation of his vow. Samson then goes to prepare a feast for his wedding groomsmen with wine (another violation of his vow), and gives them a riddle. The men figure it out by asking the Philistine woman he was going to marry. In his anger, he kills thirty men, and also kills a thousand Philistines using the jawbone of a donkey. Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who eventually betrayed him to Philistines offering her 1,100 pieces of silver. Delilah revealed to the Philistines his strength which was in his hair, and if it was cut his power would be taken away (similarly to Rapunzel from Tangled).

Samson points to a need for a greater judge and rescuer: Jesus. Jesus, like Samson, was born from a woman who could not naturally have children after an announcement from the angel of the Lord. Jesus, like Samson, was betrayed to his enemies for pieces of silver. In the chaos and failure of Judges, we see God unfolding His big plan to redeem and restore the broken world through Jesus!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samson was a flawed Judge that points to a need for a perfect Savior
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samson Born Samson Marriage Samson defeats Philistines Samson and Delilah
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 13:1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.” Judges 14:4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.”
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philistines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of people who lived in Canaan considered enemies of the Israelites Nazarite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means “set apart” and it was a promise to be different Vow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A promise

Reflection Questions

1.	Who was Samson? What people group did God raise him up to defeat?
2.	What vow did Samson take? What were the things he was not allowed to do?
3.	Did Samson keep this vow?
4.	How does Samson point to Jesus?