

# THE Story

## Lesson 17 Chapter 8 A Few Good Men...Samson p.112-119

1. On the top of page 112 we read about the continual cycle that occurs in the time of the Judges. God's people kept embracing the sins, religion and behaviors of those around them. In what ways do Christians today embrace the sin, practices and culture of our day and end up sinning and feeling distant from God?

2. On page 112 we read about the birth of Samson. How did Samson's Nazirite vow differ from that of the ordinary Nazirite vow as recorded in Numbers 6?

*6 The LORD said to Moses,<sup>2</sup> "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of dedication to the LORD as a Nazirite,<sup>3</sup> they must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or other fermented drink. They must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins.<sup>4</sup> As long as they remain under their Nazirite vow, they must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins.<sup>5</sup> "During the entire period of their Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on their head. They must be holy until the period of their dedication to the LORD is over; they must let their hair grow long.*

3. In Judges 13:8 we read:

*Then Manoah prayed to the Lord: "Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born."*

What lessons can present-day parents learn from this?

In the note at the bottom of page 112 we read that his "parents raised the child as God had directed." In spite of that, Samson did not always follow their example. What lessons can present day parents learn from this?

4. Pages 113-116 record some of the contradictory elements of Samson's character. He was a judge in Israel, yet his life story centers around his relationships with Philistine women. His long hair denoted a Nazirite consecrated to God, yet his chief aim was to please himself.

On the top of page 116 we read how Samson prayed to God in his time of need. What impresses you about his prayer and God's grace in answering his prayer?

5. From the bottom of pages 116 to the end of the chapter we have the record of Samson's tragic encounter with a woman named Delilah.

What lessons are there for us concerning...  
the folly and fruit of sin?

the exultation of the ungodly at the downfall of God's servants?

God's enduring mercy to the penitent?

6. Samson's last prayer is recorded at the bottom of page 118. What do you think was really his heart's intent?

7. Contrast the sad end of Samson's life with the positive way it began. Can you suggest reasons why Samson fulfilled so little of his potential?

8. As you review this portion of God's inspired Word, what truths do you learn about our humanity....

sins to avoid &

examples to follow

our God...

His promises to claim &

His character to embrace