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| **LIFE GROUP NOTES**  **Judges #9**  **Samson – Broken but not broken (Ch14-16)** |  |

Start with open ended question moving to more specific responses before focusing on a Next Step. Encouraging everyone to be a ‘doer’ of the Word. There are lots of questions – choose those you think are best for your group.

**Samson – Broken but not Broken:** *What stands out most for you about Samson’s life? Would it be something you personally wish to aspire to or to avoid in your life? S*ome possible example answers:

- Samson’s faith and courage, the seriousness of his character flaws, the grace of God in using him despite his flaws, the amazing anointing on him etc.

**The Importance of Life’s Choices:**  *Samson made some bad choices in his life (e.g. Judges 14 v.1 – 4), but God still used him in His purposes.  How does this help you with regards to any bad choices and mistakes you have made?*

*Samson lived bordering on enemy territory. Are you inclined to live your life straying into Satan’s territory in your pass times? – e.g. in where you go; what you read or what you watch? If so, why do you think this is? Are you in danger of being deceived by the appeal of the things of the world? (James 4 v.4)*

**Anointed but Casual in his Consecration:** *Samson was casual and careless in his consecration to the Lord (Judges 14 v.5 – 9). Are there any aspects of your life in which you are prone to be careless in living up to God’s standards?*

**A Compromised Lifestyle:** *Samson lived a life of compromise in many ways (including his ungodly Philistine wedding – Judges 14 v.10). In what matters are you most likely to compromise and why? (e.g. maybe to be popular; or fear of not complying; etc)*

*Samson appears to have had no Godly friends (Judges 14 v.11) who could challenge him in his decisions and lifestyle.  Are you open to trusted Godly people to speak into your life; those who will exhort you as well as encourage you*?

**The Downward Spiral and Consequences of Sin:** *Samson never conquered his sexual addiction which ultimately led to his tragic death (Judges 16). What sin could potentially trip you up in your “life’s race” (Hebs.12 v.1) Do you need help with this; what are you going to do to address this?*

*Samson also had a serious anger problem (Judges 14 v.19); he was weak in self-control which fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gals.5 v.22 – 23) needs to grow and develop the most in your life? Seek the Lord for His help in this.*

*Even though God was able to do some great things through Samson, he never let God work in him to refine his character; he was proud and unteachable but what pleases God most is a broken and contrite heart (Ps.51 v.17). Encourage people to yield afresh to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Depending on what has been shared it may be appropriate to use David’s prayer in Ps.51 – e.g. v.10 – 12.*

**God’s Provision for the Thirsty:** *10. Like Samson, God’s perfect Deliverer: Jesus, triumphed over the enemy single-handed on the cross (Col.2 v.15). When Samson overcame the enemy single handed, God provided water to revive him at Lehi (Judges 15 v.19); when Jesus – the perfect Deliverer – overcome the enemy, once and for all, at Calvary (John 19 v.30), it was the means of God providing eternal life - the living water of His Spirit (John 4 v.14).*

(i) **Encourage** people to drink more deeply from God’s provision – Jesus’ invitation to the thirsty is still: “Come to Me and drink” (John 7 v.37).

(ii) **Pray** for anyone who truly desires the “rivers of living water experience” of the baptism in the Spirit (John 7 v.38 – 39)

(iii) Have **a time of thanksgiving** for all that Christ accomplished on the cross and worship Him, the Lamb upon heaven’s throne (Rev.5)

**(iv) Celebrate Communion** **and remember** all the Lord suffered to accomplish His victory over sin, Satan and death.