

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, Feb. 10th – Judges 13

Last week we read about six judges. This week we will only look at one, Samson. Most people, church and unchurch, know the story of Samson and Delilah. Hollywood has done a good job throughout the years portraying their story. This week we will study the whole story of Samson, the Judge. We start by setting the stage. What did Israel do? Who is the oppressor? How long were they oppressed (vs. 1)? Now that the pattern has been established, we are ready for the Judge to be raised up. Now read verses 2-7. This story sounds familiar doesn't it? Who else has this story? What happens next (vss. 8-14)? The reason behind the rules for Manoah's wife was that the child was to be a Nazarite. To understand what that means, listen to Pastor Shirley's sermon. How does Manoah and his wife respond and how does the angel respond to them (vss. 15-20)? What does Manoah believe (vss. 21-22)? But what is his wife's rationale as to why her husband is wrong (vs. 23)? How does this chapter end (vss. 24-25)? What does this reveal to you about God? How are we sometimes like Manoah? When do we need to be like his wife? Did you guess that Manoah's wife's story is similar to Mary, mother of Jesus? Spend some time considering when you have encountered the living God. How do you respond to Him? Are you even aware that God is right there with you, now and in the past?

Tuesday, Feb. 11th – Judges 14

Today we begin to study Samson's life. What is Samson's first request and why does it seem like a problem (vss. 2-3)? What was happening in the background and for what purpose (vs. 4)? What happens next (vss. 5-9)? So far Samson has violated several laws and Nazarite vows. But did you notice the superhuman strength in his hands when the Spirit comes upon him? Now the wedding is at hand and the celebrations are ready to begin. Since Samson is not from the area, what do his in-laws do for him (vs. 10-11)? While celebrating with them, Samson makes a wager with them about a riddle. What is the riddle and the wager (vss. 12-14)? Why does this sound promising, and a sure win for Samson? When the men cannot figure it out, what do they do (vs. 15)? Not a subtle threat, is it? How does Samson's bride go about getting the information (vss. 16-17)? When the day to reveal the riddle comes, what happens and what is Samson's response (vs. 18)? How does Samson pay off the prize (vs. 19)? How does this part of the story end (vs. 20)? What does this reveal to you about God? Does it make you uncomfortable that this blatant sinner is who God is going to use? Samson does pay the consequences for his decisions, but you have to admit, he did get the Philistines riled up. What does this reveal about us? Men, when have you threatened or taken authority over a matter to get your way? Ladies, when have you turned on the tears to get your own way? How does this point to the difference between Jesus and us? Take time today to ponder that we are to be like Jesus, not like those in this text. What should be different?

Wednesday, Feb. 12th – Judges 15

Today we complete Samson's wedding story. Remember, he is still married to the Philistine woman, even if it did not go well. But Samson is lonely and has cooled off from the experience and decides to return to his bride. What happens (vss. 1-3)? What does Samson do at this point (vss. 3-5)? What was the Philistine's first response (vs. 6)? Samson didn't take this well at all! What happens next (vss. 7-8)? Now the Philistines are most unhappy and are looking for Samson. How do they go about this and who helps them (vss. 7-13)? While things may not look good, we do need to remember God allowed this all to happen so that Israel would be free from Philistine oppression. How does God resolve this matter (vss. 14-17)? How do we know it was of God (vss. 18-19)? Samson knows it was God's strength through him that won the victory and God meets Samson's need. How does this chapter end (vs. 20)? How is this different from the other judges? Did you notice that Samson lives during the Philistine domination? There is no peace, just Samson. What does this reveal about God to you? What does this reveal about us? How does this point to Jesus?

Thursday, Feb. 13th – Judges 16:1-22

Now Samson had earned quite the reputation. We start off today with what that reputation looked like. What happens in verses 1-3? Samson is still making waves and trouble for the Philistines. But the Philistines are not done yet. Who enters the picture and what do we learn about her and Samson (vs. 4)? Notice they are not married, just that Samson has fallen in love. How do the Philistines plan to take advantage of this situation (vs. 5)? How does this plan work out (vss. 6-21)? What is Samson's downfall? It looks like women. After three bad experiences with her, have you ever wondered why Samson would tell her the truth? But God is not done yet. What happens (vs. 22)? What does this reveal about God? Consider that God is all knowing. Could that be the reason God declared Samson's hair could not be cut? He knew Samson would mess up, but hair would grow back. What does this reveal about us? How are we easily swayed to do the wrong thing? How does this point to the work of Jesus in our lives? Consider the aspect of hair restoration. Jesus gives us life restoration. Where have you messed up that you need your life in Christ restored? Spend time in prayer asking for and thanking God for restoration.

Friday, Feb. 14th – Judges 16:23-31 – Happy Valentine's Day!

Today we finish Samson's story. Well, the Philistine's are having a heyday over all this. How do we know this (vss. 23-25)? We see Samson is pretty humbled by this point as well. What does Samson request (vss. 27-28)? With all these people watching, and knowing Samson's hair has grown back, what happens next (vss. 28-30)? Samson knew his supernatural strength was given to him by God. He was humble and willing to die in order to exact judgment on the Philistines. God answers Samson's prayer. How do we know this (vs. 30b)? What does this reveal to you about God? About ourselves? How does this sacrifice foreshadow Jesus' perfect sacrifice? Look at how this story ends (vs. 31). He ruled for 20 years, but there was no peace in the land. While Samson made an impact, it did not completely resolve the oppression from the Philistines. Consider what may have caused that problem. Could Samson's pride and arrogance have gotten in the way? And yet, God still chose to use him. What leaves you unsettled about this story? Where do you still have questions? Take time in prayer with God and listen for His answers to your questions.

Saturday, Feb. 15th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Judges 17:1-5.