

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sapped by Seduction**

JUDGES 16

**OVERVIEW**

The famed philosopher Frederich Nietzsche once said that “God was dead...and we have killed him.” While this is an impossibility, let us imagine for a moment a world where this was true. What would it be like? If we all just did what was right in our own eyes, what would our world be like? What if self was supreme? This is the question that the book of Judges seeks to answer.

**APPLY // JUDGES 13-15**

1. How did the text/sermon lead you to worship?
2. Was there a particular song we sang that was worshipful to you?
3. What from the text/sermon was convicting and/or challenging?
4. Pray that we'd be a church that not only hears the word but does the word.
5. Pray that our obedience would be joyful bringing glory to God and happiness to our souls.

**STUDY // JUDGES 16**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Note: Healthy Bible study asks three questions:

- **Observation:** What do I see?
- **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- **Application:** Why does it matter?

These questions below are aimed at helping you observe and interpret the text. The following week's questions for the same passage aim more toward application. While we cannot completely separate these three types of questions, this is a helpful framework to have in mind as you lead your group through the passage.

1. Read Judges 16:1-3. Note: Gaza is the capital of the Philistines. What do these verses teach us about Samson?
2. Read Judges 16:4-22. What motivates Delilah to betray Samson?
3. What do you notice about the interactions between Delilah and Samson? Discuss the phrases Delilah says to Samson and how he responds.
4. What do you notice about Samson's behavior and priorities in these verses? What do you notice about Samson's weaknesses in these verses?
5. After telling Delilah the truth (v. 17) he doesn't leave, but went “to sleep in her lap” (v. 19). What does this tell us about Samson?
6. In verse 20, Samson says, “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.” How does this verse inform what Samson truly saw as his power?

7. According to this verse, where does Samson's true power come from?
8. Compare Samson's actions in 15:4-5 to 16:21.
9. Read Judges 16:23-27. What is the "worldview" of the Philistines? What do they conclude from their ability to subdue Samson?
10. Read Judges 16:28-31. For only the second time in his "recorded" life, Samson prays in verse 28. What do you notice about his prayer?
11. How do these verses show the holiness of God? How do these verses reveal the grace of God?
12. It's been noted that "[The Samson narrative] begins with a strong man who is revealed to be weak, but it ends with a weak man who is stronger than ever before."<sup>1</sup> How do we see this in Samson's life and death? How is this true of the Christian life? How is this true of Jesus Christ?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** How would your life be different if you were completely convinced of the weight of sin and the wonder of the gospel?

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<sup>1</sup> David Jackman, *Judges, Ruth*, page 243.