

Heroes of the Faith, Foreshadows of Christ: Joseph and Samson

Session 2

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Be Strong and Courageous

Key Scripture for this Year

Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you.

First Chronicles 28:20

Session Goals

Recognize aspects in each character's life that foreshadow the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Review key highlights of each character's life that are pertinent to the lesson.

Examine each character's reaction to specific challenges he faced in his life so that we can gain guidance in our own walk with the Lord

Consider selected questions in group discussion to deepen personal growth and insight

Key Scriptures for these Lessons

Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

Hebrews 11: 32-34 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Key Scriptures for these Lessons

Genesis 50:19-21 But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive.

Judges 13:5 For behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he will begin to save Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

Judges 16:28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes.”

Key Scriptures for these Lessons

1st Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Philippians 1: 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Key Scriptures for these Lessons

Romans 12: 1-2 Therefore I urge you, brothers , by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

General Points of Comparison

Joseph and Samson have the following aspects of their lives that foreshadow aspects of Christ's life and ministry:

They have an origin story.

They have a supernatural birth.

They have a ministry that involves deliverance. They exercised unique gifts that were tailored to their ministry.

They were betrayed by someone that was close to them.



Specific Points of Comparison

Samson

As with Joseph, certain aspects of Samson's life foreshadow the life and ministry of Christ

Like Christ and John the Baptist, Samson's birth was foretold to his mother by an angelic visitor, most likely in his case a theophany.

Only Samson, Samuel and John the Baptist were specifically designated by God to be Nazirites from birth, (Leviticus 6:1-21) while Jesus was born as the prophesized Messiah for the Jews. But Samson was set apart from birth just as Christ was for His specific ministry of deliverance. Judges 13: 5 states that Sampson would begin the delivery of Israel from the Philistines ,who are a type and shadow of the oppression of sin. Jesus Christ would complete the delivery of Israel and all mankind from sin by his death on the cross.



Specific Points of Comparison Samson

Both Samson and Jesus were killed by their enemies. For Samson this was the completion of his deliverance ministry, but Christ would complete his deliverance of mankind with his death and his resurrection from the grave.

Samson's unique gift from God for the deliverance of the Israelites was his physical strength. But this strength was supernatural in origin. Jesus manifested supernatural wisdom, supernatural healing, miraculous power over the natural elements and power over death itself.



Key Aspects of the life of Samson

Judges chapter 14-The failed marriage of Samson to the Philistine woman. Samson selects a Philistine woman to marry over the objections of his parents, but God will use this to begin Samson's deliverance of the Israelites from Philistine oppression.

Samson kills the lion with supernatural strength.

Samson takes honey from the beehive in the lion's carcass, violating one of the Nazirite vows.

At his wedding feast, Samson gives the challenge of the riddle

Threatened by the Philistines, Samson's bride pressures him to reveal the secret of the riddle. He tells her and she reveals it to the Philistines.

Samson kills 30 Philistines to cover his bargain.



Key Aspects of the life of Samson

Judges chapter 15-Samson's revenge against the Philistines

Samson goes to visit his wife and finds that she has been given to another man.

Samson uses the foxes with torches to burn the fields of the Philistines

The Philistines react by killing Samson's bride and her father with fire.

Samson then kills those who had done this and returns to Judah.

The Philistines come into the land of Judah to apprehend Samson and the men of Judah turn him over to the Philistines



Key Aspects of the life of Samson

Judges chapter 15-Samson's revenge against the Philistines

Samson uses the jawbone of a donkey to destroy the Philistines who had come to apprehend him. He killed 1000 men.

Samson beseeches the Lord to give him water because of his great thirst after his effort. God answers his prayer by splitting a hollow place at the site of the battle.

Judges chapter 16-Samson's downfall with Delilah

Samson visits a Philistine prostitute in Gaza

The Philistines shut the city gate to trap Samson and kill him in the morning, but Samson arises at midnight and literally lifts the gates off and carries them to Hebron.

Matthew chapter 16:18

Video session goals

Main Idea: People often think they can use God to get what they want, but God is not a means to an end.

Life Change: To view God as He is and choose to act in a way that honors Him rather than uses Him.

Points to look for in the video

What does Samson do that leads him further into darkness?

What are Samson's four core sins?



Discussion Questions

An important question for personal reflection is do you have a problem with any of the four core sins that the speaker identified Samson had in his life: lack of self control, compromising with sin, being unteachable in the things of the Spirit, or pride in your gifts or abilities without giving credit to God?

The speaker makes a statement that just because God may be using you in a situation does not guarantee that you are in a right relationship with Him. Do you believe this is a true statement? Why or why not?

Consider Samson's final prayer to God. Is this is a prayer of faith? What do you think this prayer says about Samson as a person, and why do you think that God answered it the way He did?



Discussion Questions

Consider the three vows that Samson needed to obey to fulfill his obligations as a Nazirite, and then compare them with the exhortation that the apostle Paul gives in his letter to the church in Rome in chapter 12: 1-2.

What do you see that is a common result of obedience to the vows and obedience to the exhortation?

What might have happened in Samson's life if he had been obedient to his vows, and what might happen in your life if you are obedient to the apostle Paul's exhortation?