



DAILY DEVOTIONS

DAILY FOCUS FOR THE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY 2

JUDGES 13:1-25

The rebellion of Israel had them in bondage yet again, but God's heart was to save them. He planned to do it through a son. God appeared to Samson's mother, and then to her and Samson's father again later to communicate His plan to give them a son. This son would be set aside for a special task. It reminds us of another couple who received multiple visits from an angel with news of a baby—Mary and Joseph. When we were lost in sin, God sent His Son, Jesus. He was set apart from birth to be the Savior of the world. You can hope in Him, for He is mightier than Samson and able to save you from all sin.

WHAT DO YOU NEED JESUS TO RESCUE YOU FROM?

WHAT ARE THE MAIN THINGS THAT KEEP YOU FROM BEING FREE?

HOW CAN YOU WALK IN THE FREEDOM JESUS HAS GIVEN YOU?

DAY 03

JUDGES 14:1-20

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH?

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST WEAKNESS?

HOW CAN YOU DEVELOP MORE DISCIPLINE AND SELF-CONTROL?

Samson was a man of great physical strength, but he lacked the inner strength he needed to live right. He showed a lack of self-control when he found the honey in the lion's den to drink and according to the law of Moses made himself unclean. Then he eventually caved to the peer pressure of his fiancée, disclosing the answer to his riddle. Ask God to give you the inner strength of self-control, wisdom, and perseverance. Pray for the strength to please Him above all!

DAY 03

JUDGES 15:1-20

The Lord sought an opportunity to defeat the Philistines (see Judg. 14:4). Samson was the instrument God used to accomplish His judgment on the Philistines. But in Samson, we see a man who acts for personal revenge. He is moved more by vengeance and rage than by a sense of justice. He acts in his own interests rather than the interests of Israel. Apart from Christ, we are all like Samson: selfish and vengeful. But in Christ, we can imitate the selfless leadership of our Savior. Commit to follow in His footsteps today.

HOW DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH WANTING REVENGE?

HOW CAN YOU TRUST GOD RATHER THAN TAKE REVENGE?

HOW CAN YOU IMITATE JESUS'S LEADERSHIP?

DISCOVER

JUDGES 16:1-22

HOW MIGHT YOU BE LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN LIKE SAMSON?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO DEVELOP CHARACTER?

WHAT IS A VIRTUE YOU WANT TO DEVELOP?

Samson was clearly gifted by God, but his skills outran his ethics. He lacked self-control and caved to peer pressure. His eyes were an avenue for the devil to catch him in a snare. God may give you abilities to lead. But those things are no substitute for godliness. Without character, our giftedness is hollow. Samson's talents took him where his character could not keep him. May that not be said of you. With God's help, may you become a person whose character and gifts are used together to build the kingdom.

DAY 05

JUDGES 16:23-31

When you are at the end of your rope, out of strength and out of hope, where do you turn? Samson prayed, "Lord God, please remember me. Strengthen me, God, just once more" (16:28). He appealed to God's faithfulness, "remember me." He appealed to God's power, "strengthen me." You can do the same thing. God has not forgotten you. He has the strength you need for this day, this month, this season. Pray for strength from God for the power you need today. Ask Him to supply your need, "just once more" (v. 28), and He will come through, just as He did for Samson.

IS THERE A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU FEEL YOU ARE AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE?

WHAT CAN YOU GAIN FROM RECOGNIZING YOUR WEAKNESS?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO DEPEND ON GOD FOR DAILY STRENGTH?