

S A M S O N

Big Idea: Samson didn't ruin his life all at **once**; He ruined it **one step** at a time. **Pastor Curt Part 3**

In week 3 of our series on **Samson**, Pastor Curt unpacked those small steps that can lead to big destruction. In Judges chapter 15 we find Samson is back on track and things seem to be going well, leading Israel through 20 years of peace. So, what happened? How does he end up with his eyes gouged out, in shackles as the laughingstock of the people he was meant to lead?

Samson started taking small steps in the wrong direction. In fact, he took about 50,000 steps into enemy territory that lead him to his ultimate downfall - Delilah. If you're keeping score this is woman number three in the story, and she would be his ruin. Several times Delilah tries to convince Samson to reveal the secret to his strength and each time he gives a phony answer. Finally, he gets tired of her nagging her tells her true source of his strength. *"Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved."* Judges 16:21-21

One small decision at a time... one small step in the wrong direction... will ultimately lead to destruction. It may not seem like there are any consequences to some of your poor choices, but don't mistake God's patience for God's permission. **Samson taunted the enemy, rationalized the same old sin, and he assumed his disobedience would never cost him.** Despite that, we must remember, it's never too late to become who you might have been! Why? Because God is gracious, because his mercies are new every morning, because no one is beyond the reach of Almighty God.

Talk it Over

- What's one of the biggest mistakes you've ever made? What started you on your path towards making that mistake?
- What are some of the most common struggles you've seen that tend to lead people towards destruction? What is the one thing you struggle with that could drive you down a dangerous path?
- What prices have you paid as a result of your sin? What have you learned from your actions?
- Samson took 56,000 steps towards his destruction. Where might you be stepping away from God right now?
- As you turn back to God, what are some of the first steps you'll need to take to leave your sin behind? Who will help you take those steps?

Prayer Focus

Father, we confess our sinfulness to you, our anger and our pride and we ask that You would forgive us and by faith we put those emotions on Your altar. God we ask that Your Spirit would be our guide. that we would be convicted and reminded when we're slipping into our own selfish ways and that we'd be led by you.

Next Steps

If you have stepped away from God, then turn around this week and begin the process of walking back to Him. There are several ways you can begin this process such as confessing your sin to God and to your accountability partner. Also, seek God's help by praying and looking for guidance in His Word.

Leader Tip

Pray for those you know in your Group that are struggling with a weak will. Encourage your Group members to be willing to hold each other accountable and strengthen each other.