

# SAMSON

**Big Idea:** It's not **IF** you fail, it's what you do **WHEN** you fail.

**Pastor Curt Part 3**

In the final message of our series on Samson Pastor Curt unpacked for us how important it is for us to recognize that failure is a part of life. It's not about whether you're going to fail, it's about what you do when you fail. We've come to the end of Samson's story and his eyes are gouged out, he's in shackles, doing the job of an animal, and to top it off the Philistines have him come out and perform for them as entertainment. Our mighty warrior has become a stage act. What happened? He never addressed the attitudes in his heart that lead to self-destruction. And ultimately, he took 50,000 steps in the wrong direction. So now what? The defining truth in this story is failure is never final. We're going to fail at times, and the natural tendency is to live with regret. We cannot un-sin, but we can repent! The enemy wants to tie your identity to your failure...

**Your identity is not found in what you've done –  
It's found in what's been done for you on the cross.**

Just because you're down, doesn't mean you're out. Let's look at three simple next steps to be used by God again. First, pray for strength. What got Samson into trouble was he thought his strength was his. He thought his victories were his own. Second, put yourself in the right position. Samson didn't just repent and pray for strength again, he put himself in the right place to be used by God again. Finally, pour yourself into what matters. Many ask the question, did Samson commit suicide? He did not take his life, he gave his life for his people. Your greatest victories can come on the other side of your greatest failures. Be sure you're pushing on the right pillars in your life.

## Talk it Over

- How would understanding that failure is an event, never a person help you deal with future failures?
- Why is it so important to show repentance instead of remorse when you fail?
- How have you seen past failures limit your future opportunities?
- How have you seen God accomplish His purposes in the midst of your failures?
- What does it mean to you to die daily for Christ?
- What pillars are you pushing down right now? How are you going to do it?

## Prayer Focus

Share with God the failures and regrets that you continue to struggle with. Tell God the pillars you need His help in pushing down and keeping down. Ask Him to deliver you from them. Thank God for all He has done and is doing in your life despite your failures.

## Next Steps

What pillars are you pushing down? Pride? Anger? You name it...If you want a different result, you've got to do something different. You're going to call and get counseling, you're going to check yourself in for rehab, you're going to confess to your wife and other godly men, "I need help!" You're going to confess to your small group and take your next step.

## Leader Tip

Create a safe space for discussing difficult topics this week. Have all of your group members acknowledge that everything said during your group time is confidential. Then, share how this series challenged you personally. Your vulnerability will help others open up as well.