

# UNEARTHED

Digging beneath the surface and bringing our whole selves before God.

Samson: “How to Lose Yourself” Daily Devotions

## Day 1:

In the Book of Judges, Samson emerges as a formidable judge and leader of Israel, blessed with extraordinary strength granted by God. However, his unruly desires and reckless decisions ultimately lead to his downfall and loss of everything. Despite his divine calling, Samson succumbs to temptation, indulging in forbidden relationships with Philistine women. Betrayed by his first wife, he retaliates by single-handedly slaying thirty Philistines, but this only sparks a cycle of escalating violence. Trapped in his own arrogance and infatuation, Samson reveals the secret of his strength to Delilah, resulting in his capture, blinding, and enslavement. Stripped of his power, Samson’s story stands as a cautionary tale of how pride and recklessness can lead even the mightiest to lose everything.

*Take a few minutes to meditate on Samson’s story by reading **Judges 13-16**.*

*Once finished, reflect on the following questions:*

- What calling and purpose did Samson begin his life with? How did his life end? What happened in the middle of his life to prevent him from fully living into God’s purposes for his life?
- If you were to use Samson’s story as a cautionary tale for yourself today, what lessons would you draw from this account?
- How does this story point forward to Jesus and the gospel of grace?

## Day 2:

As the story of Samson reveals to us, we can begin “on top” but if we’re not careful, we can lose it all. Samson began his life dedicated to the Lord, but quickly was blown off course. And the same can happen to us too if we are not careful. Let’s take some time to reflect on the following Scriptures and see how they can help us think through what we’ve gleaned from Samson’s story.

*Read the following Scriptures and then reflect on the questions below:*

1. Judges 14:1-3
2. Judges 14:8-9
3. Judges 14:17
4. Judges 15:1
5. Judges 16:1
6. Judges 16:4
7. Judges 16:13
8. Judges 16:15-17
9. Judges 16:28

*What do these verses reveal to you about some of the reasoning as to why Samson lost himself? What got in his way?*

*What do you think would have helped Samson overcome these things? What habits or characteristics would he have needed to cultivate?*

*How do you prevent yourself from living into the same kind of reality that Samson has fallen into? How does having the Holy Spirit help?*

### **Day 3:**

While Samson did have some great moments (he is even commended for his faith in Hebrews 11!), there were also some moments where he utterly failed. We don't want that to happen to us. We don't want to grow comfortable or lax. We want to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit and hear what He might say to us in this area of our lives.

*Take a few minutes to review the story and life of Samson as well as the Scriptures you read on Day 2. When finished your review, reflect on the questions below:*

- How does the theme of temptation resonate with your own life? In what areas have you experienced moments of weakness that could potentially lead to losing what is truly valuable?
- Reflecting on Samson's story, what lessons can you draw about the importance of obedience and faithfulness to God's commands? How does disobedience open the door to potential destruction?
- Consider the concept of redemption and restoration in Samson's story. How does his eventual act of self-sacrifice and calling upon God demonstrate the possibility of finding hope and purpose even in the midst of devastating loss?

#### **Day 4:**

The story of Samson in the book of Judges is a powerful example of how we can lose everything if we're not careful to follow the Lord. Samson was strong as can be, set apart by his parents for godly purposes, and yet all throughout his story, he is lustful, unclean, and more!

During today's devotional practice, take some time this day to work through the introspective practice located in the Unearthed devotional book on page 81-82.

#### **Day 5:**

In the story of Samson and the theme of losing everything, there are profound lessons to be learned about the consequences of pride, temptation, and disobedience. Through deep reflection and personal introspection, we can draw meaningful application points that encourage humility, seeking God's guidance, and embracing redemption in our own lives. Look back over your notes from this week.

*What do you notice? What new thing did God reveal to you? How has God spoken to you through Scripture or the discoveries you've made? What's God inviting you to as a result?*

As you go this week, consider these two application points:

1. **Cultivate Humility and Self-Control:** Samson's story serves as a reminder of the destructive power of pride and unchecked desires. Strive to cultivate humility, recognizing your limitations and weaknesses. Practice self-control in areas where temptations arise, understanding that recklessness can lead to the loss of what truly matters.
2. **Seek God's Guidance and Obedience:** Samson's downfall can be attributed, in part, to his disobedience and failure to seek God's guidance. To avoid losing everything, prioritize seeking God's will and following His commands. Develop a habit of prayer, study Scripture, and seek wise counsel from trusted individuals. By aligning your actions with God's wisdom and guidance, you can navigate life's challenges more effectively and avoid the consequences of disobedience.
3. **Embrace Redemption and Restoration:** Although Samson experienced devastating losses, his story also highlights the possibility of redemption and restoration. Even in the midst of failure and despair, God can still bring about renewal and purpose. When you find yourself facing the consequences of poor choices or the loss of important aspects of your life, remember that God is a God of second chances. Embrace the opportunity for growth, seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and allow God to restore what has been lost or broken.

How can you put one of these application points into practice this week?